

**Council  
MINUTES**

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**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Otago Regional Council held in the Council Chamber, Level 2 Philip Laing House, 144 Rattray Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 25 February 2026, commencing at 1:02 pm.**

**PRESENT**

Cr Hilary Calvert *(Chair)*  
Cr Kevin Malcolm *(Deputy Chair)*  
Cr Robbie Byars  
Cr Chanel Gardner  
Cr Neil Gillespie  
Cr Matt Hollyer *(online)*  
Cr Gary Kelliher  
Cr Michael Laws  
Cr Gretchen Robertson  
Cr Alan Somerville  
Cr Kate Wilson

## **1. WELCOME**

Cr Alan Somerville said a karakia to open the meeting at 1:02 pm. Staff present included Richard Saunders (Chief Executive), Anita Dawe (GM Regional Planning and Transport), Nick Donnelly (GM Finance), Tom Dyer (GM Manager Science and Resilience), Joanna Gilroy (GM Environmental Delivery), Tami Sargeant (GM People and Corporate), Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer, Deputy CE), Kylie Darragh (Governance Support Officer).

## **2. APOLOGIES**

**Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded:**

*That the apology for Cr Noone be accepted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

- 1) **Pierre Marasti** spoke on behalf of Extinction Rebellion, the Chair thanked Mr Marasti for attending.
- 2) **Aaron Hawkins** spoke on behalf of Otago Housing Alliance, the Chair thanked Mr Hawkins for attending.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

**It was Moved Cr Calvert Seconded Cr Malcolm**

*That the additional documents:*

- 1) *Supplementary Council Agenda, 25 February 2026.*
- 2) *Chair's Report emailed Letter 17 February 2026 from Office of Hon Erica Stanford,*
- 3) *9.1.3 Attachment 2026-27 Rates Sensitivity Analysis and Sample Properties,*

*be accepted to this agenda by Council.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillors were reminded of the need to stand aside if a conflict of interest arises.

## **6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolution : Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the minutes of the (public portion of the) Council meeting held on 11 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. ACTIONS (STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS)**

Open actions from resolutions of the Council were reviewed.

## **8. CHAIRPERSON'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS**

### **8.1. Chairperson's Report**

**Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 8.2. Chief Executive's Report

### Resolution: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 9.1. Draft Annual Plan 2026-27

[YouTube 27:00] The report enabled Council to formalise a draft position on changes to the financial forecasts and work programmes contained in the Otago Regional Council Long-Term Plan 2024-34 (LTP) for year three, which is 2026-27. Cr Malcolm, Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) Jasmin Lamorie (Senior Corporate Planner) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

### At 2:09 pm it was moved Cr Malcolm Seconded Cr Calvert

*That Council adjourns for five minutes.*

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### Resolution CM26-121: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** the consolidated financial forecasts and key underlying expenditure and funding changes to year three (2026-27) of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, as presented in the discussion section of this report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Resolution: Cr Laws Moved, Cr Kelliher Seconded

*That the funding for the Large Scale Environment Fund be deferred until a criteria has been properly established, including consultation with interested parties, and the wider issue of ORC funding of large scale environment projects has been addressed.*

#### BY DIVISION

<b>FOR</b>	Cr Byars, Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws
<b>AGAINST</b>	Cr Calvert, Cr Gardner, Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Somerville, Cr Robertson, Cr Wilson
<b>ABSTAINED</b>	None

**MOTION FAILED**

*Cr Gardner left the meeting at 3:37 pm.*

*Cr Gardner returned to the meeting at 3:38 pm.*

### Resolution : Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded

*That the Council lays recommendation 2 on the table which was then considered as resolution 13*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-122: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 3) **Directs** that the \$600,000 Regional Air Plan surplus be held in reserves pending a paper to Council for consideration on Option 1 and Option 2.

**BY DIVISION**

<b>FOR</b>	Cr Gillespie, Cr Hollyer, Cr Malcolm, Cr Robertson, Cr Somerville, Cr Wilson.
<b>AGAINST</b>	Cr Byars, Cr Calvert, Cr Gardner Cr Kelliher, Cr Laws
<b>ABSTAINED</b>	None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-123: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 4) **Approves** the proposed changes to the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 measures and targets for year three (2026-27) of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.
- 5) **Notes** the current cost-recovery practices related to requests for information, under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA).
- 6) **Notes** the current bus fares for Dunedin and Queenstown and the modelling of expected patronage changes if there were changes to bus fares.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-124: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded**

- 7) **Approves** the proposed changes to the Otago Regional Council Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2026-27.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher voted against

**Resolution CM26-125: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded**

- 8) **Determines** that the Annual Plan 2026-27 budgets and work programmes do not constitute a material or significant change from those outlined in the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 and that therefore Council is not required under legislation to consult with the community.
- 9) **Decides** not to undertake a formal consultation process with the community on the Annual Plan 2026-27, based on the determination above.
- 10) **Delegates** decision-making to the CEO for the communications approach and messaging for the Annual Plan 2026-27, reflecting Councillor guidance and discussion at Annual Plan workshops/briefings.
- 11) **Directs** staff to prepare the final Annual Plan 2026-27 document for adoption in April 2026.
- 12) **Notes** that, following adoption of the Annual Plan 2026-27, the Council rates resolution will be provided to the June 2026 Council meeting for approval.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Kelliher voted against

**Resolution CM26-126: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded**

**13) Approves** the proposed adjustments to the draft financial forecasts and associated work programmes for year three (2026-27) of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34, as summarised in the discussion section of this report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Byars, Cr Kelliher and Cr Laws voted against.

**At 3:41 pm it was Moved Cr Calvert Seconded Cr Wilson**

*That Council adjourns for a ten-minute break*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9.2. Activity Performance as at Quarter 2 2025-26**

[YouTube 2:58] The report presented the Council's Activity Performance Reports for the 6-month period ended 31 December 2025. Cr Malcolm, Joanne Greatbanks (Manager Organisational Performance and Planning), Vanessa Vidallon (Corporate Planning Business Partner) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-127: Cr Wilson Moved, Cr Byars Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Notes** this report.
- 2) Notes** that the attached Activity Performance Report for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025 being quarter two of the 2025-26 financial year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9.3. Quarter 2 Financial Report (October-December)**

[YouTube 2:59] The report presented Council's Financial Reports for the 3-month period to 31 December 2025 being Quarter 2 of the 2025-26 financial year. Cr Kevin Malcom and Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-128: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) Notes** the report and the attached Financial Report for September 2025 (Quarter 2 of the 2025-26 financial year).

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Gillespie left the meeting at 4:09 pm.*

*Cr Gillespie returned to the meeting at 4:11 pm.*

**9.4. Otago Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2026-2029**

The paper invited Council to ratify the Otago Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2026-2029 (the Agreement). Marianna Brook (Principal Advisor Mayoral Forum and Local Government Reform) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Customer and Strategy) were available to respond to questions on the report.

### **Resolution CM26-129: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gillespie Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** the report.
- 2) **Ratifies** the Otago Local Government Authorities Triennial Agreement for 2026-2029.
- 3) **Authorises** the Chair to sign the Agreement on behalf of Council.
- 4) **Notes** that the Agreement requires the Otago Mayoral Forum to identify and oversee progress on 'regional focus areas' – areas where a regional approach is either required or can improve outcomes for Otago.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

*Cr Gillespie left the meeting at 4:12 pm.*

*Cr Gillespie returned to the meeting at 4:15 pm.*

### **9.5. Strategic Events Programme 2025-28**

[YouTube 3:18] The purpose of the report was to seek Council feedback and approval for a strategic events programme for the triennium. Daniel Basubas (Senior Advisor Strategic Engagement) Ian Telfer (Manager Partnerships and Engagement) and Amanda Vercoe (GM Strategy and Customer) were available to respond to questions on the report

### **Resolution CM26-130: Cr Robertson Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Approves** the proposed strategic events programme for the triennium.
- 2) **Notes** that ORC will continue to be represented at smaller tier 2 events, such as those in paragraph 33.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **9.6. eInvoicing**

The paper outlined Council position on eInvoicing and prompt payment practices following a request from the Minister for Local Government for Council's to adopt eInvoicing and prompt payment practices.

### **Resolution CM26-131: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Somerville Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report.
- 2) **Notes** staff will respond to MBIE outlining Council's current prompt payment practices.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **9.7. Rates Strike Collection**

[YouTube 3:37] The report provided an update on rates struck for the 2025/26 financial year including rates paid by 31 October 2025 and penalties charged on 1 November 2025. Cr Kevin Malcolm, Nick Donnelly (GM Finance) and Sarah Munro (Group Financial Controller) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-132: Cr Malcolm Moved, Cr Gardner Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** this report
- 2) **Endorses** the correction of the Lower Taieri Flood Protection rate under section 119 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9.8. Port Otago Letter of Expectation**

[YouTube 3:42] The report sought consideration and approval of a Letter of Expectation to Port Otago Limited (Port Otago) regarding Otago Regional Council's (Council) expectations for inclusion in Port Otago's Statement of Corporate Intent for the years ended 30 June 2027 to 30 June 2029. Cr Malcolm and Nick Donnelly (Gm Finance) were available to respond to questions on the report.

**Resolution CM26-133: Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Malcolm Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Approves** additional text provided to the Letter of Expectation.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution CM26-134: Cr Somerville Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Approves** additional text provided for the Decarbonisation paragraph of the Letter of Expectation.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Laws voted against

**Resolution CM26-135: Cr Kelliher Moved, Cr Laws Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Approves** the additional text to the Helicopter Trust paragraph.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Cr Malcolm and Cr Somerville voted against.

**Resolution CM26-136 Cr Gardner Moved, Cr Robertson Seconded**

*That the Council:*

- 1) **Notes** the report and the draft Letter of Expectation 2027-2029.
- 2) **Provides** feedback and amendments to the draft Letter of Expectation 2027-2029.
- 3) **Approves** the Port Otago Letter of Expectations 2027-2029, subject to any amendments approved in (2) above, and the sending of that letter to Port Otago Limited.
- 4) **Approves** the payment of a donation of \$350,000 to the Otago Southland Rescue Helicopter Trust to be funded from General Reserves.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None received.

**11. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

**Resolution: Cr Calvert Moved, Cr Wilson Seconded:**

**That** the Public be excluded from the following items under LGOIMA 48(1)(a):

1.1 PE Minutes of Council 9 December 2025

2.1 Decision on Electric Charging Depot in Queenstown

**It was also moved** that Edward Guy (Rationale) be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the electric charging depot. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because of their knowledge of the indicative business case.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds [under](#) section [48\(1\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
1.1 2025.12.09 PE Minutes of Council	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h) To enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) – Section 7(2)(i)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a) that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
3.1 Decision on Electric Charging Depot in Queenstown	To protect information where the making available of the information—would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information – Section 7(2)(b)(ii). To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities – Section 7(2)(h)	Section 48(1)(a); Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds: (a) that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

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.

Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds:

(a) that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**12. CLOSURE**

There was no further business and Chair Calvert declared the public meeting closed at 5:14 pm



25 March 2026

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Chairperson

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Date