

## **SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**15 JUNE 2010**

MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers, 15 Forth Street, Invercargill on TUESDAY, 15 JUNE and WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2010 at 9.00 AM.

**PRESENT:** Mayor F Cardno, (Chairperson) Crs L Bailey, J D Copland, J Douglas, B J Dillon, B W Drummond, P Duffy, B Ford, G Harpur, W Jack, G MacPherson and A D Ridley.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Messrs D P Adamson, P Culling, B Halligan, C McIntosh and Mrs J O'Shannessy.

Miss N Taylor and Mrs Y Paterson.

#### 1.0 **APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Cr Dobson for 15 June 2010, also Cr Duffy for lateness on 15 June 2010.

Moved Bailey, seconded Cr Douglas  
and RESOLVED THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.

#### 2.0 **NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS**

Moved Cr Harpur, seconded Cr Jack  
and RESOLVED THAT SUBJECT TO SECTION 46A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987 THE FOLLOWING ITEM/S BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENT BUSINESS:

REPLACEMENT PAGE 62 OF THE SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010/2011 REPORT

It was agreed that the replacement page should be considered at the meeting.

#### 3.0 **PUBLIC FORUM**

Moved Cr Bailey, seconded Cr Drummond  
and RESOLVED THAT STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO ALLOW SUBMISSIONS TO BE HEARD TO THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN.

#### 4.0 **REPORT**

##### 4.1 **SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010/2011**

140/15/2/1

r/10/5/6385 [yp]

Report by Mrs Y Paterson dated 4 June 2010.

The report detailed submissions from the public consultation process for the Draft Annual Plan 2010/2011 including comments from staff on the submissions received.

Moved Cr Ridley, seconded Cr Ford

and RESOLVED THAT THE REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010/2011 BE RECEIVED.

The Draft Annual Plan 2010/2011 was based on Year 2 of the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2009-2019. It detailed the cost of Council's activities for 2010/2011, how they would be funded and explained any variations in projects and costs from what was planned in the LTCCP.

The Statement of Proposal (incorporating Southland District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010/2011) was considered and adopted by Council at an extraordinary meeting on 8 April 2010. It was then released for public consultation.

The report outlined the submissions received.

A copy of material prepared after the Draft Annual Plan was released regarding the Water and Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Contract had been included in the appendix. A number of the submissions, particularly those from Community Boards, Community Development Area Subcommittees and Water Supply Subcommittees, were made on the basis of that information.

The following ratepayers spoke to their written submissions:

##### The Roading Company - Dave and Rae Wilson

Road Funding - Stated that from their experience on roads, the increase in dairying and forestry were the most significant factor in Southland's road failures and therefore those sectors should be contributing the most money and higher percentage share to road rehabilitation. It was also stated that all sectors should be increased to help Council catch up on its programme.

Mention was made of the new 50 ton loads being carried on some roads and the damage being done by dairying and forestry. It was believed those sectors should be contributing the most money and higher percentage share to road rehabilitation.

Cr Duffy entered the meeting at 9.05 am.

Roading and Transport - Stated that Southland's roads needed to be maintained at a standard no less than the current standard or be improved as they were essential for the economic sustainability of the region. The roads had deteriorated over the last few years and that had coincided with the reduction in the length of pavement rehabilitations as well as increases in heavy traffic numbers.

Suggested road rehabilitations should be given a higher priority than maintenance and that maintenance contract costs would increase exponentially if rehabilitation continued to fall behind programme.

Suggested Council could save money in roading by:

- \* ensuring road rehabilitation contracts were let a season in advance to allow contractors to plan.
- \* allowing contractors to have early involvement including opportunities to design/build contracts.
- \* streamline resource consent processes for gravel extraction.
- \* ensure contract specifications were relevant to requirements.

Was concerned that the local contracting industry would be effected by Council not meeting roading targets and skilled workers would be lost to the industry.

In response to questions from the meeting, Mr Wilson said he believed the biggest change to the industry was because of the increased traffic loading. The Contractors Federation may be able to be used to lobby Government for additional funding, he suggested.

#### Don Egerton - Water Quality - Tuatapere

Believed the quality of the water in Tuatapere was not as good as it should be. This had happened since the source of the water had been changed from the river to a bore. He referred to health problems that had been encountered in his family that had not been evident when they were overseas for a period of time. He had recently installed a tank to collect rainwater for domestic purposes.

When asked if he could attribute the water problem to any particular cause, he suggested one of the intake bores was near a sump hole. Some other people in the town were also encountering health problems.

Water tests had been done but nothing had showed up.

The Chief Executive advised that regular monitoring was done at the treatment plant and also in the reticulation and Mr Egerton was asked if he would like Council to send him copies of the test results.

Mr Egerton agreed he would like to see the results.

#### Southland Branch NZ Farm Forestry Association - Alistair Wilson

Road Funding - Mr Wilson reminded the meeting that there was a difference between woodlots and large forest owners including a difference in their financial backing, geographical distances and pressure on roads.

Two handouts were provided to the meeting (Refer Appendix I) - He requested Council rating databases and categories be scrutinised and ratepayers be categorised as per their actual activities. Believed that nearly all the road funding for the forestry sector was being charged only to those identified as exotic forestry owners. Tonnage data needed to be improved and each sector should pay for the collection of the data for their sector.

Mr Wilson was also concerned about the anomaly in the "other" category regarding the Meridian rate take. He also pointed out that Forestry owners would use the road for about 30 days in 30 years whereas Dairy farmers would have product going off the property about 270 days per year.

Patsy Gordon and Roslyn Road Residents

Roading and Transport - Mrs Gordon repeated her request for Roslyn Road to be sealed because of the dust problem in the summer. Believed the matter should be revisited annually because of the proximity to Invercargill and the further development of lifestyle blocks.

Referred to the conditions associated with oiling the road. Mr Gordon wasn't prepared take responsibility for any accidents on the road if he had oiled it.

There were very large potholes in the road and the dust also got into the drinking water.

Mrs Gordon was asked what had happened to the trial of "otto seal" that had been proposed the previous year. She replied that a survey of the residents had been taken and they were not prepared to pay towards the cost, as they wanted Council to pay the full price.

The submitters were advised that if Council sealed their road they would be setting a precedent and all other properties in the lifestyle category would be contributing to a special rate that would fully fund the sealing of all lifestyle property roads.

The submitters were again asked if they would be prepared to contribute to an "otto seal" trial. Cr Jack (Ward Member) to arrange a meeting with the residents and roading staff to try to resolve the request.

The meeting adjourned for Morning Tea at 10.17 am and reconvened at 10.33 am.

Federated Farmers - Messrs David Rose, Peter Phiskie and David Cooper

Rates - Concerned a rate increase of 6.93% per annum for 10 years was too big and was higher than economic growth in the region. Noted that costs were being driven by community expectations and central government but restraint was needed. Revaluations also had an effect on the amount of rates paid. Federated Farmers believed farmers shouldered more of the rates burden than other sectors and they did not have the ability to pass the costs on to anyone else. Continued increases were unsustainable.

UTR/UAGC - Council were asked to increase the Uniform Targeted Rate up to 29% as the extra income raised by this method would mitigate rates increases for farmers.

Representation and Advocacy - supported Council's advocacy on central government policy. Welcomed the opportunity to work together.

Road Funding - Referred to the Morrison Lowe model versus the GHD model and although supported using a roading rate model, recommended using the GHD model.

Venture Southland - Requested a more transparent breakdown of the \$1.7m grant to Venture Southland by the Southland District Council each year. Tourism activity should be funded by a rate levied on direct beneficiaries - accommodation, entertainment and retail. Believed there was a cross subsidisation of tourism by Council.

Federated Farmers confirmed they were prepared to work with Council on their list of Key Recommendations that had been included in their submission.

David Prendergast

Water and Wastewater Funding Contract - He was connected to the Ramparts Rural Water Scheme and after looking at the options available for the water and wastewater maintenance contract, he preferred Option 2.

Believed the 16% increase in water and sewerage rates was unacceptable and that the Te Anau Rural Water Scheme should be on a connection basis. Lifestyle blocks should not be paying the same rates as a big farm and suggested there be a pro-rata charge based on size of block and usage of water. He also referred to possible illegal connections to water schemes in the Te Anau basin.

Patrick O'Sullivan

Water and Wastewater Funding Contract - Mr O'Sullivan stated that in the draft Ten Year Plan, it was proposed to introduce a UAC for water and sewerage throughout the District so the rates would be more affordable in townships such as Ohai. Although Ohai had supported this proposal, it had not gone ahead and he asked why. He then referred to the effect of rate increases on small ratepayers.

In response to a question from the meeting regarding "user pays for water", Mr O'Sullivan said that although it would be an equitable system, he didn't like the idea of metering.

Ivan Sunde

Water and Wastewater Funding Contract - Stated that in the LTCCP, it was proposed to introduce a UAC for sewerage and water throughout the District so the rates would be more affordable in some townships. However, he noted the decision to introduce this was deferred and had heard it may not happen at all.

He was concerned the residents of Ohai would be left with a rates burden they would be unable to bear in a few years time. Believed that as other Uniform Annual Rates had been struck throughout the district, it could also be done for water and sewerage maintenance costs.

Mr Sunde stated that \$35,000 was paid towards Venture Southland from the Ohai/Nightcaps area and he believed the residents didn't see any benefit. Southland was a district of rural areas and small towns and he was concerned that superannuitants would not be able to afford to stay in their own homes.

He was in favour of user pays for water as it would spread the charges evenly.

Ohai CDA - John Hogg - by teleconference call

The Ohai CDA subcommittee believed that the costs from the new maintenance contract should be allocated on a unit rate based on cost per connection (Option 2) as there was no fundamental difference between schemes and it was the most equitable option. Council was asked to be mindful of the smaller communities that were struggling to survive.

Mr Hogg would also be prepared to pay for meterage of water. Southland needed to look after water and user pays would make people preserve their water.

Alliance Group - Mr Dennis Butler

Rates - The Alliance Group Limited paid \$124,124 in rates to Council and that was a significant cost to the company. Council were asked to review the method and level of rates applied to AGL's operation as a whole and suggested that a cap on total rates should be investigated and assessed. He also said there appeared to be a different rate for the Lorneville Plant compared to the Makarewa Plant. AGL were also concerned at the current and proposed levels of expenditure.

Rates - Uniform Targeted - Council were requested to increase the UAC from 25.47% in order to reduce rates for AGL.

Road Funding - Stated that the residential sector comprised approximately 51% of the total rating units yet contributed only 10% of the total revenue gathered. Roadng was a key item that impacted on the company, Mr Butler said. Limiting the total rates to large company's would provide certainty of costs. The Company didn't believe they should be paying high roading rates as they were positioned on a State Highway and the major percentage of product leaving the site was by rail.

Mr Butler concluded by inviting Council to visit the Alliance plant in the new year.

Ron Baxter

Mr Baxter did not attend the meeting.

The meeting adjourned for Lunch at 12.08 and reconvened at 1.00 pm.

Shirley Mouat

Kerbside Recycling - Wheelie Bins - Mrs Mouat was opposed to more than one wheelie bin as there was already a recycling station in Manapouri and an extra bin would be an unnecessary cost to ratepayers. Believed the landfill site at Kings Bend needed all the organic waste it could get.

Rates - Uniform Targeted - Believed there should not be any increase in the uniform rates. Council could not keep asking ratepayers for money.

Water and Wastewater Funding/Contract - The proposed 16% increase in the water and wastewater contract was outrageous.

Roading and Transport - Cycleway/Walkway - Suggested the proposed cycleway/walkway should be on the side of the road between Te Anau and Manapouri. She was concerned that walkers and cyclists did not "mix well". There should be a lot more thought about what went between Te Anau and Manapouri.

Mrs Mouat also referred to what she believed was an illegally cut track currently being used between Te Anau and Manapouri.

Public Conveniences - Believed Manapouri ratepayers could not afford \$41,000 to build a disabled persons toilet at Pearl Harbour. The current toilets were perfectly adequate.

Absolute Land Solutions Ltd - Kevin Small

Building Control - Requested a freeze or reduction in building consent fees because for each project that proceeds, numerous people are employed.

Resource Management - Stated that the amount of financial contributions and resource consent fees was putting people off developing in the District. Requested Resource Management fees be frozen for a year and that another fee rate be given for cross lease redevelopments of around 50% of the normal subdivision application fee. He made reference to other Councils that charged less for cross lease developments. The cost of the financial contributions in some areas was more than the value of the land.

Would like to see 1) a credit given for each existing title for the reserves and various headworks fees, 2) the ability to appeal minor issues to senior Council staff rather than having to present in front of a full hearing, 3) a freeze or a reduction in the various head works and financial contribution fees.

Mr Small tabled examples of cases where he believed the fees had caused developments to be cancelled. He suggested headworks contributions should not have to be paid when a subdivision was planned.

In response to a question from Cr Copland, Mr Small said he believed it was possible other Councils cross subsidised development costs and that some did not require headworks contributions at all.

Mr Small further asked that headworks contributions not be charged when a boundary adjustment was being made but deferred until a building was erected.

NZ Motor Caravan Association - Neville Stirling on behalf of James Imlach

Public Conveniences - Requested Council recognise dump stations as public conveniences and budget for the installation and maintenance of a new public dump station in Tokanui. Mr Stirling said the purpose of the NZ Motor Caravan Association was to foster responsible travellers and make it enjoyable for all their 21,500 members as well as tourists. The organisation was currently working to improve the current network of Dump Stations in New Zealand.

Dump stations were currently being prefabricated in Winton and then transported all over New Zealand so there was standardisation of connections.

Funding and location of dump stations to be discussed at the Strategic Retreat.

Riverton Heritage and Tourist Centre - Janice Templeton

Commended and thanked the Riverton Community Board for their support of Te Hikoi. Commented that there were more than 14,000 visitors a year coming into the facility which had benefited the community. If the total 14,000 visitors had all paid to go into the exhibition, they would be able to hire a person to help in the facility.

Was asked if it would be helpful to look at other business models to get ideas from. Cr Dobson, Mr Culling - Group Manager, Customer and Financial Services, and Mrs Templeton to meet to look at options.

Ken Davidson

Preferred to continue with one wheelie bin and for residents to take recycling and greenwaste to a transfer station. Suggested the amount of waste taken to the landfill could be reduced by having no charge for greenwaste at transfer stations in all districts.

Joes Refuse Service - Mr Dave Marshall

Unhappy with the wheelie bin contract tender documents as they discouraged smaller companies from tendering. He was concerned that the wheelie bins had to be provided by the contractors. The overall cost, size and length of the contract (10 - 16 years) was also of concern.

Stated that putting most of Southland's infrastructure into so few big contracting companies would create a rolling snowball that no one could alter or stop.

The state of the roads was also of concern and referred in particular to the road between Invercargill and Winton (State Highway).

Mr Marshall was asked what length the contract should be and also did he contact Council's 0800 phone number to report roading problems. He believed 6 years would be an appropriate contract length.

Mr Marshall thought his company was being disadvantaged in the current tender process because of the length of the tender and having to supply bins. He offered to be part of a group that debated any of the above issues.

Glass Packaging Forum Inc - Mr John Webber - by Teleconference Call

Glass needed to be collected separately and not mixed in with other recyclables such as paper. There was a company in Auckland that was looking around New Zealand for recovered glass (70,000 tonnes) to manufacture new bottles. The energy savings from remelting recovered glass from Southland would more than offset the energy used in transportation, he believed.

A split bin with a separate section for glass bottles and jars had been developed and worked in conjunction with a special truck tray which compacted the non glass portion only. Using this option would be a golden opportunity as the use of the furnace would save importing a large amount of glass.

The company desperately needed the glass and were prepared to pay the freight and also pay for the glass - but because of the distance to the factory, Southland would not receive as much for the glass as if they were closer.

Three Local Authorities were already looking at taking part in a trial.

Clean glass was defined as not containing ceramics or metal caps. Paper on the glass would be burnt off in the furnace. Coloured glass would have to be separated out.

Believed Council would be able to obtain a ten year contract but that would need to be confirmed with the glass company.

Agreed to keep Council informed of the result of the trials.

Brian Thomson

Opposed the two bin wheelie bin system as he believed it was a waste of money. He had calculated the amount of Government Levy saved would be minimal and that it would cost \$479 per tonne saved to have the system. Suggested Council pay residents to deliver recyclables to the recycling centres.

Objected to the proposed rate increase and stated it appeared there was no accountability when it came to collecting money from ratepayers. Also thought the number of staff that went to the Waimumu Field Days was excessive. He also spoke against the recent visit to Italy by the Mayor and some members of the Sister City Committee and supporters.

Mr Thomson also objected to the proposal to redevelop walkways in the Taramea Bay/Riverton Rocks area. Believed the money should be spent maintaining existing footpaths, providing more footpaths and more wheelchair and mobility scooter access at intersections.

He believed the rates increase should be in line with inflation each year. It was explained that the figures inflation was based on did not include raw materials used in roading which was part of the roading cost to Council.

Community Trust of Southland - John Prendergast

Mr Prendergast referred to the number of community halls and centres that were approaching the Community Trust for grant funding. There had often been little or no change in the rating for those facilities for many years so the repairs and maintenance had not been kept up with. He asked if the review of Community Centres project had been completed.

The question was asked by the meeting "What should be done to cover operating budget shortfalls, once a local facility was completed?"

Mr Prendergast suggested that operational viability needed to be looked at before the Community Trust made any grant as it was not their policy to do so. There needed to be a Council contribution before they made any grants.

The subject of "Regional" facilities was raised and it was agreed this needed to be looked at including the definition.

Some years ago, Mr Prendergast said, there had been a meeting of Mayors, Chief Executives and the Community Trust to discuss a variety of matters. He believed it was possibly time another meeting was held.

Mr Prendergast was asked if he was aware of a feeling in the District that it was hard to get money for rural projects from the Community Trust. He explained that the Trust received requests for \$40m each year but they were only able to distribute \$9m. The grants were advertised in the newspaper and the Trust had a staff member that spent most of her time meeting groups and talking to people.

The Trust supported the increase in Council funding from \$5,000 per annum to \$12,000 for Te Hikoi Information Centre.

Encouraged Council to strongly support the Riverton pool upgrade. The Trust had recently approved a grant of \$112,000 for the project.

Tanea Hawkins

Believed that neither of the two waste collection options offered best suited the District and indicated there were better options which would give better value both short and long term.

Ms Hawkins then showed a powerpoint presentation (Refer Appendix III) that focused on an alternative method of solid waste management and recycling.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms Hawkins was asked what level of commitment would be required from Council. She said she believed it would have potential and she didn't want this council to do something that would prevent them from taking part in a better system in the future. Ms Hawkins then clarified that she had no commercial interest in the system. She believed there would be big changes in the near future in the way recycling was dealt with.

The meeting adjourned for afternoon tea at 4.00 pm and reconvened at 4.20 pm.

The final speaker (Mrs Christine Henderson) had indicated she would not be able to be present until 4.30 so the meeting had a general discussion until she arrived.

Further clarification was given regarding the regional tender for waste management services.

Christine Henderson

In her submission, Mrs Henderson had supported various beautification projects planned for the district. Also supported sustainable energy, warm homes project and government loans for special projects but questioned the basis for the present rating system. Believed it was important for Council to undertake a re-assessment of the Landscape plan as many Southland landscapes may be affected by windfarms, coastal urbanisation and mining.

Believed her gravel road was not graded frequently enough (Lintley Road). Council needed to inform residents of the eventual closure of the Kings Bend dump and that businesses needed to seek solutions to deal with "waste".

If the two bin wheelie bin system was introduced, Council needed to inform people about options for greenwaste and what to do with polystyrene, whiteware and computers. The Stewart Island Visitor Levy was supported.

Believed water quality and quantity would continue to divide ratepayers and communities. There was currently a lack of access to the National Water Policy and that this policy would help decision-making on water issues in Southland.

Mrs Henderson had tabled her "SDC Annual Plan Wish List 15/6/2010" (Refer Appendix IV) that listed 12 "wishes".

The meeting was advised that there were dairy farmers in Northern Southland who had chosen not to irrigate their land, but she agreed it was going to be a quantum leap to change attitudes. She was keen to look at water harvesting as she believed it was a positive way to deal with water shortages.

Mrs Henderson was asked about her statement regarding the closure of Kings Bend. She replied that the longer it could be kept open, the better for people. But Council needed to have "its act together" so when the closure eventually came, there would be no need for another one.

When asked how she felt about user pays for water, Mrs Henderson said she approved of it in a modest way.

Moved Cr Bailey, seconded Cr Jack  
and RESOLVED THAT STANDING ORDERS BE REINSTATED.

Mayor Cardno thanked staff for the work they had put into the report and declared the meeting closed at 5.00 pm and adjourned it until 9.00 am the next morning.

**SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL****RECONVENED EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING****WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2010**

MINUTES of the RECONVENED EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers, 15 Forth Street, Invercargill on WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2010 at 9.00 am.

**PRESENT:** Mayor F Cardno, (Chairperson) Crs L Bailey, J D Copland, R Dobson, J Douglas, B J Dillon, B W Drummond, P Duffy, B Ford, G Harpur, W Jack, G MacPherson and A D Ridley.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Messrs D P Adamson, P Culling, B Halligan, C McIntosh and Mrs J O'Shannessy.

Messrs J Bourque, I Evans, W Heerdegen, B McKenzie.

Miss N Taylor and Mrs Y Paterson.

Miss A Robson from 11.15 am.

1.0 **APOLOGIES**

Crs Copland and Duffy for lateness.

Moved Cr Jack, seconded Cr Macpherson  
and RESOLVED THAT THE APOLOGIES FOR LATENESS BE ACCEPTED.

2.0 **CLARIFICATION OF STATUS - CR DOBSON**

Cr Dobson asked that his status at the meeting be clarified as he had not been present the previous day when the submissions were heard although he had read them all.

The Chief Executive advised that he was able to add to the debate but was not entitled to vote on any issue.

Cr Copland entered the meeting at 9.05 pm.

3.0 **SUMMARY AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS MADE ON SUBMISSIONS**

Ms Taylor suggested that the issues be dealt with alphabetically as listed in the summary document attached to the report.

\* **Annual Plan**  
NZ Historic Places Trust had encouraged Council to identify historic heritage management as a specific function in its Annual Plans as this would foster a more integrated approach to historic management across all of Council's activities.

In the staff comments - reference was made to the main street of Wyndham, the Port Craig viaducts and the Clifden swing bridge where buildings and structures with heritage values were deteriorating. It was intended to address this issue in the Second Generation District Plan which was currently being reviewed.

Area Engineer for the Tuatapere Ward to be asked to provide a report on the condition of the Clifden Bridge.

\* Beautification

Submissions of support and opposition were received for the Te Anau Town Square upgrade. There was also support for the Tokanui playground beautification project and Otautau to Arboretum walking track.

\* Building Control

Absolute Land Solutions had requested a freeze or a reduction in building consent fees.

Staff believed SDC consent fees were not at the high end of fees being charged. Building consent fees would need to continue to be adjusted annually unless Council made a decision to increase the public good element of funding from the current 20%.

\* Civil Defence

Two submissions of support were received for the development of the Southland Emergency Management Organisation.

\* Community Centres

Community Trust of Southland had advised they were regularly approached by hall committees seeking grant funding and that often there had been little or no change in the rating for those facilities for many years so the repairs and maintenance had not been kept to date.

Cr Duffy entered the meeting at 9.15 am.

Staff to be asked to send a letter to all Community Centres advising they were able to increase their local rate as there was now no limit as there had been in the past.

Funding for swimming pools was discussed. Council covered 10% of the land area of New Zealand and reducing the number of pools because of the low population was not an option. Proximity to existing pools should be considered. It was agreed it was time to have discussions with the Community Trust regarding funding of facilities for small communities. Community Trust of Southland were prepared to help fund capital costs but not fund operations.

\* Community Housing

Public Health South noted that Council viewed the provision of community housing as a declining activity and asked whether this was because there was a declining demand or if Council no longer saw a role for itself in providing community housing.

Staff to prepare a paper on Community Housing for discussion at the Strategic Retreat.

Cr Ford said he believed there was a new Government project regarding provision of EP housing. The Stewart Island Community Development Officer was working on it. Council Policy Analyst and Property Manager to investigate.

\* Consultation

One submission was received and would like to see figures that supported or opposed different projects.

\* Energy

Two submissions supporting renewable energy initiatives were received.

\* Forestry

Two submissions were received with one querying higher returns because of the heavy demand from China. The other submission recommended other hardwood species be planted as the end project was more valuable and stopped any need to import such products which destroyed other countries' native forests.

\* Grants and Donations

Submissions of support and opposition were received for Te Hikoi, with support for the Regional Heritage Committee and Southland Warm Homes Project, and opposition to Council using ratepayer money for grants and donations.

A request was also made for increased budget for the Enviroschools programme from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in 2010/2011. This was agreed to by the meeting.

\* Libraries

One submission suggested libraries should have a charge per book for adults to keep the level of uniform charge at a reasonable level.

Staff to prepare a paper on all Library functions for discussion at the Strategic Retreat. All options to be looked at.

\* Milford Community Trust

Two submissions received with one suggesting the MCT review its goals and scope of its activities now that the Trust has been in operation for a few years. Also suggested the term of office could be reduced given the transitory nature of the Milford residents. Also questioned whether the landscape design for the foreshore car park area was a legitimate capital project.

The other submission was in support of the work Council undertakes with the MCT.

\* Public Conveniences

Submissions covered the provision of a public toilet in Wallacetown, human waste contamination of roadsides and recreational areas, opposition to the new Lions Park toilets in Te Anau, support and opposition to the upgrade of the Pearl Harbour toilets and the recognition of dump stations as public conveniences.

Staff to provide a paper at the Strategic Retreat regarding the location and funding of dump stations in the district.

\* Rates

Twelve submissions had been received regarding rate increases and the ability to pay. A staff submission had also been received requesting Council consider amending the information in the Draft Annual Plan to be GST exclusive in order to allow for a possible change from 12.5% to 15% as indicated by the Government. The meeting agreed to this change.

The meeting agreed that a large number of the ratepayers did not understand that the Local Rates were set by the Community Boards and CDA subcommittees, whereas the District Rates related to the main functions of Council e.g. roading. Revaluation also had an effect of rate levels.

The Alliance Group had queried the amount of rates paid on their properties.

Staff to provide list of major ratepayers to Councillors.

The meeting agreed to this request as the Government had indicated there would be an increase in GST later in the year.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.20 am and reconvened at 10.40 am.

\* Rates - Uniform Targeted

While some submissions focussed on the level of Uniform Targeted Rate and its effect on low income households, others believed it should be increased to nearer the maximum of 30%.

Three submission referred to the Winton Swimming Pool Rate with one in favour and two against the rate.

The meeting agreed by a majority to retain the Uniform Targeted Rate as outlined in the Draft Annual Plan.

\* Representation and Advocacy

Various submissions opposed the recent trip to Cinque Terre or the Mayors travel around Southland, supported Council's relationship with Te AO Marama Inc or supported advocating to central government.

\* Resource Management

Environment Southland had asked Council to allow for some planning staff time to contribute towards a regionwide landscape assessment project. Staff advised it had not been costed out yet but it was a worthwhile project. Environment Southland had budgeted it for the 2011/2012 year.

Absolute Land Solutions submission had raised several issues related to the Resource Management Fees, Development Contribution, processes and the payment of headworks contributions.

Staff to prepare a paper covering all the above topics for discussion at the Strategic Retreat.

\* Road Funding

Submissions had been received on road funding mainly relating to the cost of rating for roads and the percentage split. Ms Taylor referred to the Comparison of Share of Costs for each Sector (Model versus Proposed) on page 4 of the Draft Annual Plan Summary Document.

Members agreed they would like to increase the amount of road sealing each year but at present there were no funds available - it was all an affordability issue.

The issue of tourist roads was discussed and the possibility of lobbying Government to re-designate them as State Highways. It was explained that the decision was now the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism, not NZTA. Identification of heavy industries operating from a lifestyle property was also discussed. It would depend on the predominant land use and this would be assessed by Quotable Values.

The meeting agreed that the current share of costs for the roading rate as detailed in the Draft Annual Plan be used as the basis for establishing the road rate for 2010/2011.

\* Roading and Transport

Ten submissions were received on road funding and all wanted various changes to the share of costs for roading either this year or the year after. Four submitters believed that dairy tankers are damaging the roads and therefore the dairy sector should pay more, one said that the model was fair but the period of easement for dairy should end next year, one said that the share of costs should reduce for not-for-profit sectors like lifestyle and residential not just dairy, one believed forestry is paying too much, two believed that dairying was paying too much (with one wanting the GHD model brought back in) and one said tet residential sector should be paying more.

A staff submission had been received requesting that the roading programme proposed for 2010/2011 be adjusted to reflect the forecasted under spend against the 2009/2010 proposed roading programme. There would be no impact on the roading rate as the associated roading funds from 2009/2010 would be transferred.

The meeting agreed to add uncompleted roading work from the 2009/2010 year to the 2010/2011 roading programme.

Various submissions were received on the Wallacetown BMX track, View Street Upgrade, Taramea Bay walkway development as well as cycleways and walkways.

\* Solid Waste Management

A submission had been received from Environment Southland requesting an additional \$5,000 to allow for additional participation in the Enviroschools programme in the District.

It was agreed to include the additional funding in the Annual Plan.

\* Solid Waste Management - Kerbside Recycling

The original proposal was to have a regional three bin service in combination with the Invercargill City Council and Gore District Council expected to join the overall proposition at a later date.

Initial costs for the three bin service were more expensive than anticipated so Council had agreed to look at two bin options. The current contract was expiring soon.

Thirty four submissions were received on this topic with 14 in support, 16 against and four making other comments. Those in support mainly said it would help to protect the environment and reduce waste to landfill, cost less than the three bin system and that the third bin was not needed because they composted their greenwaste. Some submissions had suggested that if the two bin system was introduced, there needed to be education around what to do with greenwaste. Another suggestion was that it should be free to take it to transfer stations.

Those against the proposal mainly said that it would cost too much, that they did not fill their current wheelie bin so did not need another one, or that they had no room to store more bins. Some suggested that instead of introducing kerbside recycling Council could make more recycling drop-off centres available, do more education, provide recycling bins that people empty themselves, subsidise compost bins and worm farms, or make kerbside recycling optional and charge ratepayers by the weight of their wheelie bin.

It was explained to the meeting that if Council chose the two bin system (each bin being collected on alternate weeks), the collection costs would be similar to those of a system that collected one bin every week. The major component of the contract was the collection of the bins rather than the cost of the bins.

It was intended to retain the recycling centres.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.03 pm and reconvened at 12.35 pm.

\* Solid Waste Management - Kerbside Recycling Continued

It was explained to the meeting there would be two same size Wheelie Bins picked up on alternate weeks with the recycling going to Southland Enterprises. Co-mingling of content would not be a big problem.

It was agreed there would need to be an extensive education process but it was believed this could be achieved.

The meeting agreed by a majority to proceed with the Solid Waste Management - Kerbside Recycling two bin option.

\* Venture Southland

Submissions had requested a more transparent breakdown on the \$1.7m granted to Venture Southland so as to better assess the validity of services.

Council decided that a further breakdown of the activities Venture Southland funding went towards would be considered as part of the development of future Plans or clarified further in Venture Southlands own Action Plans.

\* Wastewater

Submission from staff requesting various changes be made to scheme costs as follows:

Otautau - adjust Resource Consent budget to include annual soil monitoring costs as detailed.

Balfour - remove scheme performance report project scheduled for 11/12 and move scheme performance report scheduled for 16/16 to 15/16.

Council - to adjust affected operating and maintenance elements of scheme water budgets from 1 July 2010 to reflect the revised operation and maintenance contract awarded in April 2010.

Winton - subject to feedback from the local committee, move project for infiltration investigations from 09/10 to 10/11.

The meeting agreed to the requests.

\* Water

Twelve submissions were received on various matters relating to water including projects, conservation, monitoring charges and water quality. Three of these supported Council putting various water projects on hold and 1 staff submission requested various changes to costs and timing of projects. Two asked when their town was getting a reticulated water supply (Wallacetown and Curio Bay); two believed that those that take water for private gain should pay a higher rate and that Council should develop a rainwater harvesting policy or encourage installation of rainwater tank; two commented on Environment Southland's water monitoring

charges with one supporting them and one opposing, one asked Council to promote water conservation and one was concerned about the water quality in Tuatapere.

Water issues to be discussed at workshop.

\* Water and Wastewater Funding/Contract

Twenty four submissions related to either the funding of the new water and wastewater operations and maintenance contract or last year's proposal to fund all water and sewerage costs by a UTR.

Thirteen favoured moving to a cost per connection basis (option 2) for the new contract costs, six favoured a 16% increase to operations and maintenance budgets for individual schemes (option 1) and one favoured option 1 for wastewater and option 2 for water. Three submissions related to last year's proposal to fund all water and sewerage costs by a UTR saying that Council should reconsider this and 1 submission stated that a 16% increase was outrageous.

A replacement page on the impact of cost allocation by either even % (Option 1) or connection basis (Option 2) by scheme (page 62 of the report) was tabled for members information. Refer Appendix V. It was intended to present a full paper covering "water clubbing" options to the Strategic Retreat for consideration.

Council had already awarded the Water and Wastewater Services Operations and Maintenance Contract and approved its inclusion in the 2010/2011 Annual Plan.

The meeting agreed by a majority to proceed with Option Two - Allocation of costs based on cost per rating unit - for the water and wastewater services operations and maintenance contract.

Moved Cr Harpur, seconded Cr Copland  
and RESOLVED:

- (a) THAT COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE SUBMISSIONS MADE ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010/2011.
- (b) THAT COUNCIL AGREES THAT SUBMITTERS BE REPLIED TO WITH AN OUTLINE OF COUNCIL'S DECISION AND THE REASONS FOR ITS DECISION USING STAFF COMMENTS PROVIDED IN THIS REPORT AND ANY FURTHER POINTS AS INDICATED AT THE MEETING.

Cr Dobson did not vote on these resolutions.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

Mayor Cardno thanked Councillors for their robust debate over the past two days, and also the staff for their dedicated work on the Plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 1.34 pm.

CONFIRMED:

CHAIRPERSON:

DATE: