

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Southland
Regional Council, held in Regional House, corner
North Road and Price Street, Invercargill, on
Wednesday, 9 June 2021 at 10.30 am**



Present: Chairman N Horrell (Chair)
Cr A Baird – via Zoom Digital
Cr N Cook
Cr L Esler
Cr R Guyton
Cr L Ludlow
Cr P McDonald
Cr L McCallum
Cr J McPhail
Cr E Roy
Cr D Stevens

In Attendance: Mr R Phillips (Chief Executive)
Ms W Falconer (GM Strategy, Planning and Engagement)
Mr C Wood (Interim GM, Finance and Corporate)
Mrs P Toomey (Principal Records Systems and Office Support)
Mr B Rickertson (Digital Media)
Mrs A Meade (Biosecurity and Biodiversity Manager)
Mrs J Brown (Executive Assistant)
Mrs N Baxter (Personal Assistant)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

The Chairman welcomed members to the June meeting of Council.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Esler, that an apology for absence be recorded on behalf of Cr Mager.

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Chairman advised that there was a Public Forum to be presented and welcomed Mr Doug Fraser to come forward and deliver his presentation.

Mr Fraser felt he had some responsibility to inform Council that he was both angry and frustrated at what was going on in the water space. He felt he had some responsibility given he was a Life member of Federated Farmers and an owner of farming properties to inform Council of the upset in the community. Key points from his presentation are listed below:

- he said he had tried to work within the system over the past 12 months to get some answers around the limit setting process.
- there had been little engagement with the community about the limit setting process which was his main concern.
- his values and objectives around water had not been canvased.
- there was confused messaging coming from Environment Southland and a lack of consistency.
- he was concerned that what is hearing from Council is that the science still needs to be done, but in the public he is hearing that the science has already been done.
- if what he is hearing in the public is correct it will be catastrophic for the Southland province.
- the farming sector has been alienated, Council is not consulting with them and the focus is completely on farming and what the intensification is doing to our waterways.
- reports and results from his farm around Thornbury bridge for the past 10 years has shown improvement on the key indicators.
- results from the test bore on his farm shows that the nitrogen level was low.
- Mr Fraser felt that the science reports should go to Federated Farmers to have an independent appraisal completed.
- Mr Fraser asked for proof of the claims made at a Regional Forum meeting that he said had never been replied to.
- he also wrote a letter addressed to the lead of the Regional Forum asking questions which had never been replied to.

Following Mr Fraser's presentation Council clarified some of the key points raised. The Chair then thanked Mr Fraser for taking the time to come and speak to Council about his concerns.

5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*)

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 21 April 2021

The Chair noted a typo on page 8 of the previous minutes of Council. With the correction of this typo the minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Stevens, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2021 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

(b) Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 3 May 2021

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr McPhail, that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 3 May 2021 be amended at page 8 as discussed, then be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Adoption of Committee Resolutions

(a) Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 6 May 2021

Cr Cook informed the committee that there had been an AF8 public meeting in Invercargill on 24 May 2021 which was very well attended.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr McDonald, that the resolutions from the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on 6 May 2021 be adopted.

Carried

(b) Strategy and Policy Committee – 19 May 2021

Cr Roy reported that during the meeting there had been some expansion on a submission on the fossil fuels that was circulated to Councillors. Feedback was included in the final document which was alternately submitted.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Stevens, that the resolutions from the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 19 May 2021 be adopted.

Carried

(c) Organisational Performance and Audit Committee – 19 May 2021

The Interim GM for Finance and Corporate, Mr Chris Wood had been welcomed at the OPAC meeting Cr Ludlow reported. There was good discussions and questions raised by Councillors about the Annual Activity Plan and Regional Software Holdings. She also highlighted that the Investment Portfolio continues to grow unexpectedly, which was pleasing to see.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr McPhail, that the resolutions from the Organisational Performance and Audit Committee held on 19 May 2021 be adopted.

Carried

(d) South Port Subcommittee – 27 May 2021

Resolved:

Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Roy, that the resolutions from the South Port Subcommittee held on 27 May 2021 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 asked by the meeting.

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 under this item.

⇒ Councillors' Reports

Cr McDonald

Cr McDonald had a written report that was circulated with the agenda. No discussion arose from his report.

Cr Esler

Cr Esler attended a number of events including one on pest control which he found very interesting. He also attended AF8 Road Show and a Museum workshop. He informed Council that the Museum had an issue with storage space, publicity and working in a small space. Cr Esler also attended the Bluff Maritime Museum Trust Board meeting noting that the old Oyster boat 'Monica' was on display and smoke detectors were a topic on the agenda at the meeting.

10 Staff Report – 21/C/45

⇒ Item 1 – Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's report was distributed with the agenda and provided Council with an overview of the current matters in the organisation. Mr Phillips noted the following key points:

- there was a LGNZ meeting in Gore that discussed a number of matters including Three Waters, the future of Local Government, the water services bill and RMA reforms;
- a significant amount of work was being initiated from Central Government which is likely to continue;
- within the organisation Biodiversity and Biosecurity were gearing up as a result of funding from Jobs for Nature.
- additional Wilding Conifer funding had been secured which enables Environment Southland to do work in the Takitimu area;
- the Undaria project had received \$50,000 of funding which allows some work to be completed in Fiordland to try and contain the Undaria outbreak;
- the Consents team continued to have solid work flows, which included some large consents that were reported on in more detail in the report;
- Consents and Planning were working together with the LAWS team around intensive winter grazing and preparing for winter. Aerial flights had shown good compliance around the region and good farming practises being used. MAF, Beef and Lamb, Dairy NZ, and Environment Southland were working together to improve farming practices in the region and it was pleasing to see good results.
- the submission process was nearing completion, with the hearing of submissions to the LTP due to commence in two weeks' time.

Following Mr Phillips overview of his report councillors made enquiries about the fish passage structures, Three Waters, Intensive Winter Grazing and the future of Local Government workstreams.

Mr Phillips advised Councillors that Matt Russell who had been working in the Three Waters space, would be meeting with Council on 1 July 2021.

Mr Phillips noted that Environment Southland's role would still be required as a regulator, as well as the national agency that is being established. Standards would be set for Environment Southland to regulate and monitor compliance. The future of Local Government was being worked on in conjunction with the RMA changes. It would mean working more collaboratively with the TAs in the future.

Mr Phillips also advised that Council could hold a workshop to inform Councillors of the plan in regards to the fish passage structures work programme.

Resolved:

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

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – Leasehold Land Management Policy**

This item dealt with the Leasehold Land Management Policy and the use of surplus funds that had built up over the years. Mr Phillips spoke to this item and advised there needed to be consultation with some of the River Liaison Committees before it was formally considered by Council.

Cr Stevens advised he had received feedback from some of the River Liaison Committees who had no issues with the funds being used in the designated catchments, but there would be push back if it was spent in other areas.

The Chair felt it would be good to discuss this with some of the River Liaison Chairs. He noted that himself and Cr McPhail had indicated to some groups that there would be a discussion with them before making a final decision about the surplus funds.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Chairman Horrell, that Council defer the adoption of the Leasehold Land Management Policy and re-present it at the next Council meeting in July.

Carried

⇒ **Item 3 – Motor Vehicle Policy**

This Motor Vehicle Policy combines both the EROAD Policy and the previous Motor Vehicle Policy. The objective of the new policy was to guide the selection, operation and management of Council's fleet.

Cr Esler raised concerns about the age of when vehicles were replaced, he felt four years was premature to sell a vehicle and it would be less costly to hold on to an aging vehicle than to upgrade it. Mrs Toomey informed the Councillors that there were several criteria that determine if a vehicle will be retained or upgraded. These included the age of the vehicle, the kilometres travelled, how environmentally friendly the vehicle was, if it was mechanically sound and if it was still fit for purpose. Vehicles weren't upgraded solely on age alone.

The environmental footprint some of these new vehicles made in comparison to the fuel burning vehicles was also raised along with fleet size and use. The option of maybe paying mileage for staff to run their personal vehicles if the travel is under ten kilometres was also highlighted.

Cr Baird felt he would like to see more electric vehicles in the fleet, and enquired if the organisation was looking to install charging points at the office to charge these vehicles. Mrs Toomey advised that Meridian Energy had made initial contact with staff in regard to those matters.

Discussion arose about better utilisation of the fleet, and that vehicles should not be sitting in the compound day after day. Mrs Toomey advised that the organisation was in the early stages of fleet management, but hoped to see the fleet size being reduced, and used more efficiently once the fleet management system was better established.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council:

1. **note the changes made to the new motor vehicle policy;**
2. **approve the new motor vehicle policy.**

Carried

⇒ Item 4 – Councillors’ Meeting Schedule – June-July 2021

Chairman Horrell requested leave of absence from 12-21 June 2021.

Cr Cook informed the committee that he would be absent on Council business from 15-17 June 2021 to attend the AF8 South Island meeting.

Mrs Brown noted an addition to the schedule if required, for deliberations on the LTP from 9.00 am, Tuesday 29 June 2021. At the time of the meeting there were 48 submissions with 22 wanting to be heard, which meant deliberations could possibly start on 23 June 2021.

The following changes were made to the meeting schedule:

- South City dropin LTP session 25 May 2021 undertaken by Cr Guyton and Chairman Horrell.
- Te Anau dropin LTP session on 31 May 2021 undertaken by Cr Baird.
- OPAC Meeting date changed from 5 May 2021 to 1 July 2021.
- Three Waters Briefing added to 1 July 2021 at 2.30 pm.
- Wakamana te Waituna Community meeting on 7 July 2021 at 1.30 pm for Chairman Horrell and Cr McCallum.
- Cr Cook attending Project AF8 Conference 15 – 17 June 2021.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Stevens, that Council:

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

Carried

⇒ Item 5 – LGNZ One Year Transitional Business Plan

The purpose of this item is alert Council to the release of the Local Government New Zealand One Year Transitional Business Plan for 2021/22.

Cr McCallum enquired if LGNZ were clear with where they were going, as they only had a one-year plan. He wondered if Environment Southland was as connected as it could be. Mr Phillips felt that through the Regional Sector Group Environment Southland was well connected.

There was brief discussion about membership and the fee payable by Environment Southland as a part of LGNZ. Mr Phillips informed the committee that Environment Southland can withdraw at any time, but noted at this time all Councils were members.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council to note the LGNZ One Year Transitional Business Plan.

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

Carried

⇒ Item 7 – Ongoing Matters

Draft Statement of Intent for RSHL

Mrs Brown informed the Committee that this item was reporting back as required by the OPAC Committee. Questions had arisen around the draft Statement of Intent for RSHL, and the report that was submitted to Council suggested that Council was required

to approve the Statement of Intent. OPAC feedback had been provided and sent back to the Board for their consideration, to enable it to finalise the Statement of Intent.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr McCallum that Council note the Ongoing Matter – RSHL draft Statement of Intent.

Carried

11 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 McPhail, seconded Cr Stevens, that the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting.

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 under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of the resolution are as follows:

General Subject Matter	Reason for Passing the Resolution	Grounds under S. 48(1)
Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council – 21 April 2021	To allow Council to carry out commercial activities (including commercial and industrial) without prejudice or disadvantage.	S.7(2)(h)
Adoption of Committee Resolutions - Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 6 May 2021	To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.	S.7 (2)(a)
Adoption of Committee Resolutions – Organisational Performance and Audit Committee – 19 May 2021	To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations.)	S.7(2)(i)
	To prevent the disclosure or use of official	S.7(2)(j)

Adoption of Committee Resolutions - South Port Sub Committee – 27 May 2021	information for improper gain or advantage. To allow Council to carry on negotiations, including commercial and industrial, without prejudice or disadvantage.	S.7(2)(h)
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It is further moved that staff present be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded.

Carried

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.02 pm.