

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 11 February 2015 commencing at 10.00 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

Leave of Absence: Cr Croot - Request for Leave of Absence
The request for leave of absence was approved on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Shepherd.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Jane Leahy
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the public portion of the meeting held on 10 December 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Kempton.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

Item 1

2015/0738 **Chairperson’s report.** Chair, 5/2/15

The report provided an overview of the Chairperson’s activities for the period to 5 February 2015.

The Chair noted that he had attended a National Council meeting on 5 February. The topics discussed were Three Waters, hazards, and funding options. He commented on the upcoming RMA reforms, and advised that there would be opportunity for both local government and individual involvement.

Cr Woodhead encouraged Councillors to attend the Zones 5 and 6 meeting to be held in Dunedin on 27 March.

In response to a question the Chief Executive explained that ORC was involved in current work to refine Overseer for high country use. He explained that Overseer provided a useful reference point for dairy, sheep and beef activities, not so much for other forms of agriculture. Mr Bodeker noted the Plan Change 6A requirement for approved Overseer operators, and advised that an approved operator course was available through Massey University.

The meeting with Mayor Cull and CE Ms Bidrose about the transfer to the DCC of public transport functions was discussed. Cr Woodhead advised that DCC had indicated interest in this transfer in the shorter term (12-24 months), and the meeting had discussed the work programme and the need for DCC staff to learn the system. The ORC’s preference was for provision to be made for this project in the next LTP. The meeting had agreed that a joint staff working group be established to work through the issues, including commitments already in place in relation to improvements.

In response to a question about RMA reforms, Cr Woodhead explained that a comprehensive review would be undertaken by the Minister’s office. He noted that culture and practice in implementing the RMA were seen as an impediment, rather than the law itself, and that the review would be carried out through a six month select committee process.

Changes to legislation requiring accreditation for both members and chairs of hearing panels were noted.

Item 2
2015/0736 **Chief Executive's Report.** CE, 5/2/15

The Chief Executive provided an overview of his activities for the period to 5 February 2015.

Mr Bodeker explained that most of his work since the Christmas break had related to low flows, particularly in the Taieri River, and Councillors had been kept updated on the situation. The likelihood of insufficient rain for some months was noted, and water shortage notices of direction were prepared. These had not been applied to date apart from four takes upstream of Waipiata. It was proposed at the staff meeting earlier this morning to allow these landholders limited use of water as long as they managed the minimum flow at Waipiata.

The Chief Executive commented that the situation had been a valuable exercise for staff, and the daily meetings discussed the establishment of procedures for future events. When the event was over, further consideration would be given to ORC's role in the management of rivers. The staff meetings had cross-Council involvement, farmers had been well informed, and media releases had been prepared. A letter of thanks had been received from KTKO.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Deaker seconded

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

Motion carried

PART B – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 3
2015/0705 **Low Flows in Otago Rivers.** DEENH, 2/2/15

The report noted that the lack of rain, and high temperatures in recent months, had resulted in very low flows in many of Otago's Rivers. The situation at present, the principles and approaches ORC staff had adopted in addressing this event, and actions taken to date were summarised in the report.

Councillors commended staff on their work in handling the low flow event, and noted the positive response from landholders attending the public meetings.

Mr Bodeker commented that the Council's responsibility was to manage a natural (ie water) system. If water storage was built, caution should be exercised not to negate that facility through more intensive farming. He did

not consider that it was the ORC's role to protect a more intensive farming system.

Cr Eckhoff moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 4

2015/0741 **Water Quality (Plan Change 6A) Implementation Strategy.**
DSE, 5/2/15

The report presented for information the Plan Change 6A (PC6A) Implementation Strategy. Cher da Rin, Team Leader Customer Services, and Nicola McGrouther, Manager Community Liaison and Education, were present for this item.

Mrs Jane Leahy gave a presentation on the Implementation Strategy. She explained that the project would extend over many years and it was important to set out a clear direction for its implementation. She spoke about how the goals in Council's recently adopted Strategic Plan would be met:

- Compliance – visits to landholders on properties >20ha to ensure good knowledge of PC6A, also working with third parties – industry groups, consultants. The first survey on PC6A had been carried out and the results were yet to be analysed.
- Measurement – 'we can't improve what we don't measure'.
- Social change – change society's views on water. Ensure information is targeting the right groups with the right messages at the right time.
- Recognition – risk of burn out/tune out. Keep the project alive and interesting. Establish milestones (internal and external) to recognise and celebrate, and provide incentive to achieve limits, eg discounted laboratory work.

In response to a question about investment in sampling technology, Mr Bodeker advised that discussions with likely suppliers were under way, and Councillors would be advised when an appropriate tool had been identified. It was anticipated that within the next 10-15 years all instream analysis would be carried out automatically.

A comment was made on the potentially huge cost to landowners to comply with PC6A. It was noted that 6A allowed for time extensions provided there was evidence that improvements were under way. Mr Bodeker noted that PC6A was about environmental impact and a solution could be the creation of a wetland. He also commented that confirmation should be given to landholders when they were compliant with 6A.

The need to address river pollution from, for example, sewage or industrial outputs was also noted.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Neill seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 5

2014/1833 **Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago.** DPPRM, 29/1/15

The recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago were presented for Council's decision, in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991. The proposed Plan Change and maps were circulated separately with the agenda.

A panel comprising Crs Robertson (Chair), Kelliher and Neill heard submissions on the Plan Change. They commented that the hearing went smoothly, mostly because of comprehensive preparatory work which meant that all parties understood and were in agreement with the proposed minimum flow. In response to a request by Clutha District Council, the panel recommended that the Waipahi rural stockwater supply be added to Schedule 1B which would mean it was excluded from the minimum flow requirement. Mr McRae explained that this was a minor consequential change to the plan change and therefore no further hearing was needed. As this was a relatively new scheme, it was not included in the initial plan. The high minimum flow demanded by the community was noted, and Mr McRae commented that it was significantly higher than the minimum flows placed on other rivers.

Cr Robertson moved
Cr Neill seconded

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago as its decision;*
- 2. Publicly notify its decisions on Proposed Plan Change 3B (Pomahaka catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago on Saturday 14 February 2015; and*
- 3. Notify submitters of its decision.*

Motion carried

Item 6
2015/0735 **Financial Report.** DCS, 5/2/15

The report provided information in respect of overall Council finances for the six months to 31 December 2014.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be received.

Motion carried

Item 7
2015/0730 **Documents for Seal.** DCS, 3/2/15

The report listed documents signed under the Council's Seal.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 8 **Reports from Councillors**

Regional Transport Committee

Cr Kempton noted that the main focus of the joint Otago/Southland RTC meeting of 26 January (minutes attached to the agenda) had been to finalise the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP). Cr Kempton considered that the process of preparing a combined plan had been very successful, and he noted that journeys, whether for tourism or economic purposes, travelled through both regions. He noted that both Southland and Otago had included flood protection work in North Otago as a high priority in their plans.

The Plan had been advertised, and hearings were to be held on 16 and 17 March. The joint meeting had appointed a hearing panel of: Cr Cocks (Otago), Cr Kempton (Otago), Cr Ali Timms (Southland), Cr Dillon (Southland), and Jim Harland (NZTA), with Cr Wilson (Otago) the reserve. Council was requested to endorse the panel.

Cr Kempton explained that the panel would hear submissions on both plans within one plan framework.

Cr Kempton moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the Council endorse the following panel to hear submissions on the joint Otago/Southland RLTP: Cr Cocks (Otago), Cr Kempton (Otago), Cr Timms (Southland), Cr Dillon (Southland), and Jim Harland (NZTA), with Cr Wilson (Otago) the reserve.

Motion carried

PART D – MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Item 9 **Recommendations of the Joint Otago/Southland Regional Transport Committee meeting** held on 26 January 2015, for adoption

Cr Kempton moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the recommendations of the Joint Otago/Southland Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 26 January 2015 be adopted;

Motion carried

Item 10 **Recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting** held on 28 January 2015, for adoption

Cr Kempton moved
Cr Bell seconded

That the recommendations of the Communications Committee meeting held on 28 January 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 11 **Recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting** held on 28 January 2015, for adoption

Cr Robertson moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the recommendations of the Policy Committee meeting held on 28 January 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 12 **Recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting** held on 28 January 2015, for adoption

Cr Neill moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the recommendations of the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 28 January 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

Item 13 **Recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting** held on 28 January 2015, for adoption

Cr Scott moved
Cr Brown seconded

That the recommendations of the Technical Committee meeting held on 28 January 2015 be adopted.

Motion carried

PART E – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Kelliher 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>
<i>Item 14</i>	<i>Minutes of the In Committee portion of the Council meeting held on 10 December 2014</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons (S7(2)(a))</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 Item 14,

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Bell seconded

That the meeting resume in open session,

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11.33 am



Chairperson