

**SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**12 JUNE 2007**

MINUTES of a COUNCIL MEETING of the SOUTHLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL held in the Council Chambers, 15 Forth Street, Invercargill, on TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2007 at 10.05 AM.

**PRESENT:** Mayor F Cardno, Crs S M Anderson, L A Bailey, J D Copland, R A Dobson, B J Dillon, B W Drummond, P Duffy, P G Goomes, GEJ Harpur, D M McCallum and A D Ridley.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Messrs D Adamson, L McKenzie, P Culling, J Reid, Misses N Taylor and Y Waymouth and Mrs J O'Shannessy.

1.0 **APOLOGIES**

Cr JTC Frew

Moved Cr Dobson, seconded Cr Dillon  
and RESOLVED THAT THE APOLOGY BE ACCEPTED.

2.0 **NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS**

No items of Urgent Business were recorded.

3.0 **REPORT**

3.1 **SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2007/2008**

Report by Miss N Taylor and Miss Y Waymouth dated 1 June 2007 detailing submissions from the public consultation process for the Draft Annual Plan 2007/2008.

Moved Cr Ridley, seconded Cr Copland  
and RESOLVED THAT THE REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2007/2008 BE RECEIVED.

The following ratepayers spoke to their written submissions:

3.1.1 Janet Gregory - Biodiversity Southland

Thanked Council for the continued funding and support given to the Biodiversity Southland Coordinator role. Suggested Council report annually instead of five yearly on the number of consents to clear vegetation and the associated area involved and the vegetation type.

3.1.2 Alistair Wilson - Southland Branch Farm Forestry Association

Key issues referred to included not supporting the extra 1% (achieved by the LTNZ not reducing their roading subsidy) to reduce rates, the effect of changes to the UAC on roading rate and development and promotions rate and targeted road rating.

3.1.3 Doug Fraser - Southland Province Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Asked that the full 30% uniform annual charge be used and that targeted rates on tourism related businesses be used to fund tourism marketing/promotion activities. Submitted that targeted rates be applied to services that should be user pays.

Believed it was unacceptable a six year funding agreement had been signed with Venture Southland. Suggested there be a regional rate to ensure equity of funding. Questioned the need for Venture Southland.

Suggested Council was not compelled to be involved in peripheral social spending.

Request Council hold expenditure below the cost of inflation until a fairer rating system was adopted. Couldn't understand why the GHD report had not been adopted.

Suggested Council, Federated Farmers and GHD meet to discuss and clarify issues.

Mr Fraser tabled a document that referred to:

- \* The levies paid by farmers on Southland livestock to promote and protect their industry.
- \* Four issues that could be discussed by Council, Federated Farmers and GHD.
- \* Differential table.

Council were asked to look again at the 80/20 differentials.

3.1.4 Vaughan Templeton

Unfair rating burden on rural land owning ratepayers of the district. Referred to the two consultant reports that concluded the farming sector was not the dominant user of roads, but the sector still contributed most to the roading rate.

3.1.5 Patricia Veltkamp Smith

Asked that the Nightcaps library not be closed. Believed that small communities needed to be preserved and services retained. Agreed the concept of “user pays” was acceptable. for those that could afford it.

Suggested extra publicity for the library because of the number of new residents in the town. Maybe a coffee machine in the library would attract new borrowers.

3.1.6 Christine Henderson

Suggested Council plant more diverse natives in townships. Reviewed District Plan include protection of soils, prevention of urban sprawl, prevention of building on flood plains, protection of the landscape, protection of heritage buildings and termination of logging indigenous forests. Climate change, production of bio gas and encouraging people to collect water - tanks for roof water.

3.1.7 Murray Turner

Requested Council reduce funding for Venture Southland by 60% phased in over three years (20% per year). Suggested there were no KPI's or clear strategy.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.07 pm and reconvened at 1.00 pm.

3.1.8 Mary Napper

Advised that the Ohai/Takitimu pool would need upgraded in the near future. The facility was covered, heated and superior in length to all other pools in the District and had been identified as a significant facility by Venture Southland.

Asked if it was possible for a funding levy across the district to be struck to help with the upgrade.

Publicity for the pool could be tied in with the membership drive for the Nightcaps Library.

3.1.9 Stewart Harvey and Avis McDonald - Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand

Believed Council should give more attention to heritage items in policy statements and District Plans. The condition and significance of each cemetery should be surveyed and an action plan for their ongoing conservation and care prepared. Looking after fences, headstones, grass etc would be part of the maintenance. Survey to also include “lone graves” on farms etc. Anything over 50 years of age could be classified as heritage.

Funding sources could include Community Trust, Gaming Machines, Charitable Trusts.

### 3.1.10 Barney Barrett

Issues included - accountability of staff on unsuccessful prosecution of ratepayers, Maori compensated land use under the Resource Management Act, name of Council newsletter, audit costs, forestry returns and use of tanks for water storage.

### 3.1.11 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Miss Taylor went through the summary of submissions and asked the Councillors to indicate any changes they wanted so they could be incorporated into the plan prior to adoption on 27 June 2007. Additional comments made to the various categories within the Draft Annual Plan were as follows:

- \* Annual Plan - Because of the tight timeframe this year, extra time would be built in for the 2008/2009 plan.
- \* Cemeteries - Councillors were asked if they wanted to look at the “bigger picture” or just Otautau. Agreed it should be referred to the Wallace Community Board for comment. Suggested a Scoping Report on Cemeteries should be prepared and brought to a meeting of the Policy Review Committee for discussion. May need to look at the impact on the District Plan and the LTCCP.
- \* Community Centre Levy - Garston Hall - Council agreed to an increase in the Community Centre Levy from \$22.50 to \$30.00 to help with funding operations and maintenance costs.
- \* Community Housing - Council’s role would be identified in the next LTCCP. Housing New Zealand to be included as a key stakeholder in the next LTCCP.
- \* Funding Policy - Uniform Annual Charge - Council agreed to confirm the movement of the use of the UAC from Rooding Rate to the Development and Promotions Rate to achieve the policy of 10% of required funding for roading network to be collected by way of a Uniform Annual Charge to reflect access to the network.
- \* Grants and Donations - Council suggested the request for funding for the Southland Healthy Homes Project from EnergySmart Limited should be forwarded to the Allocations Committee for consideration as part of the next funding round.
- \* Venture Southland - Grants and Donations - Venture Southland to be funded at the same level as 2006/2007 and continue the funding review process to be completed by December 2007. Some of the submissions regarding Venture Southland appeared to under the impression the review was about the future of Venture.
- \* Library - Nightcaps - Agreed to discuss the matter with the District Librarian when she was in attendance at the APAC meeting the following day.

- \* Parks and Reserves - A submitter had offered to assist with activities associated with the Alex McKenzie Arboretum and Ivon Wilson Park. Community Boards and Community Development Area Sub Committees to be advised of the desirability of planting native shrubs/trees wherever possible.
- \* Policies - Councillors were reminded to publicise the rates rebate scheme within their communities.
- \* Public Toilets - Concern was expressed that if a charge was introduced for the Te Anau Toilet - tourists would drive to Mossburn and Athol where toilets were free. As a result, Council may wish to look at charges for those toilets as well. The Council resolved to put the loan funding of \$600,000 into the Annual Plan which would be repaid by the user charge amounting to an estimated income of \$100,000 pa. However Council requested that the Te Anau Community Board prepare a detailed business case and risk analysis about how the toilets would be funded if the income from the user charge did not meet expectations.
- \* Rates - Roading Rate - Mr Adamson reminded the meeting that three issues had contributed to the changes in setting the roading rate: Revaluation, changes to differentials and changes to the UAC. It was agreed that accurate, up-to-date data was important to ensure that Council had confidence in the model.
- \* Rates - Use of Roading Funding Assistance Rate - Council confirmed its decision to use the additional 1% Funding Assistance Rate to reduce rates.

The meeting adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.00 pm and reconvened at 3.16 pm.

Cr Anderson re-entered the meeting at 3.26 pm.

- \* Resource Management - Suggested development of a biodiversity information kit for property owners with vegetation on their property (particularly in the agriculture sector) to improve education and understanding of the areas and encourage best management and protection where possible.
- \* Roading and Transport - Improvements - Council requested staff look at further education of farmers and trucking firms to address the issues of stock effluent on roads and to encourage farmers to install underpasses. Coastal road to Waipapa Point lighthouse and Slope Point lighthouse needed to be upgraded or sealed as there were a large number of vehicles using the road and locals were consistently having to "put them back on the road". Councillors suggested there might be a particular spot that was causing the trouble. Concerns to be passed on to the Contractors.

- \* Swimming Pool - A submission had been received regarding the possibility of introducing an additional levy in addition to the Community Centre levy. The purpose of the levy would be to help fund the upgrade of the Takitimu pool in Ohai. It was agreed to consider this request in the Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009 following consultation with the Nightcaps and Ohai communities. If supported, the levy would be included as a separate levy. Ownership of the Ohai/Takitimu swimming pool was also questioned. Councillors asked if there were any other similar type of ownership of pools in the district.

#### Reduction in Area Wide Pavement Treatment

After the submissions to the Draft Annual Plan had closed, Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) advised Council that it would be reducing the requested land transport programme for 2007/2008 by \$1.01 million in the Area Wide Pavement Treatment (AWT) category. Council was disappointed at the decision, particularly given that the plan was based on the 10 year asset management plan prepared in 2006 which clearly set out work required to keep the Districts' roads at the current level. However, Council had decided to leave the Annual Plan unchanged and lodge a supplementary application with LTNZ in an attempt to secure funding to cover additional maintenance costs which were expected to result from the AWT funding.

#### Riverton Heritage and Tourist Centre

The Riverton Heritage and Tourist Centre had recently received a grant of \$172,000 from central government. The Council had agreed to fund the shortfall in the project, however, as the exact amount was not yet known, the Council had not included funding in the Annual Plan at this stage. If required, the Council planned to fund this via a short term loan which would be repaid in 2008/2009.

Moved Cr Ridley, seconded Cr Copland  
and RESOLVED:

- (a) THAT COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2007/2008 AND AMENDMENTS MADE.
- (b) THAT COUNCIL AGREED THE SUBMITTERS BE REPLIED TO WITH AN OUTLINE OF COUNCIL'S DECISION AND THE REASONS FOR ITS DECISION USING STAFF COMMENTS PROVIDED IN THE REPORT AND ANY FURTHER POINTS AS INDICATED AT THE MEETING.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 4.15 pm.

CONFIRMED:

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: