



Minutes

Southland District Council

Wednesday, 11 February 2026, 10am.
Council Chamber, Level 2, 20 Don Street, Invercargill

PRESENT

Mayor	Rob Scott
Deputy mayor	Christine Menzies
Councillors	Jaspreet Boparai
	Don Byars
	Phil Dobson
	Paul Duffy
	Sarah Greaney (via video link)
	Julie Keast
	Tom O'Brien
	Brian Somerville
	Jon Spraggon
	Michael Weusten
	Matt Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee advisor	Fiona Dunlop
GM strategy and partnerships	Vibhuti Chopra

1 Opening

The Mayor opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

Recommendation

There were no apologies.

3 Leave of absence

Councillor O'Brien requested an amendment to his previously approved leave of absence for 13 to 18 February 2026.

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr Menzies

That Council approve the leave of absence request for Councillor O'Brien from 13 to 18 February 2026.

Carried

4 Conflict of interest

Councillor Weusten declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 8.4 Southland Regional Heritage Fund - interim funding round.

5 Additional agenda items

There were no additional agenda items.

6 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved

Moved Cr O'Brien/Cr Dobson

That the Council confirms the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2026 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

7 Public participation

There was no public participation.

Reports

8.1 Submissions to Central Government on legislative reform

Record No: R/26/1/2959

Report presented by Senior policy analyst, Ana Bremer.

The purpose of the report was to give Council the opportunity to provide feedback on five submissions to Central Government on proposed reform impacting Local Government.

(During discussion Councillor Byars joined the meeting at 10.05am.)

Resolved

Moved Cr Menzies/Cr Dobson

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as some importance based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy but is not considered significant. Public consultation is not required.
- 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) note Council's submission on the Rates Capping Proposal (submitted 4 February 2026).
- e) reviews and provides feedback on draft submissions.
- f) approves, subject to completion of any amendments recommended by Council, submission of the:
 - i) Submission to Governance and Administration Committee - Emergency Management Bill, by Friday 13 February
 - ii) Submission to Environment Committee - Planning Bill, by Friday 13 February
 - iii) Submission to Finance and Expenditure Committee - Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill, by Friday 20 February

- iv) Submission to Department of Internal Affairs - Local Government (Infrastructure funding) Amendment Bill (Development Levies System), by Friday 20 February
- v) Submission to Department of Internal Affairs - Simplifying Local Government proposal, by Friday 20 February.
- g) thanks all the staff involved in undertaking the work required to complete the submissions for approval by Council and lodgement.

Carried

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as indicated.

8.2 Chorus New Zealand update to Council

Record No: R/26/1/2940

Jo Seddon the Community Relations Lead at Chorus New Zealand was present to speak to Council about Chorus, what it does and its plans for the network area.

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr Menzies

That the Council:

- a) notes the information and thanks Chorus New Zealand Community Relations Lead Jo Seddon for her presentation.

Carried

8.3 Taumata Arowai update to Council

Record No: R/26/1/2941

Tim Cadogan the engagement specialist and Shine Singh water services officer for Water Service Authority – Taumata Arowai, were present via video link to engage with Council. They gave an overview of the Authority and to answered questions.

During discussion Councillor Weusten left the meeting at 11.14am and returned at 11.19am.)

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Duffy

That the Council:

- a) notes the information and thanks Water Service Authority – Taumata Arowai Engagement Specialist – Tim Cadogan for his presentation.

Carried

8.4 Southland Regional Heritage Fund - interim funding round

Record No: R/26/1/793

Report presented by Community liaison officer, Kathryn Cowie. GM customer and community wellbeing Sam Marshall and Finance business partner Lesley Smith were in attendance.

The purpose of the report was for Council to decide whether to implement an interim funding round in March 2026 for the Southland Regional Heritage Fund, and to provide an update on the transition process.

Resolved

Moved Cr Duffy/Cr Keast

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as some importance based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy . On this basis the assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to this decision being made.
- 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) agrees to implement an interim funding round for Southland Regional Heritage in March 2026 up to \$50,000 to be funded from Council's Regional Heritage rate collected in the 2025/2026 financial year.
- e) agrees to the purpose and criteria of the funding round to be based on the Southland Regional Heritage Fund purpose and criteria with an amended focus on organisations and projects benefiting the Southland District Council area
- f) acknowledges and thanks Great South for supporting and administering this interim funding round
- g) that an interim advisory group be set up to discuss and recommend grant allocations from the fund to Council
- h) that the interim advisory group be made up of Councillor Duffy, Councillor Menzies, Southland District Council Roving Museum Officer, and a member of the Community Leadership team.
- i) **Undertakes discussion with Iwi to request their input into the process.**
- j) agrees to fund from the regional heritage rate, the ongoing costs associated with the Roving Museum Officer role including a supplies budget, totalling \$53,750."

Carried

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as **indicated**.

8.5 Te Anau Airport Manapouri newsletter

Record No: R/26/2/4404

Report presented by Strategic communications and engagement manager, Louise Pagan

Councillor Greaney spoke to the newsletter.

The purpose of the report was to present a copy of the latest Te Anau Airport Manapouri newsletter, created by Great South for information.

(During discussion, Councillor Duffy left the meeting at 12noon and returned at 12.03pm.)

Resolved

Moved Cr Menzies/Cr Dobson

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the Te Anau Airport Manapouri newsletter.

Carried

The meeting closed at 12.07pm.

Confirmed on:

Signed: