

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in the Council Chambers, civic administration building, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 21 November 2023, at 4.00pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr B R Bell), Crs Dickson, Fraser, Gardyne, Hovell, MacDonell, McKenzie, P McPhail, R McPhail, Phillips, Reid and Stringer.

In attendance The interim Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Critical Services (Mr Jason Domigan), General Manager People and Culture (Mrs Nicky Cooper), General Manager Communications and Customer Support (Sonia Gerken), Governance Manager (Susan Jones), 3 Waters Operations Manager (Mr Aaron Green), Facilities Administration Officer (Mr Neil Mair), Library Manager (Ms Emma Sherie), Community Strategy Manager (Ms Anne Pullar) and 16 members of the public in the gallery.

1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS (SC3529)

Cr Hovell declared a non-financial conflict in relation to two items on the agenda about the District Plan – one on the open agenda and one in public excluded. He would be available in his role as Chair of the District Plan Committee if any Councillor had questions about process. He would step aside when the two items were considered. Cr Dickson advised she would do the same.

Cr Fraser declared a conflict of interest in item 2 of the in-committee agenda and would step aside when it was discussed.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr P McPhail, **THAT** the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 10 October 2023, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 2023

Page 15 - Cr Reid clarified she had asked the General Manager Corporate Support about the increase in budgeted items for democracy costs. The General Manager had explained it related to an increase in travel and accommodation costs for the Mayor.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr P McPhail, THAT the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 31 October 2023, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

Minutes of the emergency Council meeting held on Wednesday 8 November 2023

Cr R McPhail referred to page 22 and the two points of order called under to Standing Orders (SO). He wanted to confirm if the Chair could act on a point of order in regard to SO 26? He wanted to clarify and to know for future reference. His Worship said his understanding of Standing Orders was if it was about the performance of the Chair it would be passed, in this case, to the Deputy Mayor. The reason he had not done that was it was not a point of order, in his opinion. Cr R McPhail said the point of order related to relevance about SO 26.2C. He clarified whether it was appropriate for the Mayor to have ruled on the point of order about himself and Cr Hovell. His Worship understood the point Cr McPhail was making, but said SO 26.3 related to expressing a difference of opinion or contradicting a statement by a previous speaker which did not constitute a point of order. That was what he had based his decision on. Cr R McPhail did not specifically mention relevance. His Worship took his point and in future would defer it.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr R McPhail, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the minutes of an emergency meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Wednesday 8 November 2023, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Stringer, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the minutes and recommendations of a meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee, held on Tuesday 17 October 2023, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell, seconded by Cr Stringer, THAT the minutes and recommendations of a meeting of the Policy and Regulatory Committee, held on Tuesday 14 November 2023, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

3. URGENT LATE BUSINESS (SC3526)

His Worship advised he had an item of urgent late business relating to his attendance at an elected young members hui to be held at Waitangi from 6 to 8 December 2023. A report had been requested by the Deputy Mayor. A copy of His Worship's report detailing the request had been tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Hovell, **THAT** pursuant to Section 46 (a)(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the Council address the following which requires urgent attention.

Subject

Mayor's attendance at a Young Elected Members hui at Waitangi.

Reason for not being on agenda

Request for report received after agenda had been published.

Reason for urgency

The hui would be held prior to the next scheduled Council meeting.

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4. PETITION – APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE (SC3616)

A report had been received from the interim Chief Executive advising that Mayor Ben Bell had provided a hard copy of a petition to him on Monday 6 November and requested it to be presented to the 21 November Council meeting. The petition, organised by Hayden McIntyre, requested that the Council “*decline to appoint Stephen Francis Parry as interim Chief Executive of Gore District Council, to rescind, revoke or replace these decisions made at the Council meeting on 10 October 2023 proposed by Councillor Bronwyn Reid.*”

A copy of the petition had been circulated with the agenda. It contained a total of 313 signatures, with 18 being invalid due to having an address outside of the Gore District.

Cr Dickson moved THAT the presenter not be permitted to speak to the petition as the subject related to an employment matter and the motion was authorised by Standing Order SO 17.2 as set out in the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Cr P McPhail.

His Worship said Standing Orders contained a provision for the right of a petitioner to speak. Cr Dickson said SO 17.2 stipulated that a petitioner may speak unless the meeting resolved otherwise.

Cr Hovell suggested the motion be put. His Worship said the motion had caught him off guard. It was his understanding that all petitioners were entitled to speak, but Standing Orders enabled a resolution otherwise. Cr McKenzie asked why in this particular case when other people had spoken to petitions. There needed to be a reason. Cr Dickson said it was an employment matter between the Council and the interim Chief Executive. Cr McKenzie understood that but whether the petition had any effect or not he understood it was an employment issue. The Council probably knew what the result would be but he believed people had the right to speak. His Worship agreed with Cr McKenzie and whether he agreed with the petition or not, thought petitioners should be permitted to speak.

Cr Dickson's motion was put and it was carried.

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Cr Phillips moved THAT the Mayor and Councillors not receive the petition relating to the appointment of the interim Chief Executive.

The motion was seconded Cr Hovell.

Cr Hovell said in his view, the petition was divisive and an unnecessary and unwelcome distraction from the purpose for which he stood for the Council. The petition had been instigated by the McIntyre family members. Sally McIntyre bombarded him and other Councillors on a regular basis with inappropriate emails. He quoted an email received the previous week that had been sent to himself, Crs Dickson and McPhail. The email suggested they resign as they were not up to the job. If he continued to receive such emails from Sally McIntyre he would be asking the IT Manager to ban her emails coming into the Council. There was a precedence for such action and he referred to 2010 when the Council would not accept emails from her. That had been a culmination of a series of events dating back to 2007 when she had resigned as a Councillor. The Mayor at the time, Tracy Hicks, was reported as having told Mrs McIntyre that the health and wellbeing of Council staff had to be accorded priority rather than her personal crusade. It appeared little had changed over the last 13 years except it was now the health and wellbeing of Councillors and some staff that was at risk. He would rather be working on a full recycling scheme through WasteNet and as Chair of the Policy and Regulatory Committee to focusing on attracting investment for future growth in the District. He would rather be discussing with fellow Councillors a new rating scheme that was fair for all. Time taken up with petitions and emails was stopping him from doing his job. His motivation at making decisions was determined by what he believed was best for the community. That required him to put aside his personal views. Sometimes decisions made involved a cost to the Council, such as ceasing the fee for taking library books out. He wondered about the motivation of the petition organisers. He highlighted why he supported the appointment of the interim Chief Executive. It provided continuity and leadership for staff and advice for Councillors. It enabled a seamless transition for a new Chief Executive. It provided confidence to the Council that its business continued uninterrupted. The major review of the Long Term Plan enabled the Council to consider a new rating system that was fair and appropriate using the considerable knowledge and expertise of the person who had overseen the Council for the past 22 years. The Council had a legal and moral responsibility in ensuring the Council continued to operate effectively. If other Councillors, like him, had stood to enhance the social, physical and wellbeing of the Gore District, they needed to support the motion. To Sally McIntyre, he said he would not be resigning. He would continue working towards outcomes that he believed were in the best interests of the District.

Cr Reid concurred with Cr Hovell's heartfelt statement. Councillors were around the table to do a job. Some of the proceedings had been malicious in intent and had caused stress to staff and elected members alike. Cr Hovell had put his case well and she thanked him for it. Cr Phillips said Cr Hovell had covered the reasons why the

Council appointed Mr Parry as its interim Chief Executive. It was the best decision for the District. He assured the residents of the District that he put 110% into the Council and did not make decisions lightly. He made sure the decisions he made were in the best interests of the District. What the Council did in appointing Mr Parry was the correct thing to do until there was a new Chief Executive appointed.

Cr Dickson referred to the petition that stated “the CEO’s unwillingness to work with elected members” was a false statement. Cr R McPhail said there was now some stability in Gore. The bottom line was there needed some stability amongst the senior management team. It was sad that there were people who thought some elected members should resign. They did not deserve the abuse that was given. There had been some great commentary from Cr Hovell. The Council had to assure the community that it could meet its statutory requirements. If the continuity was not there, the Council could be taken over by other Government agencies. It was about everyone. The organisation was trying to do the best for the community instead of continually looking in the rear view mirror at the past.

Cr MacDonell concurred with Cr R McPhail. Stability was what was needed. The Council needed to find a good Chief Executive. If the Council continued scrapping it would not attract good applicants. Cr P McPhail had never witnessed a more vindictive, revengeful, unrelenting and bitter campaign in his life. It saddened him to be part of the community. The Council was trying to do the best it could. He supported Cr Hovell and the other comments made.

His Worship said he would refrain from speaking about Mr Parry because of the employment relationship. He would refrain from voting for the same reason. The Council was recruiting for a new Chief Executive and there seemed to be stability in the organisation from his observations. He and the Chief Executive had a good arrangement in place.

The motion was put and it was carried.

His Worship abstained from voting.

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A number of the public gallery departed the meeting at 4.30pm. Six members of the public remained.

5. PRESENTATION FROM GREAT SOUTH (SC3084)

Ms Chami Abeysinghe, Chief Executive of Great South and Ms Bobbi Brown were in attendance and provided an update on the activities of Great South.

Cr Fraser thought it would be more appropriate for questions around the oat plant to be raised at a future workshop. In his view, there had not been any leadership shown with the oat factory moving out of Southland. Cr Gardyne noted SPaceOps was profitable. He asked why the profits had not been retained in the business to cover

increased costs. Ms Chami said the Board had determined to retain the profits to grow the business. With SpaceOps standing alone, there were more opportunities for investing in other areas and allow for exponential growth, provide greater revenue and reduce the reliance on ratepayer funding. His Worship said the Chair of Great South, Mr Ian Collier, would be best placed to explain what the Board had decided about SpaceOps.

Cr Reid suggested many people in the Gore community were concerned about housing and with aging renters who only had the pension to rely on. If accommodation was available, it was often out of their reach. She asked if Great South could consider specific attention to local housing.

The Great South reps and the Community Strategy Manager departed at 5.06pm

6. MINUTES OF GREAT SOUTH JOINT SHAREHOLDERS COMMITTEE MEETING (SC3084)

A memo had been received from the interim Chief Executive, together with a copy of the minutes of a Great South Joint Shareholders Committee meeting held on Friday 6 October 2023.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the minutes be received.

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7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT SUB-COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE (SC3616)

A memo had been received from the Deputy Mayor following an extraordinary Council meeting held on Thursday 12 October when the Council had appointed recruitment agency Brannigans, to assist with the recruitment of a new Chief Executive. The Council had appointed His Worship, Crs Hovell, Fraser and Phillips to a Recruitment Sub-Committee to provide a formal basis and transparency for the various actions required throughout the process.

The Council had agreed it was not necessary, nor was it practical or efficient, time wise, for all Councillors to participate in all stages of the recruitment process. The key focus of the Sub-Committee was to assist in determining which applicants for the position should be interviewed. The Sub-Committee would not have the authority to appoint a Chief Executive. That would be the responsibility of the full Council following formal interviews to be held early in 2024. The Sub-Committee had the authority, together with Brannigans, to negotiate and finalise the terms and conditions of the successful applicant. It was emphasised that it was critical that details of any applicants for the position, together with the terms and conditions negotiated with the successful applicant remained highly confidential.

Draft Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee had been prepared and a copy had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the report be received,

AND THAT with the addition of the Chair of the Sub-Committee not having a casting vote being included under “limitations”, the Terms of Reference be adopted.

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**8. PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO CANCEL/DEFER 2024 LONG TERM PLAN
(SC3754)**

A report had been received from the interim Chief Executive profiling the difficulties in developing a Long Term Plan (LTP) given the high level of uncertainty associated with Three Waters reform. The uncertainty extended to a change in Government but no clear signal as to what the new Government’s policy for Three Waters may be. The suggestion had been raised at the Zone 5 and 6 Local Government conference in Queenstown earlier in the year. There had been some support then but as time had gone on, there was more support for the proposal. He said an LTP was a slog and did not reward any innovation or creativity. It rewarded compliance.

His Worship said the Council had to notify its LTP early in 2024 and put it into action from 1 July. As soon as it was locked in, there could not be any changes made. The Council could not take a third out or put a third back in. It needed to be sorted now and whether it was a pause or deferral, some sort of action needed to happen. If the Council advertised its rates without water included it would seem like a massive discount but the public would not know how its water was going to be paid for.

Cr Hovell there were three options – speaking out as the Council was doing. The second was to use the contacts the Council had with other Councils through Local Government New Zealand, Zone meetings and the Mayoral Forum and utilise those avenues to actively promote a hold on the Long Term Plan process. The third option was to write to the new Minister of Local Government once appointed. His main concern was taking staff time into account, the Council would be spending \$400-500k including audit fees on a process that, at the end of the day, he considered would be a waste of ratepayers money. The Council could end up with a document that had no effect nor any ability to implement. He supported the interim Chief Executive’s report and suggested the Council advocate the delay of LTPs through whatever means was available to it.

His Worship suggested about a third of the figures quote by Cr Hovell could be wasted rather than all of it.

Cr Phillips said during the last term of the Council, he had said 3 Waters reform would cost ratepayers money. The less money spent on activities it did not have to spend on should be progressed. Cr Reid said the proposal was a smart idea. Cr Fraser agreed with it. He was concerned about the costs and questioned where the auditors got their powers from. His Worship replied from the Auditor General. Cr Fraser said some of the questions asked appeared to be beyond their remit. Cr Dickson agreed and said

strategic plans were on the way out. They were not living documents. She thanked the interim Chief Executive for a very good report.

Cr R McPhail questioned what the Council should push for. His Worship was interested in keeping the feedback open from other Councils in terms of whether the LTP should be abolished or cancelled. The interim Chief Executive thought the best option for pragmatic reasons would be to cancel the 2024 Long Term Plan, recognising the uncertainty. He suggested it be cancelled and the LTP process resumed again from 2027. He said the scope of audit from 2006 to the present day was like night and day, especially with the audit costs that kept rising.

Cr Gardyne thought the Council needed to be cautious. The Government had not yet been formed and they tended to move slowly. There were a lot of other issues on its agenda that could come before this matter. A lot of Councils had geared themselves towards 3 Waters reform and Gore was a minnow in the overall scheme of it. There were a lot of other things on the Government's agenda. Cr P McPhail thought the Council should state what it wanted. He was all for it. Cr Stringer said the Council could continue with the process, get to sign off and then vote against it. What would the outcome of such a decision be as it would send a strong message to central Government. The interim Chief Executive said an LTP needed to be adopted to legally set rates. The Council would still need an annual plan and if the law had not changed he thought there would be a realisation there would be an unholy mess. The Council needed to work in parallel with the Government. It would cause massive confusion for the public.

Cr Hovell moved THAT the report be received,

THAT the Council seek the cancellation of the 2024 Long Term Plan and promote Annual Plans in the local government sector until 2027,

THAT the Council endorse the Mayor and Chief Executive representing its views at upcoming Zone meetings and Mayoral Forums,

AND THAT the Mayor and Chief Executive draft a letter to the Minister of Local Government, once appointed, for approval by the Council.

The motion was seconded by Cr R McPhail.

Cr Stringer asked why 2027? Cr Hovell said LTPs were prepared every three years in the second year of a Council's term.

His Worship asked what an Annual Plan would look like especially with rating changes. The interim Chief Executive said with an Annual Plan, the Council could choose to consult or not. With the proposed rating changes, the Council would have to consult. He did not think the Council would not get away with no LTP for six years and no consultation. If the Council committed to consulting the community and free itself from the other legislative and audit requirements, it would be far easier.

The Library Manager departed at 5.34pm

Cr Reid thought going forward, any meetings the Mayor and interim Chief Executive attended, the Council could have confidence in the proposal being put clearly and succinctly.

The motion was put and it was carried.

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9. FORMER GORE LANDFILL – ISSUE OF ABATEMENT NOTICE (SC0690)

A report had been received from the interim Chief Executive bringing the Council's attention to the issuing of an abatement notice by Environment Southland (ES) against the Gore District Council. In July this year, Environment Southland contacted the Council to express concerns about the Council placing large volumes of clean fill material and green waste at the former landfill site.

In general terms, the concerns related to whether the material being used was appropriate for such use, the control of stormwater from the site, and the possible production of leachate. Given that the rehabilitation of the former Gore landfill had been in progress since its closure in 2005, the concerns of ES came as quite a surprise. Despite attempts to convince ES that the Council was complying with its resource consent issued in 2005, ES opted to issue an abatement notice on 14 August. The abatement notice, despite the absence of any actual evidence of any environmental harm being caused, required the Council to cease discharge of clean fill and redirect it to an approved facility. The notice period for compliance was stated as being immediate upon receipt.

The capping of the former landfill had been aimed towards planting native trees to create a habitat for indigenous wildlife. The issue of the abatement notice was therefore very disappointing. The Council acted swiftly and, within three days, filed a request under Section 325 (A)(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for Environment Southland to cancel the abatement notice. A number of reasons for the request had been detailed in the report. A copy of the initial abatement notice and the revised notice had been circulated with the agenda. The Council had exercised its rights under the Resource Management Act and lodged an appeal against the abatement notice to the Environment Court. The Court issued its decision on the application and granted a stay in favour of the Council. A copy of the Court decision had also been circulated with the agenda. Mediation had been directed between the parties, which was expected to take place towards the end of November.

Cr Stringer asked where the fill would go if not to the site. The General Manager Critical Services said the other alternatives in terms of clean fill was to transport it to another site that had a consent for clean fill, or take it to landfill. Cr MacDonell said if green waste or clean fill was not able to be put there, how did the Council cap the site. The General Manager said the consent was quite old. Staff at both the Council and Environment Southland had considered a new consent. Using cleanfill was standard

practice and green waste as a mulch was also consistent throughout the country that enabled a good environmental outcome.

Cr Dickson was extremely disappointed with the abatement notice. The community was great with being able to dump green waste for free. If it had to be taken elsewhere they may need to be a charge for green waste. Cr Reid asked how much more capping was required to complete the site and what would be used if green waste was not permitted. The General Manager said the consent worked on identifying the volumes but there was a considerable amount. The original capping had been deficient in places in terms of the consent requirements. The process since then had been to build up the low areas which had created a difference of opinion between the Council and Environment Southland. Cr Fraser struggled to understand how an abatement notice could be issued and then ES not turn up in the Environment Court. What was the cost. He expected the Council had been caught by surprise. The General Manager said the Council had not been to court yet. The information required had been submitted to the court. The Council obtained a stay to then enter mediation to get a resolution. The interim Chief Executive said the Council request a stay from the Environment Court. It had been surprising to have the abatement notice issued to the Council and with an immediate cease and desist.

Cr P McPhail asked if the same system was being used elsewhere in Southland. The General Manager said there were different processes being used. He understood Invercargill City used green waste to cap its landfill. Through the process and working with consultants it was a common practice used across the country to cap landfills. The Council was not doing anything outside the norm. Cr Phillips asked if the clean fill described in the notice was dirt or was it green waste. The General Manager said both. Cr Phillips said previously staff had said green waste would be used to cap the landfill. He had concerns with leachate and was concerned there may have been more green waste than clean fill because of that. In response to Cr Phillips, the General Manager clarified the Council had received an abatement notice about clean fill then an upgraded abatement notice about a month later about green waste on top of it. There were issues with green waste with its leachate properties if it was not managed properly and it was about having the right mitigations in place. That was why the Council staff thought there should be an upgraded consent.

The Facilities Administration Officer said the situation was that a lot of clean fill was being used to fill in low lying areas. There was a certain area with original capping of the landfill that had never been dry since 2006. A lot of larger clean fill such as concrete rubble had been used. There was no issue with that as long as there was a layer of clay placed on top which then had green waste as mulch on top. Cr Stringer asked if independent water testing was undertaken at the site. The General Manager said under the consent the Council was required to undertake monitoring at two bores every two years. There had been elevated readings but the readings were upstream of the closed landfill area, not downstream. It was questionable whether the readings were related to the landfill.

Cr Dickson said the Council had done its own water testing and there were problems upstream. The ES data indicated there had been increased nitrogen levels downstream. She wondered if that had increased since 2004 because she did not think green waste was being used then. What was the difference between the monitoring? The General Manager said it had been investigated more recently and the Council's position was there was an incorrect interpretation of the data. As part of the Council's consent monitoring, it provided data to ES. He thought ES had interpreted the data as coming from the downstream site rather than the upstream site.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Fraser, seconded by Cr Stringer, THAT the report and attachments be received and noted.

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10. PROPOSED GORE DISTRICT PLAN – COUNCIL SUBMISSION (SC0487)

A memo had been received from the interim Chief Executive following the notification of the Proposed Gore District Plan at the end of August 2023. Given the voluminous amount of information contained in the Proposed District Plan, it was perhaps inevitable that there would be some minor oversights that needed to be corrected. These were normally processed via a Council technical submission to its own plan, the merits of which would be considered by the independent commissioners appointed to consider all submissions. Three key points were sought by Council staff to be incorporated in a technical submission to the Proposed District Plan. These covered notable trees, Development and Subdivision (DEV1-S2 and SUB-S4) and signs (SIGN-S4).

Crs Hovell and Dickson withdrew from the table while this item was considered.

Cr Stringer said if trees died and new ones were added to the list were they selected from people's property and did they have the opportunity to object. The interim Chief Executive said the vast majority tended to be on public reserve land. There was a botanical assessment undertaken. Trees had to pass a criteria to become listed as a notable tree. Once a tree was in the District Plan, a resource consent was required if it was to be removed.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the Council approve a technical submission being made to the Proposed District Plan based on the points set out in the memorandum in the agenda.

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Crs Dickson and Hovell now returned to the table.

11. SOUTHLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT (SC0330)

A memo had been received from the interim Chief Executive together with a copy of the annual report of the Southland Regional Heritage Committee. Payment to the

Gore District Council in the 2022-23 year included \$198,002 for the Arts and Heritage Department professional heritage and collection services component. Gore District museums received additional advice and support from the Roving Museum Officer.

Money received from the three Councils in the 2022–2023 financial year was as follows:

- Gore District – \$237,713
- Southland District – \$660,021
- Invercargill City – \$1,002,820

The funding received was based on the number of properties in each territorial area that the heritage rate applied to.

His Worship referred to the grants given by the Committee through a targeted rate and noted the Council granted \$237k and collected just over \$200k. He was interested to know how the process worked.

Cr Gardyne noted the audit cost had nearly tripled over the past year. Perhaps the way the organisation was set up needed reviewing to cut out the audit cost.

Cr Phillips suggested it would be prudent to have a presentation about how the Committee operated at some time together with the District Arts and Heritage Curator.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the annual report of the Southland Regional Heritage Committee be received.

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12. SUMMARY OF SOUTHLAND MAYORAL FORUM MEETING (SC3619)

A copy of a summary of the Southland Mayoral Forum meeting held on Friday 6 October 2023 had been circulated with the agenda.

His Worship referred to the boundaries for localities. The local Hokonui locality was a prototype and its boundary was an ongoing conversation as the boundary extended into parts of Southland and Clutha Districts.

Cr Hovell said he had put something together for the Regional Asks document on behalf of the Council asking the incoming Government for funding to comply with the drinking water standards by providing funding for a pipe across the river and funding for replacement of the reservoir in north Gore. A second proposal asked for a modest sum to undertake a survey of gravel supply for use by territorial local authorities. Gravel was in short supply. It would be a useful issue to be discussed with other local authorities.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr MacDonell, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the information be received.

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13. MINUTES OF MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING (SC3535)

A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Mataura Community Board held on Monday 30 October 2023, had been circulated with the agenda.

The General Manager Critical Services advised in relation to the welcome signs issue, the Deed of Grant had been confirmed from KiwiRail and was expected shortly. All going well, the signs would be erected prior to Christmas.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Stringer, seconded by Cr P McPhail, that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2023 be received,

AND THAT the recommendations contained in the minutes be ratified.

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14. MINUTES OF SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND MEETING (SC3635)

A memo had been received from the Governance Manager together with a copy of the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund meeting held on 17 October 2023.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr MacDonell, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the minutes be received.

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15. YOUNG ELECTED MEMBERS HUI (SC3526)

His Worship referred to his report. Cr Hovell thought the way the Mayoral funds had been established did not directly relate to the Mayor's role. It was important to follow correct process. He wondered if there should be an additional recommendation to the effect that consideration be given to providing a budget for elected members travel and training. There were conferences and training opportunities that arose during the year and the Council was in a blind spot as to what elected members could attend. He thought there should be a criteria outlined as to what elected members could attend. He was keen to have some structure established. His Worship said he would welcome that as well. He had had previous conversations about personal development budgets which this Council did not have. In response to His Worship, Cr Hovell said his focus was on travel and training for all elected members and it would be also worth exploring a Mayoral budget at a future workshop.

Cr P McPhail said he was looking at the value to ratepayers for events like this. The terms "back to basics and vanity projects" kept coming back to him. He asked what the value to the District would be. His Worship said the agenda was an exceptional training opportunity. He was looking to bring the knowledge back and sharing it with the Council. The price tag included accommodation. The overall cost had been subsidised by LGNZ and he would be happy to share his learnings with the Council. Cr R McPhail asked if the Mayor's absence would impact on the Chief Executive

recruitment process. He would look forward to a report back about the Mayor's learnings. His Worship confirmed his absence would not interrupt the process.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Hovell, THAT the report be received,

THAT the Council endorse the attendance of Mayor Bell at the hui,

THAT the Council allocate \$900 from the democracy budget to cover registration fees and allocate funding for return flights to and from Kerikeri airport,

THAT Mayor Bell present to the Council upon his return of his learnings and experience,

AND THAT a report be provided about a budget for elected members travel and training together with a separate Mayoral budget.

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The meeting concluded at 6.18pm