



Minutes of a meeting of the Governance, Communications and  
Engagement Committee held in the Council Chamber on  
Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 11:00 AM

**Membership**

Cr Michael Deaker (Co-Chair)  
Cr Michael Laws (Co-Chair)  
Cr Hilary Calvert  
Cr Alexa Forbes  
Hon Cr Marian Hobbs  
Cr Carmen Hope  
Cr Gary Kelliher  
Cr Kevin Malcolm  
Cr Andrew Noone  
Cr Gretchen Robertson  
Cr Bryan Scott  
Cr Kate Wilson

**Welcome**

Co-Chair Michael Deaker welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 11 a.m.

Staff present included: Sarah Gardner (CEO), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory), Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor), Liz Spector (Committee Secretary), David Cooper (Principle Engagement Advisor), Lisa Gloag (Manager Comms and Engagement), Eleanor Ross (Manager Communications Channels), Dianne Railton (Executive Assistant), Ryan Tippet (Media Communications Lead).

## **1. PUBLIC FORUM**

No public forum was held.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

### **Resolution**

*That the apologies for Cr Forbes and Cr Wilson be accepted.*

Moved: Cr Hope

Seconded: Cr Noone

CARRIED

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was confirmed as circulated.

## **4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were advised.

## **5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **Resolution**

That the minutes of the 10 September 2020 Governance, Communications and Engagement Committee be adopted as a true and accurate record, with or without changes.

Moved: Cr Hope

Seconded: Cr Calvert

CARRIED

## **6. ACTIONS**

The outstanding actions of resolutions of the committee were reviewed.

## **7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **7.1. Update on Communications and Engagement Policy Review Process**

This report was provided to update the Committee on the refresh to the ORC's existing approach to communications and engagement with a view to improving how, why and when the community is engaged with, including the commitment to provide for meaningful engagement with mana whenua partners.

Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory) and Dougal List (RDC Group), via Zoom, were present to respond to questions about the report. David Cooper (ORC Principle Engagement Advisor) also joined the meeting to respond to questions. Cr Deaker noted the report and asked Mr Saunders if he had any highlights he wished to review. Mr Saunders noted that the proposed policy was intended to replace the existing Significance and Engagement Policy. He said it now incorporated more precisely how engagement with mana whenua would be accomplished.

Cr Calvert noted her overall approval of the updated policy but asked that more concise language be used when referring to governance, stakeholders and the organisation in general. She indicated it was sometimes difficult to understand who was being addressed.

Cr Calvert then asked if Port Otago was governed by the policy and Mr Saunders said no. Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services) stated that Port Otago reported to Council three times annually, including presentation of their Statement of Corporate Intent, giving Councillors an opportunity to ask questions related to their consultations. Cr Calvert then suggested that a statement be added to the proposed SEMPP acknowledging how the Regional Council has considered Port Otago's consultation and/or engagement with the community. Cr Deaker concurred.

After further discussion of the report and updated policy, Cr Hope moved the staff recommendation.

## Resolution

*That the Committee:*

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the current review of the ORC approach to communications and engagement, including the drafting of a new Significance, Engagement and Maori Participation Policy.
- 3) **Notes** there is a requirement to complete a special consultative process for the draft Significance, Engagement and Maori Participation Policy and that a draft will be presented to the Governance, Communications and Engagement Committee for approval on 12 May 2021 to commence consultation.

Moved: Cr Hope  
Seconded: Cr Calvert  
CARRIED

## 7.2. Adopt Amended Meeting Calendar 2021

Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor) was present to speak to the report and respond to questions. There were no questions and Councillor Noone moved adoption of the updated calendar for 2021.

## Resolution

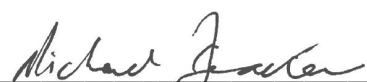
*That the Council:*

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Adopts** the updated Otago Regional Council governance meeting calendar for 2021.

Moved: Cr Noone  
Seconded: Cr Hope  
CARRIED

## 8. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Co-Chair Deaker declared the meeting closed at 11:47 am.



Co-Chairperson Deaker

13 May 2021

Dated