



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Council
held in the Council Chamber on
Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 1:00 PM

Membership

Cr Andrew Noone	<i>(Chairperson)</i>
Cr Michael Laws	<i>(Deputy Chairperson)</i>
Cr Hilary Calvert	
Cr Alexa Forbes	
Cr Michael Deaker	
Hon Cr Marian Hobbs	
Cr Carmen Hope	
Cr Gary Kelliher	
Cr Kevin Malcolm	
Cr Gretchen Robertson	
Cr Bryan Scott	
Cr Kate Wilson	

Welcome

Cr Andrew Noone welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting.

Staff present included: Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor), Liz Spector (Committee Secretary), Anita Dawe (Manager Policy and Planning), Euan Hind (Partnership Lead - Biodiversity), Andrea Howard (Manager Biosecurity and Rural Liaison), Eleanor Ross (Manager Communications Channels), Ryan Tippet (Media Communications Lead), Tami Sargeant (Manager Compliance), Kyle Balderston (Team Leader Urban Growth and Development), Marianna Brook (Senior Advisor - Mayoral Forum), and Melanie Heather (Senior Environmental Officer).

For our future

1. APOLOGIES

Resolution

That the apologies for Cr Deaker, Cr Hobbs be accepted.

Moved: Cr Noone

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

Cr Noone noted that Councillor Forbes and Councillor Laws were present on Zoom.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Calvert indicated she would not participate in item 7.1 of the agenda due to a potential conflict.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Bryce McKenzie, Laurie Paterson, Jamie Chittock and Paul Butson, representing the rural community and farming families, spoke to the Council regarding new freshwater regulatory changes recently proposed by Central Government. They asked that the ORC work with Southland District Council and Environment Canterbury to address the changes collaboratively. Cr Noone said conversations were ongoing between the Councils and on matters of common interest, they would work together to lobby Central Government where appropriate. After further discussion, Cr Noone thanked the gentlemen for speaking to the Council.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution

That the minutes of the public portion of the Council meeting held on 28 October 2020 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Calvert

Seconded: Cr Scott

CARRIED

6. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)

Outstanding Actions were reviewed.

7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1. Current Responsibilities in Relation to Drinking Water

Cr Calvert left the meeting at 01:28 pm. due to a possible conflict of interest.

Cr Kelliher left the meeting at 01:28 pm. due to a possible conflict of interest.

The report was provided to inform the Council on ORC's current responsibilities in relation to drinking water which generally relate to managing takes, land uses and discharges with a focus on maintaining and enhancing the quality of source (or raw) waters.

Kyle Balderston (Team Leader Urban Growth and Development) and Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions from Councillors. Melanie Heather (Senior Environmental Officer) was also present on Zoom. Following discussion of the informational paper, Cr Wilson moved the recommendation.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

Cr Kelliher returned to the meeting at 02:06 pm.

Cr Calvert returned to the meeting at 02:06 pm.

7.2. Three Waters Delivery Reforms

Central Government is progressing a programme of reforms to the regulation and delivery of three waters services. This paper provided an update on Otago and Southland's collaborative response to the structural reform proposed for service delivery components of the Three Waters Reform Programme.

Marianna Brook (Senior Advisor - Mayoral Forum), Kyle Balderston (Team Leader Urban Growth and Development) and Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. Ms Brook noted the work underway was in an information gathering phase, with a primary focus on implications of the potential changes for Otago. After a discussion of the report, Cr Kelliher moved the recommendation.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** that Otago and Southland local authorities continue to work together to support both regions' interests in the Three Waters Reform Programme.

Moved: Cr Kelliher

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

7.3. Water Services Bill Submission

Cr Kelliher did not participate in discussions or voting on this item due to a potential conflict.

Cr Calvert did not participate in discussions or voting on this item due to a potential conflict.

The paper was provided to advise the Council on the general intent and content of the Water Services Bill, and its potential implications for ORC and the region and to seek approval to

prepare a written submission to the appropriate select committee on the Water Services Bill. Kyle Balderston (Team Leader Urban Growth and Development) and Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions.

After an in depth discussion, Cr Wilson moved:

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the Chair and/or CEO to sign a submission on behalf of the Council on the Water Services Bill in line with the points raised in this paper as amended by feedback received.
- 3) **Approves** the Chairperson to speak at Select Committee to the submission if provided the opportunity.

Moved: Cr Hope

Seconded: Cr Malcolm

CARRIED

7.4. ECO Fund Applications - October 2020 Funding Round

The ECO Fund was established in 2018 to support community driven projects that protect, enhance and promote Otago's environment. The ORC provides \$250,000 to the ECO Fund each year, split into two funding rounds of \$125,000 each, one in March and one in October. Thirty applications were submitted during the October funding round and the Decision Panel comprised of Councillors Deaker, Kelliher and Robertson met on 4 November 2020 to assess the applications. Following their assessment, the Decision Panel recommended ten applications to Council for funding.

Euan Hind (Partnership Lead - Biodiversity) and Gavin Palmer (GM Operations) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. Mr Hind noted the strong applications coming in from the community and acknowledged the work of all the applicants for their submissions. Cr Robertson noted the process was challenging due to the high quality of applicants. She stated there was a rigorous scoring process to assess the applications and wondered whether some of the criteria and processes could be improved. She indicated a paper from staff investigating potential improvements to the programme would be useful. Cr Kelliher agreed and said the process was very robust. He noted a discussion about how to assess smaller applications separately from large applications would be helpful and indicated he would like to see more money available for the Fund.

After further discussion, Cr Robertson moved the recommendation.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the funding recommendations of the ECO Fund Decision Panel for the October 2020 round to a total value of \$124,743.

Moved: Cr Robertson
Seconded: Cr Kelliher
CARRIED

7.5. ORC Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

As part of the Annual Plan 2020-21, Council agreed an assessment of its organisational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would be performed. That assessment has been completed and the report *Otago Regional Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2018/19 Tax Year* was provided to Councillors for review.

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services) was present to speak to the report and respond to questions. Mr Donnelly stated the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) reviewed and discussed the report and agreed to work through the recommended action plan in the report and also agreed to implement those recommendations to reduce ORC's emissions wherever possible. He also noted that the team agreed purchases of carbon offsets should be considered to move ORC to a net carbon zero position and to have these discussions with Councillors during the LTP 2021-31 process.

Several Councillors indicated they did not think purchasing carbon offsets was the direction they wanted ORC to go. Chief Executive Sarah Gardner said purchasing offsets would allow ORC to reduce its emissions in the short term and give staff time to come up with a plan to find other ways to reduce carbon emissions. After further discussion, Councillor Wilson moved:

Resolution

- 1) **Receives** this report and the *Otago Regional Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2018/19 Tax Year* report.
- 2) **Notes** that the *Otago Regional Council* will work towards being net carbon zero.
- 3) **Notes** the recommended action plan included in the report and that staff and Council will work through those actions and consider the process and cost for inclusion in the LTP 2021-31.

Moved: Cr Wilson
Seconded: Cr Malcolm
CARRIED

Chairperson Noone adjourned the meeting for a 15-minute break at 3:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:35 p.m.

7.6. Queenstown Lakes Appeals Update

The ORC appealed, or joined other appeals, on a wide range of topics related to the review of the Queenstown Lakes District Council's District Plan. Staff have been involved in mediation and Environment Court hearings over the last 12 months. This report was provided to update the Council on progress towards resolving those appeals. Anita Dawe (Manager Policy and Planning) and Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. A discussion was held about the report and then Cr Wilson moved the recommendation.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the progress on resolving appeals on the Queenstown Lakes District Plan.

Moved: Cr Wilson
Seconded: Cr Hope
CARRIED

8. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1. Recommendations of the 12 Nov 2020 Strategy and Planning Committee

Resolution

That the resolutions of the Strategy and Planning Committee made at the 12 November 2020 meeting be adopted by Council.

Moved: Cr Calvert
Seconded: Cr Robertson
CARRIED

8.2. Recommendations of the 26 August 2020 Finance Committee

Recommendation

Resolution

That the resolutions of the Finance Committee made at the 26 August 2020 meeting be adopted by Council.

Moved: Cr Calvert
Seconded: Cr Robertson
CARRIED

9. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

9.1. Chairperson's Report

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.

Moved: Cr Calvert
Seconded: Cr Hope
CARRIED

9.2. Chief Executive's Report

Cr Calvert requested a summary of issues staff have gone back to the Ministry for clarification on, or provided feedback to on related to upcoming freshwater changes. CE Gardner said she

would have staff gather that information for Councillors would provide answers after the Christmas break.

A discussion was also had about facilitating a meeting between ORC, Southland District Council and Environment Canterbury Councillors to discuss collaborating on freshwater changes. Cr Noone said that was a good idea and Mrs Gardner said she would bring that up in the upcoming meeting of Regional Chairs, Deputy Chairs and CEs. Cr Robertson said it would be difficult to arrange for all of the Councillors to meet in person and suggested the meeting could be conducted electronically.

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.

Moved: Cr Noone

Seconded: Cr Scott

CARRIED

10. REPORT BACK FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillors Forbes and Calvert updated the meeting on recent regional council-related activities.

11. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Resolution

That the Council excludes the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting (pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) Sec 48(1)(a) namely:

- 1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 28 October 2020 Council Meeting 7(2)(a), 7(2)(f)(ii), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i)
- 2.1 Amendments to the ORC Delegations Manual 7(2)(g)
- 2.2 Draft Regional Policy 7(2)(f)(i) and 7(2)(j) and 48(1)(d)

Moved: Cr Noone

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

12. CLOSURE

The public meeting was declared closed at 04:07 pm.



Chairperson

9 December 2020

Date