



Minutes of a meeting of the
Finance Committee held in the
Council Chamber on Wednesday 3 June 2020,
commencing at 1:00 pm

Membership

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

Welcome

Cr Noone, Co-Chair Finance, welcomed the Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 01:02 pm.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were made. Cr Laws and Cr Scott attended the meeting remotely.

2. ATTENDANCE

Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive) (attended remotely)
Nick Donnelly (General Manager Corporate Services and CFO)
Gavin Palmer (General Manager Operations)
Sally Giddens (General Manager People, Culture and Communications)
Gwyneth Elsum (General Manager Policy, Strategy and Science)
Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor)
Liz Spector (Committee Secretary)

Also present were Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning), Sarah Munro (Manager Finance - Reporting), Ryan Tippet (Media Communications Lead).

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as circulated. Cr Noone requested an extra Finance Committee meeting be confirmed for Wednesday, 10 June, to be followed by workshops to receive information on rabbit control and the Pest Plan, a wrap up of the Port Otago strategic review and potential changes to the governance structure.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised at this point of the meeting.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution

That the minutes of the (public portion of the) meeting held on 26 February 2020 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Noone

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

7. ACTIONS

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services) updated the Committee on the outstanding action on the Port Otago Constitution item from the 26 February Finance Committee meeting. He noted that the review was planned to be presented at the current meeting, however, as the focus of the meeting was primarily on the Annual Plan, he decided to defer the review to an upcoming meeting.

8. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

8.1. Annual Plan Deliberations and Recommendations

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services) and Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning) were present to speak to the Annual Plan deliberations report. Mr Donnelly said after the public submissions, there was a clear direction from Council members that the ORC should work towards a 0% general rate increase. Keeping that in mind, he said staff had put together funding options for the upcoming year. The Committee members then reviewed the summary of submissions put together by the Corporate Planning team. Mr Donnelly noted that most of the submissions supported unchanged activity levels but preferred that the ORC consider alternative funding sources. The summary of submissions was subdivided into headings that the submissions centred around, including Freshwater, Biodiversity and Biosecurity, Urban Environment, Climate Change and "other" and the Committee members reviewed each category.

Following deliberations, the following motions were made, seconded and carried:

Resolution

That the Otago Regional Council shall:

Meet the concerns of Predator Free Dunedin and Landscape Connections Trust in relation to timing issues raised in their submissions regarding timing of possum control work given the withdrawal of OSPRI and quantify financial implications.

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Forbes

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Otago Regional Council:

Appoint an additional 0.5 FTE Civil Defence staff member to be based in Queenstown.

Moved: Cr Hobbs

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Finance Committee:

Requests a report by September 2020 outlining opportunities to assist development of an integrated trail network throughout Otago to inform development of the Long Term Plan.

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr Forbes

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Finance Committee:

Requests staff to investigate options to contribute \$100,000 from Council or its subsidiary companies towards construction of a fence at Orokonui Ecosanctuary and report back by 10 June 2020.

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Calvert

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Finance Committee:

Requests staff to investigate options towards funding a climate carbon footprint model as suggested by WISE Response for Otago in partnership with Dunedin City Council and other local Territorial Authorities and report back by 10 June.

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Malcolm

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Finance Committee:

Note the doubling of its contribution to the control of lagarosiphon from \$25,000 in 2019/20 to \$50,000 in the 2020/21 annual plan, and review the effectiveness of the current operational plan with an eye towards utilising potential government funds for a stronger approach to lagarosiphon control in Lakes Wanaka and Dunstan, and the Clutha and Kawarau rivers.

Moved: Cr Laws

Seconded: Cr Kelliher

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Finance Committee:

Requests a staff report by February 2021 to inform cost considerations of including a Tomahawk Management Plan in the Long Term Plan.

Moved: Cr Scott

Seconded: Cr Malcolm

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Otago Regional Council:

Ensures as part of finalisation of infrastructure on drainage schemes in 2020/21 year that the community are consulted with as to design, cost and intended outcomes, as per the infrastructure strategy.

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Hope

CARRIED

Resolution

That the Finance Committee:

Consider the submission from Wakatipu Transport for a one-off funding request be reconsidered as part of the Long Term Plan.

Moved: Cr Forbes

Seconded: Cr Hobbs

CARRIED

Following the discussions on the public submissions and detailed deliberations on the recommendations for the Annual Plan it was decided that the Committee would recommend staff Option 2 which proposed 0% general rates increase with unchanged activity expenditure. It was also noted that while the general rate would have no increase, targeted rates will continue to be rated as planned. Cr Noone then moved:

Resolution

That the Finance Committee:

- 1) **Notes** the options for funding the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2020-21.
- 2) **Directs** Council staff to apply option two for funding the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2020-21.
- 3) **Receives** the public submissions to the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan 2020-21 process and Wakatipu Ferry Service Trial Proposal as previously distributed to Councillors and as posted on the Council's website.
- 4) **Deliberates** on the consultation feedback on the Wakatipu Ferry Service Trial Proposal.
- 5) **Confirms** the trial in the 2020/21 year subject to QLDC and NZTA funding as per the original report.
- 6) **Deliberates** on the requests for service made in the public submissions to the ORC Annual Plan 2020-21 process as listed in Attachment 1.
- 7) **Directs** Council staff on changes to the draft Financial Forecasts 2020-21 for inclusion in Annual Plan 2020-21 to be presented for Council adoption at its 24 June 2020 meeting.
- 8) **Notes** COVID-19 related activity or funding has not been provided for in the Annual Plan 2020-21 and Council intends to progress and consider these proposals and activities separately from the Annual Plan through the 2020-21 year.

Moved: Cr Noone
Seconded: Cr Calvert
CARRIED

9. MATTERS FOR NOTING

9.1. Activity Review 2019-20, 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3)

Mike Roesler (Manager Corporate Planning) was present to speak to the Activity Review Report which includes financial and non-financial performance information relating to service delivery through the third quarter of the 2019-20 financial year. The Committee members reviewed the report and thanked Mr Roesler for the work. Co-Chair Noone then asked for a motion.

Resolution

The Finance Committee:

- 1) **Receives** the Council Activity Performance Report for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020 (Q3).

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Hobbs
CARRIED

9.2. Quarterly Report - Finance

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services) was present to speak to the third quarter financials. Cr Kelliher requested a report detailing the annual spend on consultants and external legal counsel. Chief Executive Gardner said she would ask staff to compile that information and provide to the Councillors by the 22 July Council meeting. After Mr Donnelly responded to Committee members' questions, Co-Chair Noone asked for a motion.

Resolution


That the Finance Committee:

- 1) **Receives** this report.

Moved: Cr Hobbs
Seconded: Cr Calvert
CARRIED

10. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Cr Noone declared the meeting closed at 05:08 pm.

 _____	10 June 2020 _____
Chairperson	Date