

**CONFIRMED MINUTES**  
**OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR,**  
**OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU**  
**AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO-CONFERENCE**  
**ON TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST 2023 AT 9.00AM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Gary Kircher (Chair), Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele (Deputy Chair), Cr Tim Blackler, Cr Brent Cowles (via Zoom), Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Courtney Linwood, Cr Guy Percival, Cr John McCone, Cr Rebecca Ryan, and Cr Jim Thomson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Simon Neale (PAR Committee Chair)  
Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)  
Paul Hope (Finance and Corporate Development Group Manager and Acting Assets Group Manager)  
Ainslee Hooper (Governance and Policy Advisor)

**IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:**

Andrew Bardsley (Regulatory Manager)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.00am and welcomed everyone present.

**1 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PUBLIC FORUM**

**Speaker 1 Tinaya Kelly:**

Ms Kelly shared her personal view that there is discrimination in the Waitaki rental market against a certain demographic of people. She said she did not know what the solutions might be. She noted that the community has tried to come together to provide solutions and also that Council had been talking with Presbyterian Support Otago but that had been before it adopted a housing strategy.

The Mayor and Chief Executive advised in response that the Housing Strategy would need to be lined up with an implementation plan and that Council had now employed a dedicated role to facilitate that. The challenge was that it was not within Council's grasp to do it all.

## **4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2023**

The Chair confirmed that the Public Minutes of the 27 June 2023 Council Meeting had been deferred to a future Council Meeting as a result of resourcing constraints at this time.

### **4.2 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2023**

#### **RESOLVED WDC 2023/122**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council confirms the Public Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 July 2023, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED**

## **5 DECISION REPORTS**

### **5.1 COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

The report, as circulated, sought to ensure the Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021 is amended to reflect the changes brought about by the incorporation of the Self-contained Motor Vehicle Legislation Act 2023 into the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Key points during the discussion are summarised below.

Asked why the new definition of homelessness was not in our bylaw to prevent people saying that they were homeless and therefore were allowed to camp, Regulatory Manager Andrew Bardsley advised that many councils were asking that question and the answer was that it is now in the Act so does not need to be part of the bylaw. Commonsense will still be needed to address some of the inevitable grey areas. Waitaki's Freedom Camping Ambassadors provided advice to those who choose to live in camper vans about more appropriate places for them to be and worked with Stronger Waitaki to assist them. He also confirmed that Council officers do not penalise anyone who is identified as 'homeless'.

The new Act had a new definition of 'motor vehicle' which included an additional category of 'slide on vehicles' (units that are capable of being transported by another vehicle). Waitaki's bylaw did not include that and it was suggested it should be because without it, Council officers could not penalise people for using them. Mr Bardsley noted that Waitaki's bylaw also defaults back to the Freedom Camping Act, so it was available via that platform, but it could be added to the bylaw for clarification purposes. He suggested wording for the bylaw could be that 'vehicle' has the same meaning as set out in the Freedom Camping Act. The Chair agreed that would be helpful and asked that it be added to the bylaw.

#### **ACTION: Regulatory Manager**

Regarding tenting restrictions in the wake of the new national rules applying to motor vehicles, Mr Bardsley acknowledged that the Waitaki bylaw had not previously considered tenting because it was believed to be captured under the definition of 'camping'. However, with the changes to the Act now in place, tenting is now considered to be 'freedom camping' because a tent cannot be certified. Again, officers use a practical approach to such matters and there have been minimal issues to date. However, anybody who is just camping and their vehicle is not certified would now be in breach of the bylaw.

**RESOLVED WDC 2023/123**

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Cr Jim Hopkins

That Council approves the amendments to the Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021 as set out in attachments 1 and 2, with additional references to the freedom Camping Act as appropriate.

**.CARRIED**

**5.2 ADOPTION OF WAITAKI DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The report, as circulated, sought Council's adoption of the Waitaki Destination Management Plan.

Chief Executive Alex Parmley highlighted that the Plan was based on a partnership approach for development and included engagement as well. It was very focused on how to increase the value of the tourism economy for the district and was not a plan for Council to implement on its own.

A request was made to check the references on page 3 of the Plan to the series of opportunities compared with the Capex by project type discussion with coloured graphics, as the latter attributed a lesser amount to accommodation. If the graphics are right, then the text needed to be changed; if the text is correct then the graphics needed to be changed. The Chief Executive undertook to check those comparisons to make sure what is stated matches reality.

**ACTION: Chief Executive**

Key points of the ensuing discussion are summarised below.

Tourism experts had been engaged to help Council develop the 'top 10 ranking', so the list and the prioritisation was not Council's. The plan is an action plan for the district, not for Council. Regarding a suggestion to change the Plan, Mr Parmley advised that that would be premature, because Council had not agreed to set up the Economic Development Agency or to disestablish Tourism Waitaki Limited yet, so it could not get ahead of those decisions yet to be considered.

Regarding the Janet Frame House proposal, it was hoped that some central government resources would be sourced to contribute to that project.

Support for the ventures was put forward but also a suggestion that Council needed to attend to the work that would benefit the whole district first, because that would benefit everyone. It was clarified that the aim of the Plan is to assist overall for a vision for tourism and how Waitaki can work with the visitor market to make sure that the district received the most benefit possible.

The Geopark was suggested as "our challenge and our opportunity" and some concern was raised about the few references to it in the Plan which could suggest that the onus for progress with that would seem to sit with Council. It was suggested the Plan needed to incorporate some clearer signals that Council would be going to central government and other external funding sources to help support Geopark initiatives which carried 'big bills'. The Chair reiterated that Council was only one of the players in the Geopark, just as it was with the Alps2Ocean trail. The Plan did not say how much future councils would commit to the Geopark, because that would be for them to decide at the appropriate time. The Geopark Trust would be tasked with sourcing funding and donations from this community and beyond, and given the UNESCO status it now held, it was hoped that central government would be contributing. Mr Parmley confirmed that external funding partnerships would be sought and the feasibility study would investigate those opportunities.

**RESOLVED WDC 2023/124**

Moved: Cr Jeremy Holding  
Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council:

1. Adopts the Waitaki Destination Management Plan included as Attachment 1, noting that further updates will be made to the content for the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to reflect that it now has UNESCO Global Geopark status and to the Alps 2 Ocean trail so that both are highlighted as key destinations in Waitaki; and
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive the finalisation of those updates to the Waitaki Destination Management Plan and the approval of them by Tourism Waitaki Limited before the Plan is published.

**.CARRIED**

**6 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED WDC 2023/125**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele  
Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<b>7.2 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 June 2023</b>	s6(a) - the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of 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 under section 6 or section 7
<b>7.3 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 July 2023</b>	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons  s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)  s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of 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 under section 6 or section 7

	official information for improper gain or improper advantage	
<b>7.4 - Recommendation from Grants and Awards Sub-committee Meeting (Waitaki Heritage Fund) (Public Excluded) held on 27 June 2023</b>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of 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 under section 6 or section 7
<b>7.5 - Selection of Sports and Events Centre Preferred Partner PE</b>	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary 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</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of 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 under section 6 or section 7

**CARRIED**

## **7 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION**

The Public Excluded Minutes apply to this section of the meeting.

## **8 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING**

### **RESOLVED WDC 2023/130**

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson  
 Seconded: Cr Rebecca Ryan

That Council resumes in open meeting and decisions made in the public excluded session are confirmed and made public as and when required and considered.

**CARRIED**

**9 RELEASE OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED INFORMATION**

In accordance with Waitaki District Council Standing Orders, and pursuant to resolutions in the public excluded session of the meeting, any previously public excluded information that Council decides to release will be included under this agenda item in the Public Minutes of this meeting.

**10 MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed, at 11.03am.

CONFIRMED at the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 22 August 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON