



Minutes

Southland District Council

Wednesday, 18 March 2026, 10.01am.
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 (via video link)
	Brian Somerville
	Jon Spraggon
	Michael Weusten
	Matt Wilson (via video link)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Duffy (early departure)

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee advisor	Fiona Dunlop
Chief executive	Cameron McIntosh

1 Opening

The Mayor opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

There were apologies for an early departure from Councillor Duffy.

Resolved

Moved Cr Spraggon/Cr Keast

That Council receives the apology for an early departure.

Carried

3 Leave of absence

Recommendation

There were no requests for leave of absence.

4 Conflict of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Additional agenda items

There were no additional agenda items.

6 Confirmation of minutes

There are no minutes to confirm.

7 Public participation

There was no public participation.

Reports

8.1 Adoption of Local Alcohol Policy 2026

Record No: R/26/3/102724

Report presented by Senior policy analyst, Ana Bremer with GM strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to provide the final Local Alcohol Policy 2026 for Council to agree public notification, adoption, and operative dates.

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/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 significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and that public consultation has been undertaken.
- 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) receives the final Local Alcohol Policy 2026, and resolves:
 - i) public notification of the Local Alcohol Policy will take place on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March 2026
 - ii) adoption of the policy will take place 30 days post-public notification, on Monday 27 April 2026
 - iii) the operative date of the policy will be the same as the adoption date, being Monday 27 April 2026.
- e) resolves that in adopting the Local Alcohol Policy 2026, the Combined Local Alcohol Policy 2015 is revoked.

Carried

8.2 Update on Local Government Commission reorganisation investigation process

Record No: R/26/3/102704

Report presented by Senior policy analyst, Ana Bremer with GM strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the Local Government Commission's process for the investigation of reorganisation of the local government structure in Southland.

Council expressed its disappointment in being only allowed to have three elected members at the workshop being facilitated by Martin Jenkins on Monday 30 March 2026 with the Local Government Commission and the four councils.

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Menzies

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) **formally notes the disappointment that Council is only able to have three elected members present for the workshop being held online on Monday 30 March 2026.**

Carried

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

8.3 Better off Fund - project update

Record No: R/26/1/3228

Report presented by Strategic project lead, Simon Moran, with GM strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra and Programme delivery manager, Dave Connell in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to provide councillors with an update of where the Better Off Funding projects are at currently.

Resolved

Moved Cr Boparai/Cr Dobson

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) **request an update at the Council meeting on 24 June 2026.**

Carried

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

8.4 Offer to gift Orepuke water tanks property (35 Oldham Street) to Council.

Record No: R/26/2/101317

Report presented by Manager property services, Kevin McNaught with GM customer and community wellbeing, Sam Marshall in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to consider a request from the Orepuke Volunteer Fire Brigade to gift to Council the property at 36 Oldham Street, Orepuke, containing the three firefighting water storage tanks.

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Somerville

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 no community engagement other than receiving the recommendation of the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board is recommended.
- 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) determines to accept the gift of land from the Orepuki Volunteer Fire Brigade being the property at 35 Oldham Street Orepuki being Lot 2 DP 12425 contained in Record of Title SL9C/667
- e) delegates to the chief executive the authority to execute any agreements or other documentation required to achieve the transfer of ownership of the property.

Carried

8.5 Local Governance Statement 2025-2028

Record No: R/26/3/102765

Report presented by Democracy advisor, Michal Gray with GM strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra in attendance.

The purpose of the report was for Council to adopt its Local Governance Statement for the 2025-2028 triennium.

Resolved

Moved Cr Weusten/Cr Keast

That the 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 engagement will not be undertaken.
- 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) adopts the Local Governance Statement for the 2025-2028 triennium.
- e) delegates authority to the chief executive to update the Local Governance Statement during the triennium as appropriate to ensure it is current and correct.
- f) **request that the chief executive investigate the status of the Southland Land Drainage Act 1935 and report back to Council.**

Carried

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

Public excluded

Exclusion of the public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolved

Moved Cr Spraggon/Cr Keast

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

9.1 Appointment of members to the Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Allocation Subcommittee

The general subject 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(1) 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(1) for the passing of this resolution
Appointment of members to the Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Allocation Subcommittee	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.	That the public conduct of the whole or 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 exists.

Carried

The public were excluded at 10.39am.

(Councillor Duffy left the meeting at 10.39am.

The meeting closed at 10.58am.

Confirmed on: 25 March 2026.

Signed:

