



Council

OPEN MINUTES

(UNCONFIRMED)

Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Tuatapere RSA Hall, 61 Main Street, Tuatapere on Wednesday, 11 June 2025 at 10am. (10.05am – 11.45am)

PRESENT

Mayor	Rob Scott
Deputy mayor	Christine Menzies
Councillors	Jaspreet Boparai
	Derek Chamberlain
	Paul Duffy
	Darren Frazer
	Sarah Greaney
	Julie Keast
	Tom O'Brien
	Margie Ruddenklau
	Jon Spraggon
	Matt Wilson

APOLOGIES

Councillor Don Byars

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee advisor	Rachael Poole
Chief executive	Cameron McIntosh

Mayor Scott opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga as follows:

Mā te whakarongo	Through listening
Mā te kōrero	Through talking
Mā te ngakau	From the heart
Mā te wairua	From the spirit
Mā te manaaki mai	Through giving
Mā te manaaki atu	And receiving respect
Ka puawai te maramatanga	Understanding will bloom
Tihei mauri ora	This is the essence of life

1 Apologies

There was an apology from Councillor Byars.

Moved Cr Ruddenklau, seconded Deputy Mayor Menzies **and resolved:**

That Council accept the apology.

2 Leave of absence

There were requests for leave of absence as follows:

- Councillor Chamberlain – 28 June 2025 to 10 July 2025
- Councillor Ruddenklau – 7 July 2025 to 25 July 2025.

Moved Cr Boparai, seconded Cr Frazer **and resolved:**

That Council agrees the leave of absence requests.

3 Conflict of Interest

Councillor Ruddenklau declared an interest in relation to item 7.2 Management update, specifically the Monthly activity summary report update April 2025 – community facilities around 6.3 collaborating with community groups, around her involvement with Kowhai Reach and stated that she would speak to this during the report.

4 Extraordinary/Urgent Items

There were no Extraordinary/Urgent items.

5 Confirmation of Council Minutes

Resolution

Moved Cr Boparai, seconded Cr Keast **and resolved:**

That the Council confirms the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

6 Public Participation

Johan Groters addressed the meeting about the role Great South and that for his tourism business (Wairaurahiri Jet) he is not feeling as though smaller tourism operators are getting much value for money or benefit from the money being invested in Great South by Council.

Reports

7.1 Local water done well (LWDW) consultation

Record No: R/25/5/24314

Group Manager Infrastructure and Capital Delivery – Fran Mikulicic was in attendance for this item.

The purpose of the report was to seek Council's decision on the preferred water services delivery model to be adopted as part of Southland District Council's Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), as required under the local government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.

The decision will enabled Council to:

- meet its statutory obligation to identify and implement a financially sustainable model for the delivery of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services
- formally confirm the service delivery approach that will be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) by the required deadline of 3 September 2025
- provide certainty for staff, stakeholders, and the community on how water services will be delivered and governed under the new legislative framework
- give effect to the outcomes of the public consultation process undertaken in April and May 2025, ensuring the community's voice is reflected in Council's decision-making.

The Water Services Delivery Plan must demonstrate how Council will ensure regulatory compliance, maintain or improve levels of service and achieve financial sustainability for water services by 30 June 2028. Selecting the preferred model is a critical step in finalising the plan and progressing the implementation pathway.

After considering operational, financial, governance, and compliance factors — alongside strong community feedback it was staff recommend that Council adopt the Adjusted Status Quo model (an in-house business unit) as the basis for developing its Water Services Delivery Plan. This model retains Council responsibility for water services while meeting new legal and regulatory requirements.

There were 193 submissions received plus seven late submissions, of which 97% of respondents supported the Adjusted Status Quo model. Submitters highlighted the importance of local control, cost efficiency, simplicity, and confidence in Council's current performance. There was widespread concern about the costs and complexity associated

with establishing a new standalone Council Controlled Organisation, including the projected \$750,000 in setup costs and \$625,000 in annual operating expenses.

Council's decision to proceed with the Adjusted Status Quo provided a clear mandate to begin preparing the Water Services Delivery Plan for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs by the statutory deadline of 3 September 2025. This plan must show how Council will:

- deliver drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services in compliance with new national standards by 30 June 2028
- ensure financial sustainability, including the ability to fund operating, compliance, and capital costs
- maintain or improve levels of service, governance oversight, and infrastructure resilience
- implement financial ringfencing and reporting arrangements that meet regulatory expectations.

The next phase involves drafting the Water Services Delivery Plan, incorporating community views, financial modelling, an implementation plan, and engagement with key stakeholders including mana whenua, operational staff, and central government agencies. Council will continue working closely with the Department of Internal Affairs — including through a national case study — to ensure the plan reflects Southland's unique rural context and positions the district for long-term success under the new framework.

Mayor Scott acknowledged and thanked the staff who attended the community meeting with him, and also thanked those who took the time to attend the meetings and engage with him on this topic.

Resolution

Moved Cr Greaney, seconded Cr Keast **and resolved:**

That Council:

- a) Receives the report titled "Local Water Done Well – Decision on Preferred Water Services Delivery Model".**
- b) Notes that this decision is required to enable finalisation of the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025, in accordance with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.**
- c) Determines that this matter is significant under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, due to the long-term implications for infrastructure, governance, and community wellbeing. Notes that Council is making this decision in accordance with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and confirms that it has sufficient information to do so.**
- d) Confirms that the consultation and decision-making requirements set out in sections 61–64 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (being the alternative requirements to those in the Local Government Act 2002), and other relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 (except where modified by those alternative**

requirements), have been complied with to the extent necessary, and that sufficient information is available to make a decision without further analysis of options or impacts.

- e) Notes the extensive public consultation process occurred under the alternative consultation and decision-making process and was undertaken during April–May 2025, including public meetings, digital engagement, and written submissions, and the overwhelming community support for the Adjusted Status Quo option.
- f) Adopts the Adjusted Status Quo (in-house business unit) as Southland District Council’s preferred water services delivery model to be included in the Water Services Delivery Plan.
- g) Notes that this decision does not preclude future consideration of other delivery models, should legislative changes or regional opportunities arise.
- h) Authorises the chief executive to finalise the draft Water Services Delivery Plan for formal adoption by Council no later than 30 August 2025, and to submit the plan to the secretary for local government by 3 September 2025.

7.2 Management report June 2025

Record No: R/25/3/13459

Chief Executive – Cameron McIntosh was in attendance for this report and he shared with Council some of the new legislation that had just been publicly released and discussed the activity summary reports.

Resolution

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr Duffy **and resolved:**

That the Council:

- a) receives the report titled “Management report June 2025”.

7.3 Mayor's report

Record No: R/25/3/10768

Mayor Scott took the Councillors through his report which highlighted meetings and events that he had attended. Mayor Scott, Cr O'Brien and Cr Wilson spoke about the onsite meeting they attended with the Mid Dome Trust, Cr Keast spoke about the Citizen Advice Bureau’s launch of their community directory and Cr Greaney gave an update on Connected Murihiku.

Resolution

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr O'Brien **and resolved:**

That the Council:

- a) receives the report titled “Mayor's report”.

7.4 Nightcaps hall, installation of new diesel tank - retrospective unbudgeted expenditure request

Record No: R/25/5/24716

Community Facilities Manager – Mark Day and GM Community and Customer Wellbeing – Sam Marshall were in attendance for this time.

The purpose of the report was for Council to the recommendation made by the Wallace Takitimu Community Board at its meeting on 5 June 2025, that retrospective unbudgeted expenditure be approved to cover the cost of installing a new diesel tank at the Nightcaps hall.

In April 2024, staff were advised that the diesel tank at the Nightcaps hall would not pass anymore compliance inspections and needed urgent replacement. A second-hand tank was purchased in May 2024 and the installation took place at the beginning of the 2024/2025 financial year.

There was no budget allowance for this work a retrospective unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,316.56 was recommended by the Board to Council.

Resolution

Moved Deputy Mayor Menzies, seconded Cr Chamberlain **and resolved:**

That the Council:

- a) **receives the report titled “Nightcaps hall, installation of new diesel tank - retrospective unbudgeted expenditure request”.**
- b) **determines that this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- c) **determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.**
- d) **notes that these costs are capital expenditure and that the board does not have delegation to approve this expenditure.**
- e) **approves retrospective unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,316.56 plus GST for the transport and installation of the replacement diesel tank at the Nightcaps hall.**
- f) **notes that the project be funded as follows**
 - **any operational underspends in 2024/2025;**
 - **with the remainder to be funded via the Nightcaps Community Centre Reserve.**

7.5 Unbudgeted expenditure report - Ohai Railway Fund - March 2025 funding round

Record No: R/25/5/24510

Community Liaison Officer – Kathryn Cowie (via video link) and GM Community and Customer Wellbeing – Sam Marshall were in attendance for the item.

The purpose of the report was to seek approval from Council to allow unbudgeted grant expenditure by the Ohai Railway Fund Committee for the March 2025 round of funding allocations.

In the March 2025 funding round of the Ohai Railway Fund, the committee received seven individual or tertiary applications, and three applications from organisations in the local community.

For the 2024/2025 financial year \$55,000 has been budgeted to be allocated via grants. \$39,947 was allocated in the September 2024 funding round, leaving \$15,053 remaining, budgeted to allocate in the March round.

The total amount of requests received were \$55,100 from organisations, plus \$6,700 for individual grants if the committee allocated all, as per the criteria.

The Ohai Railway Fund Committee decided to allocate the \$6,700 for the seven individual grants, and \$20,100 for the organisations. The total amount allocated was \$26,800, for the March 2025 funding round, and \$66,747 for the 2024/2025 financial year.

The Finance department at the Ohai Railway Fund meeting on Friday 9 May 2025, it advised that any grants allocated above the estimated interest income level of \$81,089 would need to be funded from the reserve.

The allocated amount of \$66,747 exceeded the budgeted amount left to spend by \$11,747, which is the amount of unbudgeted expenditure required to be approved by Council.

Resolution

Moved Cr Chamberlain, seconded Cr Boparai

That the Council:

- a) receives the report titled “Unbudgeted expenditure report - Ohai Railway Fund - March 2025 funding round”.**
- b) determines that this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.**
- d) approves the unbudgeted expenditure of \$11,747 in Ohai Railway Fund grant allocations from the Ohai Railway Fund interest income.**

The meeting closed with a karakia whakamutunga as follows:

Kia hora te marino
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana
Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tātou i a tātou katoa
Hui e! Tāiki e!

May peace be widespread
May the sea be like greenstone
A pathway for us all this day
Let us show respect for each other
For one another
Bind us all together!

The meeting concluded at 11.45am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record of a meeting
of the Council held on Wednesday 11 June 2025.

DATE:

CHAIRPERSON: