



ATTACHMENTS MINUTES

Vincent Community Board

Tuesday, 4 February 2025

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Welcome to 2025! By the time we make it to each Community Board meeting we will actually be quite far into 2025, but it is exciting to be back into it for another year, which will be a big one.

The council team has been working hard over the past few months to produce a consultation document for our Long-term Plan to head out to the public mid-March. This has been quite the exercise with questions around water being in, then out, and then in again as we endeavour to get an accurate document that also complies with audit requirements. The consultation has already generated a lot of community interest and chat, not least because of the inclusion of almost all council halls in the mix for divestment options. I acknowledge that some of these were included against the wishes of the respective community boards. It's been great to see communities already discussing what is important to them to retain and why, and I hope this continues into submissions for the Long-term Plan. There is absolutely the ability for halls or facilities to "come back in" through this process, and the recent loss of Roxburgh Entertainment Centre will also factor into these discussions.

Council has also begun the process of discussing Regional Deals with Queenstown Lakes District and Otago Regional Councils. Some of this will rely on the work already undertaken as part of Queenstown's Urban Growth Partnership, and some will be more specific to Central Otago. The next step for this is the "light touch proposal" which is due at the end of Feb. This will be contained agreed to priorities, across themes such as transport and health rather than individual projects.

We have an upcoming joint meeting between the councillors from all three councils which Neil Gillespie advises is the first time in memory any sort of joint meeting has occurred – I think this is pretty exciting for the combined progress of our areas. Especially with how interconnected our people are these days. I will keep you updated on what the priorities look like as they are worked through.

Last weekend was a fantastic schedule of events for Central Otago, with the Central Otago A&P Show at Omakau on the Saturday, and the New Zealand Grand Prix running across the weekend right here at Highlands. It was a fantastic event, showcasing what an incredible asset we have on the edge of town. I spoke with several young car enthusiasts who were excited to get up close to the action with some of their favourite drivers from Supercars, and also a potential future formula one driver. There are not many places where you can take a selfie and chat with an athlete immediately before their big race or game and the atmosphere was impressive.

Last week I attended the joint Otago/Southland Mayoral Forum in Queenstown, where we were also joined by Runaka from around the South Island. This was a great opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities coming up this year, and where we can align on our work for communities.

We also had the opportunity to meet with the newly minted Minister for the South Island, James Meager. The Minister is from Timaru so it's a great start that he knows where Central Otago is! We look forward to welcoming him to our district soon.

On the morning of Waitangi Day Queenstown hosted a wonderful event that was a true celebration of unity. Peter and I did duck away slightly early once we heard about the fire at Roxburgh, but it was great to have had that time connecting with mana whenua representatives.

On Friday I met with Minister Mark Patterson to highlight some of the challenges and opportunities coming up for Central Otago, including the difficulties between aligning Audit/LTP timelines and those coming from Taumata Arrowai for wastewater standards. It's frustrating that there is not more cohesion between Government departments and what they are asking us to achieve by designated dates, and the Minister acknowledged that makes our lives quite difficult.

All in all it has been an excellent busy start to the year, and I am very much looking forward to kicking off Mayor coffee and chats at the end of next week in Tarras and Cromwell. I also look forward to working with you all this year as we progress the operating model for the Cromwell Hall.

Welcome back to you all for the final part of this triennium. I hope that you all had a good break and enjoyed some quiet time with your friends and whanau.

I have enjoyed getting out over the break seeing more of our communities and the positive work that they are doing to create opportunities in our area. I am also hoping to get along to a business breakfast to hear how things are going in the near future.

It has been good to see the continued building work at Alexandra Primary and the removal of old buildings at The Terrace to make way for new ones. This shows that our area continues to grow, and the next generation will have modern classrooms to meet their educational needs. I would also like to note the new electronic and standard speed signs on Enterprise and Marslin Streets. I think that these will have a positive safety impact around the schools and preschools. I still believe that the best option would be a crossing on Enterprise Street this is still a step in the right direction. While this is an exciting time for primary schools, our community continues to be challenging for people with young families. I have spoken with a number of people about the struggling to juggle childcare and paying the bills while waiting for an opening at a preschool due to the long waiting lists. I worry about the long term impact this will have on our community if a solution isn't found soon.

I attended the Council meeting in December to give an update on behalf of the VCB and urged Councillors not to add this building onto the potential divestment list. While it was disappointing that it was, I have been impressed by the engagement of our communities on this topic. I joined Dai at the last meeting of the Vallance Cottage Working Group and was encouraged by their creativity and commitment to find a way forward, and I am looking forward to joining Bex over the coming weeks to meet with other groups as they look at options for the halls that support their groups and communities.

Finally late last year an article linked our recommendation to consult with the public on the closer of the outdoor pool with the Teviot Valley Community Board recommendation for CODC to take over their community pool. Despite numerous conversations and an ODT article this story seems to live on. So, for the record one more time. These two recommendations are not linked together, and this board has not worked with the TVCB to disadvantage our community to favour theirs, each board is independent and has made recommendations to Council based on what it believes is right for its own communities.