

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 11 May 2016 commencing at 9.00 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

Apologies: Cr Gretchen Robertson

Accepted on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Croot.

Carried

Leave of Absence:

Applications for Leave of Absence were received for Cr Neill; Cr Kempton; Cr Croot and Cr Woodhead

Accepted on the motion of Crs Eckhoff and Kelliher

Carried

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Nick Donnelly
Fraser McRae
Scott McLean
Gavin Palmer
Caroline Rowe
Lauren McDonald

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda as circulated was accepted.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Woodhead advised that Conflict of Interest would be a set agenda item to follow the Confirmation of the Agenda, to enable confirmation of any conflicts of interest for items on the agenda at each Council meeting. Cr Woodhead recommended that Committee Chairs also include this on the Committee agendas.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 23 March 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Cr Deaker and Cr Kempton.

Carried

Matters arising from the minutes

Green Island Bus petition

A question was raised in regard to the bus service petition made at the last Council meeting.

Mr Donnelly advised that staff were working through the options as advised at the Finance and Corporate Committee on 20 April. A report back to Council with a number of options to be provided at the next Committee round.

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

Item 1

2016/0806 **Chairperson’s report.** Chair, 5/5/16

The Chairperson provided an overview of his activities for the period to 5 May 2016.

Velvetleaf – Cr Woodhead acknowledged and thanked staff for their significant effort and assistance, and for the community support also shown.

In regard to the assistance from MPI and AsureQuality, Cr Woodhead advised that Mr MacLean is part of a national committee which will advise

on further actions required of ORC in regard to the Velvetleaf incursion. Cr Woodhead advised work is continuing to ensure MPI ongoing support, by the CE level and by himself and his colleagues with the Minister in due course to clarify the process in place for a national request for support from ORC.

Cr Woodhead advised of other meetings he had attended as Chair during the reporting period:

The Inaugural meeting of the Rural Water Advisory Group was held at ORC on 21 April which was a positive meeting as it brought together industry and other interested organisations, including Irrigation NZ, Fish and Game NZ, iwi and tourism representatives. The meeting was to agree on the Terms of Reference and constructive dialogue was had at the first meeting. The platform was set for ongoing meetings for the group, with the next meeting to be held before the end of the year, moving then to an annual meeting basis. The focus of the group is the monitoring of PC6A as it goes to the community.

Mrs Rowe confirmed the Terms Of Reference will be provided to the next meeting of the Communications Committee for approval.

Cr Woodhead advised he and Mrs Meredith, ORC Policy Manager, attended and presented to the Local Government Environment Select Committee. This had been a worthwhile and constructive presentation.

Discussion held from the Chair's Report:

A concern was raised on any impact to Otago ratepayers in regard to the Velvetleaf incursion if MPI were to reduce their support to funding of this incursion.

Mr Bodeker advised that Council's response to the incursion is managed through the MOU held with MPI, and was the basis in which Council was paid for their involvement. Mr Bodeker confirmed he had taken the decision that staff would continue with the surveillance work. He advised that that the Director General had met with himself and Mr MacLean and discussion had been held re funding.

Mr Bodeker advised he believed that MPI would reasonably recompense ORC acting as a local agent for the Velvetleaf incursion, and confirmed the ORC rate used was as per the fee structure stated in the Annual Plan. In regard to publicity around Velvetleaf, Mr Bodeker advised that Council should not rely solely on MPI to action this.

Cr Woodhead advised that MPI have been active in checking protocols of other seed importers and that Velvetleaf was not a new incursion to NZ as it has been in the Waikato for a few years. It was a new incursion, in that it

came in from imported seed. It was an important opportunity for Council to put effort in to ensuring this pest plant did not become established in the region.

A question was raised in relation to Annual Plan process and how this was being communicated.

Mr Bodeker confirmed all presentations made to the community were a 'snap shot' of the key activities underpinning the Annual Plan. The presentations concluded with information on the submissions process.

Cr Woodhead confirmed that the Facebook session held was purely a Q&A session and the process for making a submission on the Annual Plan was advised. The Facebook session will be tried again and it was hoped to extend the audience participation.

Item 2

2016/0808 **Chief Executive's Report.** CE, 5/5/16

The Chief Executive provided an overview of his activities for the period to 5 May 2016. The following points were discussed further:

Mr Bodeker responded to comparisons that had been made between the current Velvetleaf incursion to Fruit Fly and Foot and Mouth, stating the difference being that Velvetleaf did not impact on NZ exports. He confirmed a high level of surveillance would continue as there were additional areas to inspect.

Mr Bodeker confirmed the recent CEO summit was very interesting and provided a good networking opportunity.

A comment was made in regard to the CEO summit part of the CE's report on the use of the internet to provide videos and to communicate issues out to the public in addition to traditional print media. This was seen as a progressive step for the next triennium.

Mr Bodeker advised he had received a petition regarding 1080 on 2 May. The petition entitled "No 1080 poison in Tuapeka district" has 245 signatures. He would acknowledge receipt of the petition and advise the petitioner that the application of 1080 is a permitted activity in Otago and the toxin was being applied by OSPRI, and in this case their concerns should be directed to OSPRI.

A request was made that the Section 17A review of CDEM Otago being presented to the Otago CDEM Group meeting on 23 May be provided to Councillors. Mr Bodeker confirmed he would make this report available.

A question was raised in relation to staff resources being used in the Velvetleaf incursion response and additional monitoring completed during low flows and what impact this has had on planned works.

Mr Bodeker responded there would be dairy inspections and other RMA activities that would now not be undertaken due to the Velvetleaf incursion inspections. An internal review would be done to accurately define what work has not been achieved, the probability of catching up on the work, also to provide ideas for further incursions on how Council might respond differently, e.g. attempt to engage volunteers earlier and learning gained re expectations, e.g. excessive work hours for staff.

Mr Bodeker confirmed a certificate has been produced, signed by both the Chairman and the MPI Director General, Martyn Dunne, which will be presented at small function for all those staff involved to thank and acknowledge their efforts.

Councillors advised their appreciation of the work the staff had done.

Biosecurity at NZ's border was noted as being the responsibility of central government and their departments, not regional councils. Pest plant incursions such as Velvetleaf needed to be taken seriously with the example provided of nodding thistle, which is now an established pest plant with impact to the sheep industry due to the contamination caused to wool fleece.

Cr Eckhoff suggested the use of new technology, e.g. drones to be used to fly and over suspected infected crop areas, rather ground level checks only for velvetleaf. Mr MacLean acknowledged the suggestion and would investigate.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Croot

That:

*The Chairperson's and Chief Executive's reports be received, and
Noting the receipt of the 1080 petition*

Motion carried

PART B — RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 4

2016/0802 Elected Members Remuneration from 1 July 2016

This item was originally a Finance & Corporate Committee paper and the committee asked Mr Donnelly to clarify some points and re-present the paper to Council.

Mr Donnelly confirmed he had clarified those points with the Remuneration Authority. One question that had been raised was the ability to change the remuneration structure of committees post-election. The Remuneration Authority has confirmed that this can be done, and that Council would have to apply for determination if this was to occur.

Mr Donnelly confirmed that the addition of payment to other Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs was not ruled out but eligibility for payment for these roles would need to be clearly defined to identify what the responsibilities were.

Discussion held on the report

A question was raised on options for remuneration for the Deputy Chair of Council and also Deputy Chair of Committees (as per discussion in the Finance & Corporate Committee).

Cr Woodhead noted that if, in the new term of Council, the same Committee structure is in place and adjusted remuneration amounts are sought, the Remuneration Authority will require the details of the change in responsibility to justify change in payment.

A comment was made on the issue that the Chairman of Regional Transport Committee was currently only able to receive additional payment if not already a chair of an existing committee which seemed unfair.

In regard to recommendation c) of the report “that Council consider and determine the allocation of payments for additional duties”

Moved Cr Brown
Seconded Cr Deaker

That an additional 15% be applied to Committee Chairs and that the Chair of the RTC should receive 7.5% for the additional responsibility that this role carried.

That reallocation of the unallocated funds be applied to regional plan activity

Mr Donnelly advised that in that guidance received from the Remuneration Authority they did stipulate that there is only one payment. The additional payment to the Chair of RTC would need to be put to the Remuneration Authority, highlighting the extra duties and work involved on top of Committee Chair role.

Discussion held on the motion

It was commented that due to the level of Regional Plan change work occurring it would be good to have allocated funds available for regional plan use. Mr Donnelly advised that this would need to be requested of the Remuneration Authority.

Mr Donnelly clarified that the 15% extra would mean the Committee Chair salary would increase to \$55,662 and the standard Councillor salary would remain at \$47,532 applicable from 1/7/16.

Cr Woodhead commented that Plan Change remuneration is in place for the formal Plan Change process, hearing and deliberations and wanting remaining funds allocated to Plan changes in case it is required.

Cr Kelliher commented that some Committee Chairs, such as the Finance & Corporate Committee Chair, have a heavier workload than others and thought the motion as tabled was unfair and this was the reason for his voting against the motion. (*the amendment to minutes as voted at Council Meeting of 22 June 2016*).

Cr Kempton sought clarification if the reallocation of the unallocated sum to regional plan activity formed part of the motion. Cr Brown confirmed yes it did.

Mr Bodeker sought clarification from Cr Brown on the reference to the payment of the additional 7.5% to the Chair of RTC and if this was to be paid irrespective of whether the incumbent in the role was a Committee Chair or not. Cr Brown confirmed that this was his intent to have it paid in addition to the Committee Chair amount.

The vote was put by division:

For: Crs Bell, Brown, Croot, Deaker, Eckhoff, Kempton, Neill, Scott, Shepherd,
Woodhead
Against: Cr Kelliher

Motion was declared as won

Moved Cr Shepherd
Seconded Cr Scott

that recommendations a,b,d,e and f as recommended c had already be voted on.

That;

a) this report be received,

- b) *Council consider and determine the Committee structure for the 2016/17 year,*
- ~~e) *Council consider and determine the allocation of payments for additional duties,*~~
- d) *based on Councils proposed Committee structure and allocation of payments for additional duties, the Director Corporate Services complete the submission to the Remuneration Authority by 16 May 2016,*
- e) *Council adopt the changes to mileage and travel allowances and,*
- f) *the Director of Corporate Services forward the attached Expenses, Reimbursement and Allowances Policy to the Remuneration Authority by 10 June 2016 for their approval.*

Motion carried

Discussion

A question raised in regard to the definition of “Council business” and the exclusion of “constituency related travel” from the perspective of rural based councillors.

Mr Donnelly confirmed the advice from the Remuneration Authority (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Remuneration Authority guidance document) was that for any formal meeting, or workshop called by Council that mileage was able to be claimed. Attendance at other events and constituency work was covered in the base salary.

Mr Donnelly also clarified that Committee Chairs were eligible to claim mileage for attendance of Committee Chairs meeting but mileage was not payable for other attendees if they attended and the option to join the meeting via teleconference was available.

Item 5

2016/0813 Amendment to Council Authorisation for proposed ORC designations

Cr Woodhead advised that this report was tabled as a result of submissions made on proposed ORC designations and that the designations were being processed as part of the DCC district plan review. Four requests for designation changes had been made and concerns expressed for submissions

The report recommended that Council endorse council staff’s recommendation to proceed with the designations in respect to the properties of the: Otago Racing Club Incorporated; Owhiro River Limited; Otago Business Park; and Michael and Amy Brough.

Approval was sought for delegation to the Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management to amend designations that may be identified as being appropriate as a result of further consultation between Otago

Regional Council and affected land owners, and approve and endorse those amendments made by council staff to date during the designation process.

Dr Palmer advised that in one of the submissions (M A Brough) the LIM report had not recognised the bylaw in place and therefore highlighted the importance of designations.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Shepherd

That the Council:

1) Endorse council staff's recommendation to proceed with the designations in respect to the properties of;

- *the Otago Racing Club Incorporated*
- *Owhiro River Limited*
- *Otago Business Park; and*
- *Michael and Amy Brough*

And;

2) Approve delegation to the Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management to amend designations) that may be identified as being appropriate as a result of further consultation between Otago Regional Council and affected land owners.

And;

Approve and endorse those amendments made by council staff to date during the designation process.

Motion carried

PART D – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 6

2016/0785 **Financial Report.** DCS, 2/5/16

The report provided information in respect of the overall Council finances for the nine months ended 31 March 2016.

Moved Cr Shepherd
Seconded Cr Scott

That this report be received.

Motion carried

Item 8 **Reports from Councillors**

Cr Deaker

Attended the Tertiary Precinct Planning Group (members included the ORC, Otago University (OU), Otago Polytechnic (OP), DCC and Otago Museum). This meeting was also attended by Cr Scott. Discussion was held about capital works projects over the next decade, and the impact of this on the region due to the large number of trades people and costs involved. Discussion was also held on public transport use by students and that a member of the group had made an offer to provide 3 Wi-Fi units for trial on the buses as the OU and OP had offered the view that their students will not travel without Wi-Fi access on buses. Cr Deaker confirmed he had notified Mr Donnelly and Mr Collings of this offer.

GR Robertson joined the meeting 10:46am.

Cr Brown

Cr Brown spoke to the tabled report on the Lower Waitaki Liaison Committee meeting. He confirmed the work was event driven and on budget. Fund has been running in deficit but was now in credit for this year and that changes in rating funding policy by ECan had been included and were a positive.

Cr Kempton

Attended a meeting 15 April held at Environment Southland between the head of the Ministry of Transport (secretary for Transport and GM sector performance). Attendees were himself, ES Chair, Dr Turnbull and Mr Hawkes.

The reason for the meeting was to provide early signals on policy principles proposed for the 2018 Government Policy Statement (GPS) and to gain appreciation of current regional issues. The next GPS would have more directive around the introduction of “intelligent” network management and communication of that delivery to users, customer driven investment strategy and a comprehensive “state of the system” stocktake.

The collaboration between Otago and Southland RTCs had been noted positively at Ministry level.

The Ministry discussed some of their thinking around the future of land transport including emphasis on:

- people purchasing their “mobility” rather than own “vehicles”, particularly for main centres;
- More emphasis on vehicle utilisation
- Heavy traffic platooning

Cr Bell

Cr Bell commented that he wanted to encourage staff to take the opportunity to be involved with judging of the Ballance Environmental Farm Awards and he believed that there was lot to learn from that and the opportunities for education and networking.

Cr Eckhoff

Cr Eckhoff advised that he and Cr Bell visited the Loganburn Dam as part of the Maniatoto Irrigation Company's open day on 17 April. He acknowledged the dam was a "massive resource and a tribute to the farmers" and without the resource the area would be in trouble. He advised it was also pleasing to see the Chair, CE and Mr MacLean also attending and it was good PR for ORC.

PART E – MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- Item 11 **Recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016, for adoption**

moved Cr Kempton
seconded Cr Bell

That the recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016 be adopted.

Motion carried

- Item 12 **Recommendations of the public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016, for adoption**

moved Cr Shepherd
seconded Cr Kelliher

That the recommendations of the public portion of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016 be adopted.

Motion carried

- Item 13 **Recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting held on 9 March 2016, for adoption**

moved Cr Robertson
seconded Cr Deaker

That the recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 14 **Recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016, for adoption**

moved Cr Neill
seconded Cr Eckhoff

That the recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016 be adopted.

Motion carried

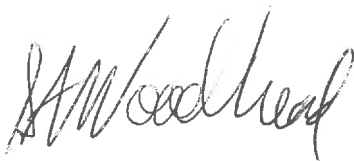
Item 15 **Recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016, for adoption**

moved Cr Scott
seconded Cr Brown

That the recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting held on 20 April 2016 be adopted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11:00am



Chairperson