



# Minutes

## Southland District Council

Wednesday, 13 May 2026, 10.02am.  
Council Chamber, Level 2, 20 Don Street, Invercargill

### PRESENT

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

### APOLOGIES

Councillor Paul Duffy

### IN ATTENDANCE

Committee advisor	Fiona Dunlop
Chief executive	Cameron McIntosh

1 Opening

Deputy Mayor Menzies opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

There were apologies from Councillor Duffy (on Council approved leave of absence).

Resolved

Moved Cr Boparai/Cr Somerville

That Council receive the apologies.

Carried

3 Leave of absence

There were leave of absence requests as follows:

- Councillor Byars - 5 June 2026 to 5 August 2026
- Councillor Menzies – 19 June 2026 to 26 June 2026
- Councillor O'Brien – 17 July 2026 to 1 August 2026

Resolved

Moved Cr Spraggon/Cr Keast

That Council approve the leave of absence requests.

Carried

4 Conflict of interest

Councillor Greaney declared a conflict of interest in relation item 8.5 - Deliberations on submissions received for the proposed licence to occupy for Floating Sauna Ltd at Lake Henry, Ivon Wilson Park, Te Anau. She advised she would not vote on the matter.

See item 8.6 Milford Community Trust request for extension of CCO exempt status for a conflict of interest declaration from Councillor Greaney.

See item 8.8 Taramea Howell's Point Reserve and Management plan for a conflict of interest declaration from Councillor Weusten.

5 Additional agenda items

There were no additional agenda items.

6 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved

Moved Cr Boparai/Cr Keast

That Council confirms the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2026 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Carried

7 Public participation

There was no public participation.

Reports

8.1 Updated Murihiku Southland Climate Change Impact Assessment

Record No: R/26/3/108154

Report presented by Climate change lead, Rochelle Francis with Environment Southland Principal Scientist, Hydrology Chris Jenkins and Environment Southland GM Science, Karen Wilson.

The purpose of the report was to update Council on the content and findings of an updated [Murihiku Southland Climate Change Impact Assessment](#) prepared by Earth Sciences New Zealand for Environment Southland.

Resolved

Moved Cr Greaney/Cr Boparai

That Council:

- a) **Lays the report on the table.**

Carried

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as indicated.

8.2 Notification of plan changes 2 and 3 becoming operative

Record No: R/26/4/114656

Report presented by Strategic planning and policy manager, Gavin McCullagh and GM strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra.

The purpose of the report was to inform Council of the notification of Plan Change 2 Subdivision, Land Use and Development Code of Practice and Plan Change 3: Rezone approximately 46 hectares in Woodlands/Morton Mains as fully operative.

Resolved

Moved Cr Weusten/Cr Spraggon

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.

Carried

8.3 October 2025 wind event - storm damage update

Record No: R/26/4/110882

Report presented by Group manager strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra.

The purpose of the report was to provide Council with information on the costs to Council, at this point in time, of the October 2025 wind event emergency.

(During discussion, Councillor Byars left the meeting at 10.53am.)

Resolved

Moved Cr O'Brien/Cr Boparai

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.

Carried

8.4 Winton RSA hall - unbudgeted expenditure and redistribution of Better off Funding

Record No: R/26/4/114103

Report presented by Community leadership manager, Jared Cappie and GM Group manager customer and community wellbeing, Sam Marshall.

The purpose of the report was to endorse a recommendation from the Ōreti Community Board that the unbudgeted expenditure for the Winton RSA Hall project and redistribution of funding for the Ōreti halls be approved.

(Councillor Byars returned to the meeting at 10.57am.)

Resolved

Moved Cr Somerville/Cr Dobson

That the 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 and therefore is not considered significant. 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 requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) endorses the recommendation of the Ōreti Community Board to approve unbudgeted expenditure of \$51,797 for the Winton RSA Hall budget, increasing the total budget to \$91,797.
- e) endorses the recommendation of the Ōreti Community Board to approve the redistribution of Better off Funding to the Winton RSA Hall project of \$76,667 from the Winton Memorial Hall project.
- f) endorses the recommendation of the Ōreti Community Board to approve the redistribution of Better off Funding to the Winton RSA Hall project of \$15,130 from the Ryal Bush hall project.
- g) endorses the recommendation of the Ōreti Community Board that the Winton Memorial Hall project of up to \$30,000 be funded by the Winton Community Centre reserve.
- h) endorses the recommendation of the Ōreti Community Board that any remaining Better off Funding be used to fund the Winton RSA Hall budget.

Carried

8.5 Deliberations on submissions received for the proposed licence to occupy for Floating Sauna Ltd at Lake Henry, Ivon Wilson Park, Te Anau.

Record No: R/26/4/112644

Report presented by Senior property advisor, Megan Cowley, Manager property services, Kevin McNaught and GM customer and community wellbeing, Sam Marshall.

The purpose of the report was to provide information to Council as the Ivon Wilson Park reserve administering body, so it can deliberate on submissions received and make a decision on whether to approve the grant of a licence to occupy to Floating Sauna Limited for a sauna located on Lake Henry in Ivon Wilson Park, Te Anau.

Council considered the information provided. There were 213 submissions received. Of that 213, three were late and not considered.

Of the 210 submissions received and considered, there were “themes” which were being objected to or supported.

The themes of submissions received in objection:

- Adverse effect on amenity
- Adverse effects on the environment
- Water quality
- Commercialisation
- Infrastructure burden

- Infrastructure creep
- Perceived exclusion of public
- Non compliance with Ivon Wilson Park Reserve Management Plan (RMP)
- Protection of existing users (people and animals)
- Ivon Wilson Park RMP review
- Non compliance with the Reserves Act 1977
- Excessive length of term
- Scale of the activity
- Market rental too low
- Customer behaviours
- Lack of enforcement of conditions
- Inconsistency of Council decision making
- Criticism of process of licence to occupy procedure
- Location of business
- Adverse impact on night sky viewing/photography
- Construction activities and adverse impacts
- Fiordland Community Board letter of support
- Suggested terms and conditions
- Other

These of submissions received in support:

- Positive amenity effects
- Activity provision
- Existing users are not excluded
- Economic opportunities

(During discussion, Councillor Boparai left the meeting at 11.10am and returned at 11.13am.)

(During discussion, Councillor Weusten left the meeting at 11.42am and returned at 11.47am.)

(During discussion, Councillor Greaney left the meeting at 11.51am and returned at 11.53am.)

(During discussion, Councillor Byars left the meeting at 11.54am and returned at 11.56am.)

**Move Councillor Spraggon, seconded Councillor Dobson the motion being recommendations a to g of the officers report.**

**Recommendations a to d were put.**

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being administrative but not significant based on Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) thanks, the members of the public who made written and oral submissions on the matter.

**Recommendations a to d were declared CARRIED.**

**Recommendation e as amended was put:**

That Council:

- e) considered and deliberated on each theme recommendation as set out in section 24 of the officers report and either allowed or disallowed as follows:

Themes of submissions-objections	Staff recommendation	Decision
Adverse effect on amenity	allowed	allowed
Adverse effects on the environment	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Water quality	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Commercialisation	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Infrastructure burden	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Infrastructure creep	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Perceived exclusion of public	allowed	allowed
Non-compliance with Ivon Wilson Park Reserve Management Plan	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Protection of existing users (people and animals)	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Ivon Wilson Park Reserve Management Plan review	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed

Non-compliance with the Reserves Act 1977	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Excessive length of term	allowed	allowed
Scale of the activity	allowed	allowed
Market rental too low	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Customer behaviours	disallowed	disallowed
Lack of enforcement of conditions	disallowed	disallowed
Inconsistency of Council decision making	disallowed	disallowed
Criticism of process of licence to occupy procedure	disallowed	disallowed
Location of business	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Adverse impact on night sky viewing/photography	allowed	allowed
Construction activities and adverse impacts	allowed	allowed
Fiordland Community Board letter of support	allowed	allowed
Suggested terms and conditions	allowed	allowed
Other	disallowed	disallowed

Themes of submissions – in support	Staff recommendation	Decision
Positive amenity effects	allowed	allowed
Activity provision	allowed	allowed
Existing users are not excluded	allowed	allowed
Economic opportunities	allowed	allowed

**Recommendation e was declared CARRIED.**

Staff recommendations were moved with changes as indicated.

**Recommendation f to approve the issuing of a licence to occupy was put:**

That Council:

- f) decides as the administering body pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, to approve the issuing of a licence to occupy to Floating Sauna Limited for a floating sauna on Lake Henry in Ivon Wilson Park, Te Anau.

**Recommendation f to approve was declared LOST.**

**Recommendation f to decline the issuing of a licence to occupy was put:**

That Council:

- f) decides as the administering body pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, to decline the issuing of a licence to occupy to Floating Sauna Limited for a floating sauna on Lake Henry in Ivon Wilson Park, Te Anau.

**Recommendation f to decline was declared CARRIED.**

**NOTE**

**As Council declined issuing a license, recommendation g (below), was redundant.**

- g) in the event that Council as the administering body of the reserve resolves to approve the grant of the licence to occupy, that it recommends that the Minister of Conservation give consent to the licence (under delegation) and delegates to staff to prepare for the Minister as required under section 120(1)(e) of the Reserves Act 1977 a summary of all objections and comments received and a statement as to the effect to which they have been allowed or accepted or disallowed or not accepted.

Final resolution

That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being administrative but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) thanks, the members of the public who made written and oral submissions on the matter.
- e) considered and deliberated on each theme recommendation (as set out in section 24 of the officers report) and either allowed or disallowed as follows:

Themes of submissions-objections	Staff recommendation	Decision
Adverse effect on amenity	allowed	allowed
Adverse effects on the environment	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed

Water quality	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Commercialisation	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Infrastructure burden	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Infrastructure creep	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Perceived exclusion of public	allowed	allowed
Non-compliance with Ivon Wilson Park Reserve Management Plan (RMP)	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Protection of existing users (people and animals)	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Ivon Wilson Park RMP review	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Non-compliance with the Reserves Act 1977	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Excessive length of term	allowed	allowed
Scale of the activity	allowed	allowed
Market rental too low	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Customer behaviours	disallowed	disallowed
Lack of enforcement of conditions	disallowed	disallowed
Inconsistency of Council decision making	disallowed	disallowed
Criticism of process of LTO procedure	disallowed	disallowed
Location of business	<del>disallowed</del>	allowed
Adverse impact on night sky viewing/photography	allowed	allowed
Construction activities and adverse impacts	allowed	allowed
Fiordland Community Board letter of support	allowed	allowed
Suggested terms and conditions	allowed	allowed

Other	disallowed	disallowed
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Themes of submissions – in support	Staff recommendation	Decision
Positive amenity effects	allowed	allowed
Activity provision	allowed	allowed
Existing users are not excluded	allowed	allowed
Economic opportunities	allowed	allowed

- f) decides as the administering body pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, to decline the issuing of a licence to occupy to Floating Sauna Limited for a floating sauna on Lake Henry in Ivon Wilson Park, Te Anau.

(Councillor Byars left the meeting at 1.14pm.)

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.15pm and reconvened at 1.40pm.

(Mayor Scott was not present (via video link) when the meeting reconvened.)

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 Community facilities and district wide contracts

9.2 Balfour subdivision

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
Community facilities and district wide contracts	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the

	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.	meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.
Balfour subdivision	<p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.</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 1.41pm.

The meeting returned to open at 2.39pm.

#### 8.6 Milford Community Trust request for extension of CCO exempt status

Record No: R/26/5/115076

Report presented by Financial Accountant, Jo Hooper and GM Finance and Assurance, Anne Robson.

The purpose of the report was to seek approval from Council for the Milford Community Trust to continue as an exempt Council Controlled Organisation, noting that a review of its exemption status is required prior to 21 June 2026 to enable the exemption status to be maintained.

(Councillor Greaney declared a conflict of interest as she is a trustee of the Milford Community Trust.)

Resolved

Moved Cr Dobson/Cr Somerville

That the Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being administrative but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore it is recommended that Council proceed with approving Milford

Community Trust being an exempt Council Controlled Organisation under section 7 of the Local Government Act.

- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) notes that, in making the decision on recommendation (e), it has considered the requirements of section 7(3) and 7(5)(a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2002, having regard to the Trust being a small organisation, the nature and scope of its activities, and the costs and benefits of exemption.
- e) agrees that the Milford Community Trust continues to be an exempt Council Controlled Organisation.

Carried

#### 8.7 Bridge weight restriction postings 2026/2027

Record No: R/26/5/116173

Report presented by Strategic manager transport, Hartley Hare, GM infrastructure and capital delivery, Fran Mikulicic and WSP structural engineer Ian Sutherland.

The purpose of the report was for Council to comply with the Transport Act 1962 and Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974, as the road controlling authority to confirm, at a minimum annually, any posting weight limit necessary for bridges on the roading network and to revoke any restrictions which no longer apply. The report also provided the information to be able to fulfil the requirement. Council last confirmed its bridge postings on 28 May 2025.

Resolved

Moved Cr Keast/Cr Dobson

That the 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 and therefore no engagement is needed to confirm the posted weight limits.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) agrees to confirm that in accordance with the Transport Act 1962 and Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974, the maximum weight and speed limits for heavy motor vehicles on bridges as listed on the attached schedule (Attachment A of the officers report) be imposed.

- e) agrees to continue to rely on the central on bridge restriction to limit posting restrictions and continues to mitigate this risk through ongoing promotion of posting compliance.
- f) agrees to notify the weight limits to the New Zealand Police, New Zealand Transport Agency, Road Transport Forum New Zealand (Inc.) and by public notice in daily newspapers, social media and our website.

Carried

## 8.8 Taramea Howell's Point Reserve and Management plan

Record No: R/26/4/112582

Report presented by GM strategy and partnerships, Vibhuti Chopra with Kaitakawaenga Kaupapa Maori, John Twidle (on video link).

The purpose of the report was for Council to determine its position in relation to a proposal to amend the management of part of Taramea (Howells Point) from being managed as if it's a recreation reserve to a local purpose reserve (marae).

(Councillor Weusten declared a conflict of interest in relation to the item as he has been appointed to the management committee.)

Resolved

Moved Cr O'Brien/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 some importance but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore formal engagement is not required.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) agrees to be a party to the 'Agreement in relation to Taramea'.
- e) requires clause 2(b) of the agreement to be amended as per section 37 of this report to

The management plan for Taramea will continue to apply to and be required for the marae site (as if the Minister had given a direction to the relevant parties under section 41(16) of the Reserves Act 1977). The management plan will be reviewed in relation to the marae site to reflect the new local purpose (marae) reserve status (as if the Minister had given a direction to the relevant parties under section 41(4) and 41(7) of the Reserves Act 1977 including the requirement to follow the procedure specified in subsections (5) and (6) of Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977)

- f) delegates authority to the chief executive to carry out discussions on the 'Agreement in relation to Taramea' and make any minor amendments that do not

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change the intent of resolution e) and to subsequently sign the 'Agreement in relation to Taramea'.

Carried

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Confirmed on:

Signed: