



Minutes

Southland District Council

Wednesday, 22 April 2026, 10am.
Council Chamber, Level 2, 20 Don Street, Invercargill

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor Don Byars
Councillor Sarah Greaney (Council approved leave of absence, but she would be present via video link for item 9.1 - Milford Community Trust - appointment of trustees)

IN ATTENDANCE

GM Strategy and Partnerships – Vibhuti Chopra
Committee Advisor – Fiona Dunlop

1 Opening

The Mayor opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

There were apologies from Councillor Byars and Councillor Greaney.

While Councillor Greaney is a Council approved leave of absence she had advised that she would be present via video link for item 9.1 - Milford Community Trust - appointment of trustees.

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Menzies

That the apologies be received.

Carried

3 Leave of absence

Councillor Weusten advised of a leave of absence from 26 May 2026 to 2 June 2026.

Resolved

Moved Cr Boparai/Cr Keast

That Council agrees the leave of absence request for Councillor Weusten.

Carried

4 Conflict of interest

Councillor Menzies advised that she had a conflict of interest with item 8.4 Approval of Private Plan Change 4 as she was one of the commissioners for the hearing.

5 Additional agenda items

There were no additional agenda items.

6 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved

Moved Cr Spraggon/Cr Boparai

That the Council confirms the minutes of the meetings held on 1 April 2026 and 8 April 2026 as a true and correct record of those meetings.

Carried

7 Public participation

Nathan Surendran addressed the meeting in relation to the energy crisis, council operations, food and water security and financial risk.

Reports

8.1 Great South update to Southland District Council

Record No: R/26/3/102728

Great South chief executive Chami Abeysinghe, GM regional strategy – Bobbi Brown, GM tourism and events Mark Frood and GM strategic projects Steve Canny were in attendance.

Council were updated on the Great South second quarter update of the 2025/2026 business year.

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr Menzies

That the Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report and thanks Great South for their attendance.

Carried

8.5 Proposal for Monkey Island shelter refurbishment

Record No: R/26/4/108738

Report presented by Community partnership leader, Stella O'Connor with GM customer and community wellbeing, Sam Marshall in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to provide Council with a proposal for the refurbishment of the shelter at Monkey Island, Orepuki. The shelter refurbishment forms part of Project P-10842: Monkey Island - Shelter Area Development (Stage 2).

Resolved

Moved Cr Weusten/Cr Boparai

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being of moderate importance but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore appropriate engagement has already occurred.
- 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 proposal for the Monkey Island shelter refurbishment scope and associated indicative estimate of \$112,000 noting the exclusion of the internal and external plastering.
- e) delegates **authority to the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board** chair and deputy chair to make any further **recommendations changes** on scope or budget changes associated with the Monkey Island shelter on behalf of the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board

Carried

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as indicated.

8.3 Mayor's report

Record No: R/26/3/106913

Mayor Scott presented his report to the meeting and updated on the many events/meetings that he had been involved with from January and mid-April 2026.

Councillor Duffy advised that he had attended a workshop (on behalf of Mayor Scott) run by the Ministry for Primary Industries about foot and mouth disease and the impacts of an outbreak.

Councillor Wilson spoke about the recent Regional Climate Change Working group report which had been considered at a working group meeting in March 2026.

Mayor Scott on behalf of Councillor Greaney advise that Connect Murihiku had been "wound up".

During discussion on the Mayor's report, the issue of EV charging for the mayors car was raised. Discussion included a request that staff investigate the installation of a charger unit at the mayor's residence.

Diane Holmes – chair of the Fiordland Community Board was in attendance to update Council. Mrs Holmes advised that the Board had been very busy and involved with many activities.

Resolved

Moved Cr Boparai/Cr Menzies

That the Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) alters a resolution Council made on 25 November 2025, 'requesting the chief executive to prepare a service delivery review for the provision of heritage services in Southland and provide report back to the Council before June 2026', by extending the due date to 10 October 2026.
- c) request that staff investigate EV charging for the Mayor given the rise in fuel costs.

Carried

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as indicated.

8.2 Dog registration fees 2026/2027

Record No: R/26/3/106282

Report presented by Team leader monitoring and compliance, Dave Blanks with GM Regulatory Services, Adrian Humphries in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to set the dog registration fees for the 2026/2027 year. The report also included fees and charges under the Impounding Act for stock animals.

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 being of some importance but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
- 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 set the dog registration fees and stock control fees (effective 1 July 2026 and inclusive of GST) for the 2026/2027 registration year as follows:

Type	Fee	
Working dogs		
New dog registration – working dogs and stock dogs	Flat fee Pro rata for part year	\$40.00

Renewal of dog registration – working dogs and stock dogs	Flat fee	\$40.00
Renewal of dog registration – service dogs with current papers		Free
New dog registration – service dogs with current papers		Free
Pet dogs – new/renewal (older than 3 months on 1 July)		
No discounts applied	Flat fee	\$110.00
Dog is spayed or neutered	Discounted fee	\$80.00
Dog has a responsible owner (according to Council's criteria)	Discounted fee	\$80.00
Dog is spayed or neutered and has a responsible owner (according to Council's criteria)	Discounted fee	\$50.00
Late payment fee all dogs - registration paid after 1 August	Percentage of applicable fee	+50%
Dangerous dogs		
Registration	Percentage of applicable fee	+50%
Dog control		
Property inspections to verify discount / dog class etc.		\$50.00
Dog hearing lodgement fee		\$100.00
Replacement tag - first		\$6.50
Replacement tag – second and subsequent tags		\$13.00
After hours collection fee		\$180.00
Charge out rate for vehicles	Per kilometre	\$1.17
Multiple dog licence application fee (3 or more)		\$50.00
Dog collars		\$10.00
Dog leads		\$12.00
Microchipping		
Microchipping of a dog registered with SDC		No charge
Commercial breeders that require more than four pups to be microchipped per registration year	Per dog for the fifth and subsequent dog	\$30.00
Impounding		
Impounding of dog		\$150.00
Impounding of dog - second and subsequent impoundments (and infringement fees charged where applicable)		\$200.00
Long term stays (greater than one month) monthly fee Where a dog is impounded and is awaiting the outcome of a Court hearing or similar, a monthly fee will be applied, and monthly invoices will be issued to the owner		\$300.00

After hours release (minimum of one-hour staff time), only by prior arrangement and all outstanding fees and infringements must be paid		\$180.00
Surrendering of dog for rehoming		\$120.00
Sustenance of impounded dog	Per day or part thereof	\$25.00
Euthanasia/Veterinarian bills		Actual cost
Rehoming		
A dog impounded by SDC and released to an SDC authorised rehoming provider for either fostering or rehoming (initial registration only)		Free
A dog received by an SDC authorised rehoming provider for the purpose of rehoming, that is either from the Southland district, or to be rehomed in the Southland district (initial registration only)		Free
Impounding Act Under the Impounding Act Council also have a responsibility for removing stock from places where they should not be and returning stock to their owners.		
Stock wandering		
Fees for impounding of stock on district roads and highways		
Horses, donkeys, asses, mules, cattle, deer	Per head	\$60.00
Sheep, goats, pigs, and other stock	Per head	\$30.00
Council animal control officer callout (Additional fee)	Per hour	\$120.00
Contractor callout		Actual cost
Sustenance		Actual cost
Hire of transportation or trailers		Actual cost
Moving stock on district roads		
Council animal control officer callout (does not apply to state highways)	Per hour	\$120.00
Contractor callout		Actual cost

- e) Agrees to publicly notify the fees during the month of June 2026.

Carried

8.4 Approval of Private Plan Change 4

Record No: R/26/3/106926

Report presented by Graduate Environmental Planner - Policy, Elise Provis, with Strategic Planning and Policy Manager, Gavin McCullagh and Commissioner Rob van Voorthuysen (on video link) in attendance.

The purpose of the report was to present to Council for decision, the recommendation report of the Hearing Panel on Plan Change 4 Noise Standards and Compliance for the Fonterra Edendale Dairy Plant (DEV1-R8).

Resolved

Moved Cr Duffy/Cr Dobson

That Council:

- a) receives the report titled “Approval of Plan Change 4”.
- b) determines that this matter or decision be recognised as 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 Plan Change 4 pursuant to Clause 17 of Schedule 1 to the RMA, with amendments as recommended by the Hearing Panel.

Carried

8.6 SIESA fuel unbudgeted expenditure

Record No: R/26/4/111193

Report presented by Strategic manager transport, Hartley Hare with GM infrastructure and capital delivery, Fran Mikulicic in attendance.

The purpose of the report was for Council to approve unbudgeted expenditure and funding for additional costs of fuel that are currently being incurred due to international conditions; along with an increase in the kWh charge from \$0.85 to \$0.89 (GST inclusive).

(During discussion, Councillor Greaney joined the meeting at 12.18pm.)

Resolved

Moved Cr Spraggon/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 being of moderate importance but not significant based on Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy with no engagement as the expenditure is needed to maintain the existing generation capacity.
- 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 unbudgeted expenditure of \$250,000 for increased fuel costs during 2025/2026 to be funded from SIESA reserves.
- e) approves the increase in the price per kWh by an additional 4 cents per unit, from \$0.85 to \$0.89 GST inclusive.

Carried

Public excluded

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

Resolved

Moved Mayor Scott/Cr Keast

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

9.1 Milford Community Trust - appointment of trustees

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
Milford Community Trust - appointment of trustees	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.</p> <p>Until appointed, the privacy of the people recommended by the Panel should be maintained as Council may decide not to appoint one or more as a trustee..</p>	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 meeting went into public excluded at 12.31pm.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.31pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.18pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1.30pm.

The meeting reconvened at 2.30pm.

(Councillor Greaney was not present on the video link when the meeting reconvened.)

The meeting closed at 2.35pm.

Confirmed on:

Signed: