

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 16 September 2015 commencing at 10.47 am

Present:

Cr Stephen Woodhead (Chairperson)
Cr Gretchen Robertson (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Doug Brown
Cr Louise Croot MNZM
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Trevor Kempton
Cr Sam Neill
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd

Leave of Absence:

Cr Bryan Scott requested leave of absence.
The request for leave of absence was approved on the motion of
Crs Woodhead and Croot.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Scott Maclean
Nick Donnelly
Fraser McRae
Sharon Bodeker (for Item 2)
Stuart Lanham (for Item 2)
David Benham
Brett Tomkins (for Item 2)
Charlotte Stickings

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Cr Sam Neill considered that the Council should show its support for an increased response by the New Zealand Government to the Refugee Crisis, and requested that this be added to the agenda.

Cr Neill moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That discussion of Council support for an increased New Zealand response to the refugee crisis be added to the agenda.

Cr Woodhead commented that this was added as a late item because awareness of the matter arose after the meeting agenda was completed. He suggested that this be added as Item 4a.

Cr Scott moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the motion be put.

Motion carried

Comment was made that it would be useful for extra agenda items to be signalled earlier so that they could be fully considered.

The motion was put and carried

PUBLIC FORUM

Jen Olsen, Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)

Ms Jen Olsen and Professor Alan Mark presented a petition with 500 supporting signatures that they wanted ORC to consider on the TPP and commented that this issue would not be going to Parliament and would not be debated. She noted that two demonstrations opposing New Zealand adoption of the TPPA had taken place in Dunedin. She informed Councillors that twelve councils in New Zealand had adopted the resolutions and four others had adopted briefer versions. A resolution had been drafted for ORC and the group felt that items 7, 8, 10 and 11 were relevant to the regional council. In response to a question Ms Olsen advised that she was not aware of the timetable for completion of government negotiations.

MINUTES

The minutes of the public portion of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 5 August 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Bell and Kempton.

Matters arising from the minutes

Cr Eckhoff commented that Cr Brown's request that Mr Donnelly seek clarification on the standing orders was not included in the minutes of the last meeting, but clarification of this had been made.

PART A - PRESENTATIONS

Item 1 Port Otago Ltd Annual Report

Port Otago Ltd Chair David Faulkner and Chief Executive Geoff Plunket were in attendance to present the group's annual report.

In his report Mr Faulkner noted the following:

- the Next Generation Plan was underway which had been in planning for 5 years;
- The channel deepening of the harbour;
- Extension of warehousing at Back Beach and Sawyers Bay;
- New tug boat for multi-purposes;
- Disappointing to see 5% decrease in container capacity;
- 73 cruise vessels booked for next year and 91 booked for the year after, larger vessels mean increase in passenger numbers for Dunedin;
- Investigations were underway following the serious injury of a staff member in July.

Mr Faulkner and Mr Plunket left the meeting at 11.50 am.
The meeting adjourned at 11.50 am and reconvened at 11.58 am.

PART B – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 2 2015/1135 Annual Report 2014/15. DCS, 3/9/15

The completed Annual Report 2014/15 was presented to Council for adoption.

Mr Bodeker advised that the comments received from the Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the auditors on reporting against objectives had been noted, and commented that sub-sets of the over-arching goal were required for staff to work towards. The importance of the annual plan and audit process was noted.

Mr Tomkins explained that the audit process required Deloitte to review the Otago Regional Council's financial statement, statement of service etc. and to form an independent opinion based on the auditing standards.

It was commented that the annual report showed a strong balance sheet for this Council and a clean audit report would be provided by Deloitte.

Comment was made that there were items that had not been achieved or had been deferred. It was agreed that a longer lead in time for the annual plan with good planning was needed. It was noted that it was important to

recognise the good work done, and there was more to do which required realistic but challenging KPIs being set.

The issue of the transparency of reserve funds was raised. It was commented that these were funded by ratepayers and should be used for the benefit of ratepayers.

It had been a challenging year including the impact of drought conditions and the implementation of 6A which had been more difficult and costly than anticipated.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

- (i) *That this report be received.*
- (ii) *That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015, together with the report of the auditors, be adopted.*

Motion carried

PART C – CHAIRPERSON’S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORTS

Item 3
2015/1150 **Chairperson’s report.** Chair, 10/9/15

The Chairperson provided an overview of his activities for the period to 10 September 2015.

The Chairperson noted that discussion took place at a recent Wilding Tree Trust meeting he attended with MPI and DoC. Discussion was held around the national strategy and it was noted that currently no funding had been allocated.

Minister Nick Smith’s report was noted, and attention was drawn to the likely move from PM₁₀ to PM_{2.5} in the NES for Air Quality.

The Minister was looking toward a LAWF-type process to progress the Biodiversity NPS, and Cr Woodhead agreed this Council needed to have a good understanding of the national document in preparation for its own Biodiversity Strategy.

Councillors requested the abbreviations in the report be explained more fully as it was a public document.

The NES re stock fencing of waterways was noted and it was requested that the Chairman ensure the emphasis on 'where practical' was retained.

Item 4
2015/1146 **Chief Executive's Report.** CE, 9/9/15

The Chief Executive provided an overview of his activities for the period to 9 September 2015. The following matters were discussed further:

Work carried out by Corporate Services staff in preparation of the Annual Report was acknowledged and Mr Bodeker noted that he would review the schedule for the timing of the annual plan process for next year.

It was commented that the improvements in consent processing were due to large investments made in 'Black Belt' training which had enabled the review to take place.

The proposed NES Forestry was noted, and a query raised as to whether the ORC's effects based approach would work under the proposed NES.

Councillors were appreciative of the invitation to attend the initial meeting with the dairy stakeholders (Dairy NZ, Fonterra etc). Comment was made that farmers needed to communicate, and get involved with groups within their catchments especially those catchments identified as high risk (due to soil type). Farmers and ORC needed to work well together to prepare for 2020.

The issue raised in the Public Forum, Government adoption of the TPPA, was discussed. Some queried whether the Council should be involved in this matter which was seen as being outside the Council's mandate.

Cr Robertson moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That staff prepare a report for Councillors regarding the TPP including what other Councils were doing.

The motion was put by division:

For: Crs Bell, Croot, Deaker, Kelliher, Kempton, Neill, Robertson and
Scott

Against: Crs Brown, Eckhoff, Shepherd and Woodhead

Motion carried

The passing of Colin Walker, Senior Resource Officer based in the ORC's Queenstown office, was noted.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Neill seconded

That the Chairperson's and Chief Executive's reports be received.

Motion carried

Item 4a **Refugee Crisis**

Cr Neill thanked Councillors for allowing this addition to the agenda and apologised for the lack of notice.

It was noted that this discussion was relevant from a time perspective and he considered that this Council should support government in welcoming refugees to Otago as part of the already agreed quota.

Cr Neill moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That Council convey support to government for increasing the number of refugees due to the major crisis, and also support any of the local bodies in Otago who express a desire to be involved.

Motion carried

PART D – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 5
2015/1149 **Financial Report.** DCS, 11/9/15

The report provided information in respect of the overall Council finances for the month of July 2015.

Cr Kempton moved
Cr Neill seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 6

2015/1152 **Documents signed under Council's Seal.** DCS, 10/9/15

The report informed the Council of delegations which have been exercised.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 7 **Reports from Councillors**

Cr Kempton

- *Combined Otago/Southland RTCs meeting 1 September*

Cr Kempton noted that the South Island Freight Strategy was discussed along with the road/rail linkage, and commented that 65% of freight for Port Otago was significant.

- *Te Roopu Taiao Murihiku meeting 14 September*

Steve Ruru, CEO Southland District, gave a presentation on the combined regional development strategy for Southland.

ES - water and land 2020 and beyond

Interest in Otago's consultation draft RPS, and the Lindis minimum flow process.

Cr Eckhoff

- *Wilding Pines meeting – Queenstown*

Cr Eckhoff noted that he and Cr Bell attended this meeting and commented that Otago Regional Council were seen to have failed to engage with this issue in a meaningful way. Comment was made that there was an expectation that Otago Regional Council become more involved and the 'adopt a plot' system was referenced.

PART E – MINUTES OF MEETINGSItem 8 **Recommendations of the combined Otago/Southland Regional Transport Committees meeting held on 1 September 2015, for adoption**

Cr Kempton moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the recommendations of the combined Otago/Southland Regional Transport Committees meeting held on 1 September 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 9 **Recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting** held on 2 September 2015, for adoption

Cr Kempton moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 10 **Recommendations of the public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting** held on 2 September 2015, for adoption

Cr Kelliher moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the recommendations of the public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 11 **Recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting** held on 2 September 2015, for adoption

Cr Robertson moved
Cr Scott seconded

That the recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 12 **Recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting** held on 2 September 2015, for adoption

Cr Neill moved
Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 13 **Recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting** held on 2 September 2015, for adoption

Cr Scott moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

PART F – PUBLIC EXCLUSION

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Scott seconded

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the meeting.

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	<i>General subjects to be considered</i>	<i>Reason under LGOIMA for passing this resolution</i>	<i>Grounds under S.48 for the passing of this resolution</i>
Item 14	<i>Minutes of the In Committee portion of the Council meeting held on 5 August 2015, for adoption</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank experssion of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of a local authority. (S72(f)(i))</i>	<i>S.48(1)(a)(i)</i>
Item 15	<i>Minutes of the In Committee portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 2 September 2015, for adoption</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank experssion of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of a local authority. (S72(f)(i))</i>	<i>S.48(1)(a)(i)</i>

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) 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 Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above with respect to each item.

Motion carried

Following discussion of Items 14 and 15,

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Kelliher seconded

That the meeting resume in open session.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 1.20pm



Chairperson