

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Southland
Regional Council, held in the Council Chambers,
Environment Southland, corner North Road and
Price Street, Invercargill, on Wednesday,
26 January 2022 at 10.30 am**



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

In Attendance: Mr R Phillips (Chief Executive)
Mrs A Kubrycht (GM Organisational Development and Transformation)
Mr B Halligan (Acting GM Integrated Catchment Management)
Mr N Perham (Integration & Implementation Manager)
Mrs F Young (Catchment Integration Manager)
Mr R Strong (Catchment Operations Manager)
Mrs R Miller (Strategy & Partnership Manager)
Mr D Dudfield (Team Leader - Digital & Channel)
Mrs D Ferguson (Acting Compliance Manager)
Mrs J Brown (Executive Assistant)
Mrs N Baxter (Personal Assistant)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

The Chairman welcomed members to the January meeting of Council.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

There was full attendance at this meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no public forums, petitions or deputations presented at the meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*)

(a) Ordinary Meeting of Council – 15 December 2021

Cr Ludlow questioned what follow-up had happened regarding the White Pines Trust Presentation. The Chair advised he had followed up with Mrs Brown and a workshop would be scheduled.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr McPhail, that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 December 2021 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

(b) Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 22 December 2021

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Ludlow, that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 December 2021 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

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

6.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports provided to the meeting.

6.2 Other

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

7 Questions (*Patai*)

There were no questions asked by the meeting.

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

⇒ Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report set out activities undertaken on behalf of Council since the last meeting. In speaking to his report, the Chairman noted that it had been a reasonably quiet period due to the holidays.

⇒ Councillors' Reports

Cr Esler provided a verbal report to the meeting on his recent outings around Fiordland and Southland; in particular, he noted the drought was starting to cause issues in some areas. He noted that the Waiau was very low yesterday and Didymo was prevalent. He also noted quite a lot of new planting had happened and that those plants were now dying, and questioned if people were getting the right advice about the follow-up care required after planting. He also noticed tourists around the region with people making good use of the Te Araroa Trail and the new Totara Reserve walk in Otatara.

9 Staff Report – 22/C/01

⇒ Item 1 – Chief Executive's Report

Mr Phillips spoke to his report which provided Council with an update from all the direct reports on topical matters. The following items were highlighted:

- there was a strong focus on Climate Resilience work and getting construction done during the summer months.
- the Boundary Creek project was near completion in the Matakura;
- further design work was underway for improvements to the Climate Resilience work being done in Gore and further down the catchment in Wyndham;
- work was being done preparing for the Stead Street Pump Station;
- the COVID-19 Omicron variant had created a lot of uncertainty with the Red traffic light traffic setting coming into effect recently. Staff were navigating through the various changes and keeping the work flows going.

Cr Roy noted the Undaria survey being completed at Breaksea Sound and queried if Council would be privy to this report. Mr Phillips reminded the meeting of the work being undertaken by the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Operations Division to contain the outbreak and the pathway plan that had been developed to prevent the spread. Mrs Meade also informed Council that there were 11 divers working 60 hour weeks utilising the Jobs for Nature work programme funding to remove the Undaria. At the time of the meeting the divers were removing as much as 10 tonnes per week of Undaria from Breaksea Sound. Mrs Meade would report back to Council on the outbreak at the end of the work season.

Cr McCallum noted that evidence had been submitted in regards to the People, Water and Land Plan. He enquired if there would be an opportunity for staff to update Council on what some of the discussions were before Council's evidence was due on 11 February 2022.

Cr McCallum also raised questions about AON Insurance, noting the lack of progress. Mr Phillips advised that Mr Strong was meeting with ES lawyers to discuss this and would report back with the plan going forward in due course.

Cr McCallum then raised a boating accident that occurred recently in Te Anau, and if staff were doing any safer boating education. Mr Halligan advised that the Harbour Master was in the area at the time of this accident, and that summer students had been delivering Boating Safety leaflets in the area.

Cr Guyton enquired about the giant buttercup issue and if it had decreased or increased within the region? Mrs Meade would follow-up on this and report back to Council.

Following enquiries and discussion regarding global gravel consents being issued, Cr Esler raised his concerns about the ecology of the river. He enquired if the consents process took into account fish and nesting areas for birds when gravel consents were being processed. Mr Halligan replied that outside organisations such as Fish & Game and DOC were raising these concerns also, and these issues were being addressed when consents were processed.

Resolved:

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

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – Appointment of New Electoral Officer**

Mrs Brown took this item as read, which noted that the Southland District Council had recently appointed a new company to deliver the local government elections on its behalf for the 2022 election cycle. Environment Southland was covered by the same contract, but was required to appoint a new electoral officer as a result of the change in provider.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Roy, that Council:

- 1. note that Southland District Council has appointed a new Electoral Officer, Mr Anthony Morton, and company (Electionz.com) to service its election needs and in the investigation included matters relating to this Council's needs;**
- 2. appoint Mr Anthony Morton from Electionz.com as the Electoral Officer for Southland Regional Council from 26 January 2022.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 3 – Councillors’ Meeting Schedule – January 2022**

The meeting schedule covering the forthcoming six weeks had been circulated with the Council agenda. It was noted this item also included two leave of absence requests for Cr Mager, as well as the addition of one meeting – the Environmental Challenges Presentation for the New River Estuary Forum. It had been set for 23 February 2022 at 6.30 pm.

Cr McCallum highlighted meetings scheduled to be held in Gore and Winton regarding emissions pricing and felt that Environment Southland should have some representation at these meetings. It was agreed that these meetings should be added to the meeting schedule.

Cr Baird noted that he will be away from 28 January to 8 February 2022, but at this time there were no matters requiring his attendance.

Cr Guyton raised the issue of leave being made public knowledge and the potential for security issues to arise. Council agreed that staff should give thought to a revised process to address these concerns.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr Baird, that Council note the planned meetings and resolve to:

- 1. appoint members to represent Council at the meetings marked on the schedule;**
- 2. approve the leave of absence requests for Cr Mager for the periods 13-25 April and 11-13 May 2022; and for Cr Baird from 28 January to 8 February 2022;**
- 3. pay meeting fees and/or allowances in accordance with its policy and detailed on the schedule.**

Carried

⇒ **Item 4 – Reporting of Expenditure above Delegated Authority**

Included in the staff report was an item prepared in accordance with Council’s Delegations Manual, reporting expenditure incurred above that provided for in that manual, relating to work undertaken on the National Wilding Conifer Programme.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, seconded Cr McPhail, that Council note the payment of an account amounting to \$385,769.33, for the completion of recent spraying/control work as part of the National Wilding Conifer Programme.

Carried

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

There was no extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

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

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Baird, that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s 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), the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 15 December 2021;
- Confirmation of Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 22 December 2021;
- Item 5 – Local Government Size Indices and Council’s Governance Remuneration Pools;

The general subject of the matters 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 Section 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 of Ordinary Meeting of Council – 15 December 2021	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S.7(2)(j)
	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.	S.7(2)(i)
Confirmation of Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 22 December 2021	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.	S.7(2)(j)

General Subject Matter	Reason for Passing the Resolution	Grounds under S. 48(1)
<p>Item 5 – Local Government Size Indices and Councils’ Governance Remuneration Pools</p>	<p>To carry on without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p> <p>To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or ii. Would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest (Schedule 7 (2)(C)) 	<p>S.7(2)(i)</p>

Carried

Resumed in Open Meeting

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.12 am.