

## Finance Committee MINUTES

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Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on Thursday 23 February 2023, commencing at 9:00 AM.

**PRESENT**

Cr Kevin Malcolm *(Co-Chairperson)*  
Cr Tim Mepham *(Co-Chairperson)*  
Cr Alexa Forbes  
Cr Gary Kelliher (online)  
Cr Michael Laws (online)  
Cr Lloyd McCall  
Cr Andrew Noone  
Cr Gretchen Robertson  
Cr Bryan Scott  
Cr Alan Somerville  
Cr Elliot Weir (online)  
Cr Kate Wilson

## **1. WELCOME**

Co-Chairperson Tim Mepham welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 9:03 a.m. and gave a karakia. Staff present included Pim Borren, (interim Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory and Communications), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Liz Spector (Governance Support), Sarah Munro (Manager Finance), Jasmin Lamorie (Corporate Planning Business Partner), and Frederique Gulcher (Team Leader Media and Comms). Present electronically was Jean-Luc Payan (Manager Natural Hazards).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

**Resolution: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:**

*That the apologies for Cr Forbes (lateness), and Cr Scott be accepted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

No requests to speak during Public Forum were received.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was confirmed as published.

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No updates to the Councillor Register of Interests were advised.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

Tim Gibson, Port Otago Ltd Board Chair, introduced Pat Heslin, Deputy Board Chair, Kevin Winders, Chief Executive of Port Otago Ltd and Stephen Connolly, CFO of Port Otago Ltd. Mr Winders gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing their Interim Annual Report and the group responded to questions from Councillors. Printed copies of the Port Otago Ltd Interim Report were distributed to Councillors.

*Cr Forbes joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.*

## **7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **7.1. Quarterly Financial Report - 31 December 2022**

This report presented the Council's Activity and Financial Performance Reports for the 6-month period ended 31 December 2022. Sarah Munro (Manager Finance), Jasmin Lamorie (Corporate Planning Business Partner), and Nick Donnelly (General Manager Corporate Services) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

Chair Mepham requested future quarterly reports review the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses and the Statement of Financial Position before reviewing the Activity Reports. Ms Munro said she would make that change for future reports.

Cr Somerville asked if the ORC had an ethical investment policy. Mr Donnelly said there was no formal policy now, but such a policy could be added when the new Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) document is adopted. Nick suggested this issue be brought to Audit & Risk for discussion alongside the investment report.

Cr Noone noted payment collection efforts for the Alexandra Flood Scheme and asked if Governance should get involved to facilitate collection. Mr Donnelly said he would follow up on this with Councillors.

After further questions from Councillors, the report was noted.

**Resolution FIN23-101: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Noone Seconded**

*That the Finance Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this paper and the Activity and Financial Performance Reports for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022 (quarter 2 of the 2022-23 financial year).

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7.2. Rates Strike, Collection - 31 October 2022**

This report provided the Finance Committee with an update on rates struck for the 2022/23 financial year. Sarah Munro (Manager Finance) and Nick Donnelly (General Manager Corporate Services) were present to respond to questions.

Several Councillors asked questions about how to offer rates payment plans with smaller, more frequent payments. Ms Munro said staff was working on implementing this for future rates strikes and looking at weekly, fortnightly, and monthly payments as well as the current thrice yearly. Ms Munro said feedback from the community indicated a need for reminder notices. She said although there would be a cost to Council for these additional emailed notices, there would be no fee to ratepayers. She also noted that many ratepayers had asked that a rates brochure explaining how rates are used be included with the initial notice and she indicated staff is working with the Comms & Marketing team to implement this request.

Following further questions, the report was noted.

**Resolution FIN23-102: Cr Noone Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the Finance Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7.3. ORC Environment Awards Proposal**

This paper provided options for the Finance Committee to consider as part of the 2023/2024 Annual Plan process, to launch Otago Regional Council awards to recognise and encourage kaitiakitanga of Otago's natural environment. Richard Saunders (General Manager Communications) and Frederique Gulcher (Team Leader Media and Comms) were present to respond to questions.

Mr Saunders reviewed the options the paper presented to the Committee, with Option 1 being an annual awards programme which would involve community nominations and an awards panel, and Option 2 being a smaller scale and smaller cost programme conducted every two months at the site of the award winner. Councillors discussed the options and determined to have staff pursue Option 2.

Cr Robertson then moved:

**Resolution FIN23-103: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the Finance Committee:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Recommends to Council Option 2 community awards** that the Chief Executive direct staff to undertake further work towards development of an annual awards programme (option 2) including detailed costs.
- 3) **Recommends to Council** that the Chief Executive direct staff to prepare a report for consideration during the upcoming long term plan process.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**8. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Co-Chair Mephram declared the meeting closed at 11:41a.m.



25 May 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

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Date