

Waitaki District Council**Council**

**CONFIRMED MINUTES of a meeting of the Waitaki District Council
held in the Council Chamber, Waitaki District Council Building, Third Floor,
20 Thames Street, Oamaru
at 9.00am on Tuesday 6 March 2018**

Present Mayor Gary Kircher (Chair), Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale, Cr Craig Dawson, Cr Peter Garvan, Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Bill Kingan, Cr Guy Percival, Cr Hugh Perkins, Cr Jan Wheeler, Cr Colin Wollstein

In Attendance Fergus Power (Chief Executive)
Neil Jorgensen (Assets Group Manager / Deputy Chief Executive)
Paul Hope (Finance and Corporate Development Group Manager)
Lisa Baillie (People and Culture Group Manager)
Lichelle Guyan (Heritage, Environment and Regulatory Group Manager)
Bill Chou (Information Services Group Manager)
Ainslee Hooper (Governance and Policy Advisor)

**In Attendance
(part of meeting)** Mike Roesler (Policy and Business Improvement Manager)
Michael Voss (Roading Manager)

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Forum

Two speakers had registered to speak during the Public Forum. The Chair welcomed them to the meeting.

- (a) **Mrs Felicity (Fliiss) Butcher spoke on the subject of “Road improvements in Ardgowan Road”.** Mrs Butcher said she had received notification last year that road improvements would be undertaken along Ardgowan Road between Eden and Homestead Streets, and that delays could be expected from January to March. She was concerned that the work could result in more traffic, and especially more speeding traffic. She contacted the letter’s author to find out if a pathway/cycleway would happen at the same time, and was informed that it would not. The work has been done now, and her initial concerns have been realised. She sent a flyer to Redcastle Road residents (copy supplied), and had decided to prepare a submission to the Long Term Plan. She also met with the Deputy Mayor, and read through the roading activity management (RAM) business case. To date, 35 people had contacted her, including the Board of Trustees of Ardgowan School. People are concerned about the increased speed of traffic now that the road is wider. Deep swales were also a problem. Accordingly, Mrs Butcher was here today to ask Councillors to put in a cycleway now, rather than digging up the road in a few years’ time (as was scheduled). The RAM mentioned “cycling and walking throughout”, and there was also provision for a pathway in the budget. Collectively, concerned residents sought to encourage Council to act on the advice in the RAM (page 13) to continue to enhance the area now rather than wait, in order to get walkers and cyclists safely off the road. She had met with the Deputy Mayor, who had suggested Mrs Butcher bring this matter to a public forum.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Butcher for bringing the matter to Councillors’ attention, and for covering off the key issues well in her presentation. He advised that Council would discuss

her concerns later in the meeting, and would follow up with her in due course. He encouraged her to make a submission to the LTP, and thanked her for appreciating the need for Council to prioritise and balance budgets when considering its work programme.

- (b) **Bruce Blackie spoke on the subject of Harbour Street.** Mr Blackie sought to remind Councillors that a letter had been sent to them on behalf of Harbour Street businesses advising that the Friday – Sunday road closures had resulted in a downturn in trade on Fridays in particular. He appealed to Councillors to empathise with traders and reconsider the Friday closure.

In response, the Mayor noted that some businesses had been against the weekend trial last year, but it had seemed to result in increased trade. Mr Blackie agreed that traders were happy with the Saturday and Sunday closure, but the Friday option had come “out of the blue” and was now eating into business profits.

In response to a question about the overall effect of the three-day closure, Mr Blackie acknowledged that there had been an upturn in business overall and people were enjoying the weekend trade. However, Fridays were crucial, especially from a local point of view, and businesses were struggling on that day.

The Mayor noted that he had responded to Mr Blackie’s comments in the media, but that the Council’s door remained open and he continued to encourage traders to engage directly with Council. He added that, once a decision is made, it was difficult to overturn it, particularly when it was in effect; Mr Blackie acknowledged that point.

There was brief discussion about the previous Council resolution and specifically about re-engagement with businesses after the trial. The Mayor reminded everyone that the survey had included a question about whether people supported two, three, or a seven-day closure of Harbour Street and that, while a majority had supported the seven-day closure, the Council had gone with the three-day period as a compromise to all involved. In that way, traders’ needs had been considered, but the Mayor acknowledged that the communication around that had not been the best it could have been and he apologised for that. The Mayor thanked Mr Blackie for attending.

At 9.16am, the Mayor declared the Public Forum closed, and the meeting moved on other Agenda Items.

4. Dog Pound – Assessment of Options for Refurbishment or Relocation

The report, as circulated, summarised that the existing Waitaki District Pound on Chelmer Street, Oamaru, requires improvement to address deferred maintenance and operational issues that are impacting animal welfare and operational effectiveness. Options to redevelop the existing site or establish a new Greenfields site were considered against values-based performance and then cost. The evaluation identified that refurbishing the existing site provided the best performance/cost compromise. The increased cost of a Greenfields site did not provide noticeable performance improvement in areas that were highly valued.

Group Manager Lichelle Guyan spoke to the report, and noted that aspects of the refurbishments (eg double-glazing, cubicles, better parameter fencing) were expected to help sort some of the previous animal welfare and security issues that had been raised previously.

RESOLVED
WDC 2018/027

Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale / Cr Jim Hopkins
That Council:

1. Approves the existing pound site redevelopment at an estimated cost of \$82,000
2. Approves that the recovery park redevelopment fund contributes to the development of shared ablutions to an estimated cost of \$9,200
3. Approves that the redevelopment of the pound be funded from dog control reserves
4. Notes that officers will confirm final design and costs once quotes are available.

CARRIED

5. Hampden Lincoln Street Improvements

The report, as circulated, summarised that, in December 2017, the Mayor and Chief Executive met with Mr John Dimelow from the Hampden Four Square to discuss drainage problems outside of the supermarket in Lincoln Street. As a result of the meeting, it was agreed that the drainage would be improved. The report sought approval of \$20,000 funding to put towards a \$48,000 improvement project.

The Chair noted that the Waihemo Community Board supported this project, and had agreed to put some of Hampden's amenity rates funding into it (\$20,000). It was an historical issue, where a pipe had been broken underneath the supermarket entrance, and it had been decided to expand the project to tidy up the area for the benefit of the whole community.

Group Manager Neil Jorgensen advised that the Community Board had assessed this work at Hampden to be a priority, because it was in a high-use area and would make a difference to a lot of people. He was not aware of any other project identified for the specific funding at the moment.

RESOLVED

WDC 2018/028

Cr Jan Wheeler / Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council approves \$10,000 from the Waihemo Ward unsubsidised roading budget and \$10,000 from the Whitestone Contracting dividend be used to fund drainage improvement works outside the supermarket in Hampden.

CARRIED

6. 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP) Proposal

The report, as circulated, sought to enable Council to provide final direction on the 2018-28 Long Term Plan Consultation Document (CD) and detailed supporting information, prior to approval for public consultation at its 27 March 2018 meeting.

Group Manager Paul Hope advised that this meeting was the final chance for Councillors to make any amendments or adjustments to the consultation document and papers supporting it, including listed projects, prior to all items being finalised to go to the 27 March 2018 Council Meeting for approval to go out to public consultation. Mayor Gary Kircher clarified that the final LTP would be discussed and was scheduled for final approval in late June, after the public had had a chance to comment on the draft and after any submissions had been heard in May.

There was brief discussion about information still to come (eg on the Cultural Facilities Development Project (CFDP), library funding etc) which may require further changes to the documents and how that could be fed into the process. The Mayor noted that the CFDP would be the subject of a workshop on 12 March. Mr Hope said adjustments may be able to be made that day, but after that, it could be difficult prior to the 27 March agenda being finalised.

Cr Hopkins left the meeting at 9.41am.

Mr Hope advised that actions on discussions at last week's workshop had been focused on removal of projects where there had been strong indications from Councillors to do so; and on producing any additional information between the draft and final versions (so that it was available for consideration alongside feedback from the public). He added that a list of projects for which additional information had been requested was available.

Cr Hopkins returned to the meeting at 9.43am.

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 9.53am, and returned at 9.55am.

Councillors worked through the spreadsheet and confirmed projects / amounts or discussed and agreed changes.

It was AGREED to suspend Standing Orders for the duration of the discussion on the LTP proposal.

Property section

There were no changes made.

Planning section

There was discussion on the cost of the proposed Heritage Advisor. Group Manager Lichelle Guyan and the Chief Executive outlined the objectives of the position and the “investment” (as opposed to “cost”) it represented for the wise management of Waitaki’s heritage aspects which were important to the district culturally and economically. Mr Power noted that other regions had heritage advisors, and yet Waitaki did not. Cr Jim Hopkins suggested the appointment could be deferred, given that Parliament had given heritage buildings a longer period of time to bring things up to the new earthquake strengthening codes. He put forward a motion:

MOTION Cr Jim Hopkins / Cr Peter Garvan
That the appointment of a heritage advisor be deferred for further consideration, and that \$40K be paid into the Waitaki Heritage Fund in the first year of the 2018-28 LTP.

Discussion on the motion:

Various views were aired, including some concern with ambiguity around the wording of the motion. The motion, with minor changes, was then put to the meeting, as follows:

RESOLVED Cr Jim Hopkins / Cr Peter Garvan
WDC 2018/029 That the appointment of a heritage advisor be deferred for the first year of the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, and that \$40K be paid instead into the Waitaki Heritage Fund for that year.

CARRIED

RESOLVED Cr Jim Hopkins / Cr Craig Dawson
WDC 2018/030 That the \$40K for the Waitaki Heritage Fund in the previous resolution come from the Whitestone Contracting dividend.

CARRIED

Regulatory section

MOTION Cr Jim Hopkins / Cr Guy Percival
That the \$30K for general bylaw education implementation and education be removed from the Proposals included in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan draft financial forecasts (Attachment 2).

Discussion followed, with speakers for and against the motion.

The Chair then put the motion to the meeting, and it was declared LOST (4 votes to 6).

Roading Section

Cr Jan Wheeler sought to move a motion “That Council spends the \$150K Whitestone Contracting dividend this year in Year 2 and Year 3 as well, to help with reducing roading costs to the whole community.”

Cr Wheeler’s motion was not seconded, and was declared lapsed by the Chair in favour of the advice provided to the meeting which was accepted by Councillors.

Cr Peter Garvan left the meeting at 10.44am, and returned at 10.46am.

Cycleways section

A correction was needed to project 19033/40 “Great rides and Coastal cycleway feasibility” – \$50K would be coming out in the first year. **ACTION POINT: Finance team to update**

Recreation section

Discussion on the indoor recreation centre project focused on whether it should be left in the LTP, with Councillors expressing an overall preference that it remain in the draft plan to allow the public to make submissions on it.

There was discussion about project 19041 Toilet / infrastructure upgrades, and whether the toilet strategy should be looked at again or to consider paring back the funding allocation in the hope that costs could be lowered through negotiation. Discussion points ranged from those who wished to include less of the planned toilets in the LTP, to those who supported the toilet strategy and wished to retain the capital expenditure in the plan. The latter view prevailed.

Library section

RESOLVED

WDC 2018/031

Cr Jim Hopkins / Cr Craig Dawson

That \$40K for the library feasibility study should be deleted.

CARRIED

Gallery section

It was noted that project 19044 “Cultural Facilities Development (updated)” would be the subject of a workshop on 12 March.

Opera House section

There was no discussion or changes made.

GIS / IT section

There was brief discussion on the efficiency gains to be made with the proposed system improvements and savings on an annual basis going forward as a result of the phone system upgrade. Group Manager Bill Chou also highlighted the reputational costs associated with a phone system that was past its use-by-date, especially at times of civil defence emergencies or when ratepayers were trying to call during normal business hours. After additional discussion around potentially offsetting savings, the following motion was put to the meeting:

MOTION

Cr Jim Hopkins / Cr Jan Wheeler

That Council’s training and development budget be reduced by \$10K to offset the savings with the phone system.

This motion was discussed. The Chair put the motion, and it was declared LOST (votes 5 – 6).

MOTION

Cr Hugh Perkins / Cr Guy Percival

That officers reduce depreciation funding by \$100K per year unless officers produce information to substantiate its inclusion before 27 March 2018.

Discussion on this motion:

Group Manager Paul Hope advised that officers would be unlikely to be able to come up with compelling evidence as required by this motion before 27 March; instead, it would need to be part of the final process (leading up to the adoption of the LTP in June 2018).

Accounting Manager Ian Wells further advised that the wording should be changed to reflect a wish to “unfund depreciation” (rather than reduce it), since it was a charge and largely fixed by accounting rules and regulations. As the mover and seconder, Cr Hugh Perkins and Cr Guy Percival agreed, and the following revised motion was put to the meeting:

REVISED
MOTION

Cr Hugh Perkins / Cr Guy Percival

That officers look at options for unfunding a further \$100K of depreciation and report back to Council prior to the final adoption of the 2018-28 LTP.

Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale sought to amend the revised motion, by putting the following motion:

“That Council instructs officers to come back to Council with savings on depreciation”.

Cr Craig Dawson seconded that motion.

Discussion on the amended motion followed.

The Chair put the amended motion to the meeting, which was declared LOST (votes 2 – 9).

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting, as follows:

RESOLVED

WDC 2018/032

Cr Hugh Perkins / Cr Guy Percival

That officers look at options for unfunding a further \$100K of depreciation and report back to Council prior to the final adoption of the 2018-28 LTP.

CARRIED

Against: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

Corporate section

RESOLVED

WDC 2018/033

Cr Jan Wheeler / Cr Peter Garvan

That funding for the “Queen VIC 200 celebration” be removed from the Proposals for the 2018-28 LTP.

CARRIED

RESOLVED

WDC 2018/034

Cr Jim Hopkins / Cr Hugh Perkins

That \$250K of Council investment funds be set aside to support a voluntary targeted rate home insulation scheme, subject to EECA involvement and agreement on the terms of reference.

CARRIED

Cr Guy Percival left the meeting, at 11.35am.

With discussions having reached the end of the Proposals spreadsheet, the Chair signalled his intention to move the report recommendations all at once.

RESOLVED

WDC 2018/035

Mayor Gary Kircher / Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

That Council:

1. Notes that it is scheduled to approve consultation on the 2018-28 Long Term Plan at its 27 March 2018 meeting.
2. Notes that Council staff have implemented direction provided at the 27 February 2018 Councillor workshop about proposed projects and funding requirements for the 2018-28 Long Term Plan and that this is provided in Attachment 2.
3. Approves the information provided in Attachment 2, as amended as the basis for Council staff to complete the 2018-28 Long Term Plan Consultation Document.
4. Notes that direction provided at the 27 February 2018 Councillor workshop on the following LTP components is being implemented and will be submitted for approval at the 27 March 2018 Council Meeting:
 - 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy and Financial Strategy
 - Planning Assumptions, Uncertainty and Risk
 - Māori Contribution to decision-making
 - Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services and Waste Management Plan
 - Financial and Rating Information
 - Performance Framework, Measures and Targets.

5. Directs Council staff to complete the Consultation Document and underlying information for the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, for approval at the 27 March 2018 Council meeting
6. Notes that Council staff will work with Communications Portfolio Councillors to complete the Consultation Document for approval at the 27 March 2018 Council meeting.

CARRIED

The Chair thanked all Councillors and staff for their efforts and time on getting the LTP documents to this point in the process. He asked all Councillors to actively encourage people in their communities to make submissions on the LTP once it was released for public consultation after the 27 March 2018 Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.36am.

CONFIRMED at the Council Meeting held on the 27th day of March 2018 in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, Waitaki District Council Headquarters, 20 Thames Street, Oamaru.

[signed]

Chairperson