

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the
Southland Regional Council, held in Regional House,
corner North Road and Price Street, Invercargill, on
Wednesday, 20 May 2020 at 10.30 am**



Present:	Chairman N Horrell	(Chair)
	Cr A S Baird	via Zoom digital
	Cr NMG Cook	via Zoom digital
	Cr I L Esler	
	Cr R L Guyton	via Zoom digital
	Cr L R Ludlow	
	Cr B E Mager	via Zoom digital
	Cr L J McCallum	
	Cr P G McDonald	
	Cr J A McPhail	
	Cr E Roy	
	Cr D H Stevens	via Zoom digital
	In Attendance:	R Phillips
W Falconer		(GM Strategy and Engagement) via Zoom digital
A Kubrycht		(GM People and Capability) via Zoom digital
N Selman		(GM Corporate Services)
V Smith		(GM Policy, Planning and Regulatory Services)
J Streat		(GM Operations) via Zoom digital
A Morgan		(Acting Manager Policy and Planning) via Zoom digital
G Gilder		(Acting Team Leader Policy and Planning) via Zoom digital
T Hawkins		(Finance Manager) via Zoom digital
C Young		(Technical Services Engineer) via Zoom digital
J Brown		(Executive Assistant)
K Harper		(PA)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

The Chairman welcomed members to the May meeting of Council for 2020. Chairman Horrell noted the meeting was being conducted under appropriate social distancing conditions, that some councillors and staff would be joining the meeting by Zoom digital link, and that the meeting was to be livestreamed to Youtube.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

There were no apologies.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations (*He Huinga tuku korero*)

There were no Public Forum, Petitions or Deputations.

5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*)

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 8 April 2020

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr McPhail, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 8 April 2020 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Adoption of Committee Resolutions

(a) Organisational Performance and Audit Committee – 29 April 2020

Cr Ludlow noted that Council's operating costs had been significantly impacted by the recent flooding event, and its income by the COVID-19 lockdown, and these had been the major focus of the work of this Committee.

Resolved:

Moved, Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr McCallum, that Council adopt the resolutions from the Organisational Performance and Audit Committee meeting held on 29 April 2020 be adopted.

Carried

7 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business (*He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi*)

7.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports provided to the meeting.

7.2 Other

There were no other items of business raised by Councillors for inclusion in the agenda.

8 Questions (*Patai*)

There were no questions.

9 Chairman and Councillor's Reports (*Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera*)

⇒ Chairman's Report

Circulated with the agenda was a report of activities that the Chairman had undertaken on behalf of Council since the last meeting. No discussion arose.

⇒ Councillors' Reports

The written Councillor reports, circulated with the agenda, were noted.

Cr Ludlow advised that she had attended a webinar hosted by Economic Development New Zealand, entitled "A Ten Step Guide to Economic Recovery", put together by MartinJenkins. Cr Ludlow advised she would arrange to circulate the webinar discussion to interested Councillors when it became available later this week.

10 Staff Report – 20/C/42

⇒ Item 1 – Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's report provided Council with a governance overview of pan organisational current matters, including updates from all direct reports on topical matters.

Mr Phillips commented that remote working for the organisation, under Level 3 and Level 4 conditions, had worked well and congratulated the IT team on how well the situation had been handled. He also noted the work of the Comms team, in keeping everyone connected and providing support. The People and Capability team had provided support to staff, focusing on wellbeing and working from home tips. He said the different working situation was a great example of Environment Southland staff working collaboratively.

In response to a question around learnings to be taken from the lockdown working from home experience, particularly around cost savings, Mr Phillips explained that learnings included flexibility in working from home, and in particular the positive impact using Zoom digital technology, showing that cost savings could be made as there was the ability to participate in meetings and events without the need for travel.

Questions were asked as to whether there had been any serious impacts or delays caused to work programmes, due to the lockdown period. Mr Smith advised that compliance routine monitoring was paused during Levels 3 and 4, but had recommenced under Level 2 conditions. He emphasised that there would be activities that would not be able to be completed during the current financial year as a result of the Lockdown.

Regarding the cost savings/benefit and council's climate change mitigation plans, and the benefit of reduced travel being undertaken by staff, it was asked whether an analysis of these savings was being, or had been, prepared. Mr Selman explained that,

just prior to lockdown, the organisation fast tracked a process of rolling out an E-Road vehicle tracking system. The E-Road system has the capability to calculate what the organisation's carbon emissions were through vehicle use. Reports that showed emissions during the lockdown period, compared to emissions once staff were able to return to work, would be collated as part of the organisation's climate change work programme, and shared with councillors.

In response to a question regarding the impact of lockdown on scheduled hearings, Mr Smith advised that rescheduling hearings was underway. The nature of the hearing would dictate whether it could be held during Level 2 conditions, or would need to be scheduled during Level 1. The use of Zoom technology meant that the majority of hearings would be able to be held under Level 2 conditions.

The Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan Environment Court hearing had been delayed until August 2020. Cr McCallum noted that this, in culmination with delays that had already occurred, meant that it would be at least two winters before the rules of the plan could be enforced. Mr Smith responded that the Environment Court had set a priority hearing to take place in mid-June 2020 to advance the Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

Cr McCallum acknowledged the hard work and dedication EMS had provided over the recent weeks. He noted that it might be appropriate for EMS to pull back on COVID-19 related tasks now the country was working under Level 2 conditions. Mr Phillips advised that there had been discussions around continuing core welfare and the coordinating recovery role EMS provided until advised otherwise by the Government.

Chairman Horrell, Cr Ludlow and others took this opportunity to express their gratitude to EMS, other agency staff, and Environment Southland staff who had worked so tirelessly during the lockdown period.

In response to a question about the organisation's involvement in post-February flood repair work, Mr Phillips noted that staff were still working with communities that had been flooded, and had continued to do so whilst working from home, as "essential workers".

Returning to the Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan, concern was expressed that there was some confusion in the farming community around how the Plan rules would translate into action, and it was felt that clear guidelines would need to be provided. Mr Phillips agreed, and advised that clarity on the process, particularly around the Environment Court hearing, would be provided.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council note the report.

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – Southland Flood Control and Drainage Management Bylaw 2020**

The purpose of this item was for Council to adopt the Southland Flood Control and Drainage Management Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw).

Councillors were pleased with the report, and the changes that had been made, as requested. Mr Gilder advised that there was to be a further amendment to wording on page 17 of the report, directing applicants to use the online application form on the Environment Southland website.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Roy, that Council accept the recommendations of the Strategy & Policy Committee as set out in the Decision Report and:

- 1. adopt the Southland Flood Control and Drainage Management Bylaw 2020;**
- 2. make the Southland Flood Control and Drainage Management Bylaw 2020 adopted in point 1 above operative from 23 May 2020; and**
- 3. publicly notify the Council's decision.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 3 – Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting and Remit Process**

The purpose of this item was for Council to note the date of the rescheduled Local Government New Zealand Annual Meeting (now 20 November 2020) and the proposed remit process for lodging remits to that meeting. Council was asked to advise of any remits it may wish to have lodged and also to consider appointing delegates if it wished to attend the meeting.

The meeting agreed that it did not have any items it wished to raise that would be considered as a remit.

Brief discussion was held around potential attendance at the Annual General Meeting, and it was noted that there was not the ability to attend via a digital link. It was commented that Council is in a position of austerity, and needs to be mindful of this at all times, and that a decision on possible attendance of one member, would be made closer to the time of the meeting.

Resolved

Moved Cr Lyndal, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council:

1. **note the report and defer consideration of attendance at the 2020 Annual General Meeting;**
2. **advise staff it does not have any remits to be lodged to the 2020 Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 4 – Update to Staff Delegations Manual**

This item was for Council to approve a further amendment to the Staff Delegations Manual.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Mager, that Council approve the proposed changes to the Staff Delegations Manual as outlined in Schedule 1, effective immediately.

Carried

⇒ **Item 5 – Councillors Meeting Schedule – May 2020**

This item was for Council to approve the meeting schedule that had been circulated with the agenda. Further amendments to that schedule were advised as follows:

- June and July 2020 – People Water and Land Programme Council workshops with the TAMI Board – All Councillors
- 27 May 2020 – Riparian Briefing - All Councillors
- Cr McPhail had attended the Waituna River Liaison Committee meeting

Resolved:

Moved Cr Mager, seconded Cr Baird, that Council:

1. **appoint members to represent Council at the meetings marked on the schedule and as discussed today;**
2. **pay meeting fees and/or allowances in accordance with its policy and detailed on the schedule.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 6 – Common Seal**

This item was to note the documents to which the Common Seal had been applied under approved authorisation.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr McCallum, that Council note the document to which the Common Seal has been affixed under approved authorisation.

Carried

1 Extraordinary and Urgent Business (*Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi*)

There was no extraordinary or urgent business.

12 Public Excluded Business (*He hui Pakihi e haram o te iwi*)

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Ludlow, that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it is moved that the public is excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 8 April 2020;
- adoption of Committee Resolutions from the Organisational Performance and Audit Committee – 29 April 2020;

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified by s.48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are set out below:

<i>General Subject Matter</i>	<i>Reason for Passing the Resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S. 48(1)</i>
Confirmation of Minutes Ordinary Meeting of Council – 8 April 2020	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.	S.7(2)(j)
Adoption of Committee Resolutions – Organisational Performance and Audit Committee – 29 April 2020	To allow Council to carry out commercial activities (including commercial and industrial) without prejudice or disadvantage.	S.7(2)(h)
	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.	S.7(2)(j)

<i>General Subject Matter</i>	<i>Reason for Passing the Resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S. 48(1)</i>
	To protect the privacy of natural persons	S.7(2)(a)

It is further moved that Rob Phillips, Neil Selman, Vin Smith, Wilma Falconer, Jonathan Streat, Amy Kubrycht, Gail Jefferies, Jan Brown and Kirsten Harper be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded.

Carried

Resumed in Open Meeting

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.24 am.