

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL
HELD AT NGĀ HAU E WHĀ, WILLIAM FRASER BUILDING, 1 DUNORLING STREET,
ALEXANDRA
AND LIVE STREAMED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2025
COMMENCING AT 10.37 AM**

PRESENT: Her Worship the Mayor T Alley (Chairperson), Cr N Gillespie, Cr S Browne, Cr L Claridge, Cr I Cooney, Cr S Duncan, Cr S Feinerman, Cr C Laws, Cr N McKinlay, Cr M McPherson (via Microsoft Teams), Cr T Paterson

IN ATTENDANCE: P Kelly (Chief Executive Officer), L Fleck (General Manager - People and Culture), J Muir (Group Manager - Three Waters), S Righarts (Group Manager - Business Support), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), L van der Voort (Group Manager - Planning and Infrastructure), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer), W McEnteer (Governance Manager)

1 KARAKIA

Her Worship the Mayor gave a karakia to begin the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Alley
Seconded: Browne

That the apologies for lateness received from Cr Cooney accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Feinerman
Seconded: Paterson

That the public minutes of the Ordinary Council Meetings held on 30 April 2025 and 8 May 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligations in respect of declaring any interests. There were no further declarations of interest.

6 REPORTS

25.9.2 LONG-TERM PLAN SUBMITTERS THAT WISH TO BE HEARD

To hear Long-term Plan 2025-34 submitters that wish to be heard.

Each submitter that wished to be heard spoke in support of their Long-term Plan 2025-34 submission.

Adair Craik with Mark Mawhinney (FENZ)

Ms Adair and Mr Mawhinney spoke about wildfire risks in Naseby and the Fire Smart Programme. They then responded to questions.

Note: Cr Cooney joined the meeting at 10.52 am.

Harriet Jopp – Federated Farmers

Ms Jopp spoke in support of the submission from Federated Farmers. In particular she advocated for rates to go from a land value system to a capital value system.

Dave Brady – Naseby Vision

Mr Brady spoke in support of the submission from Naseby Vision. He noted that it was important to keep community assets in Naseby and elsewhere. Mr Brady then responded to questions.

Ewan Mason

Mr Mason spoke in support of his submission. He advocated for the halls to be kept and noted that a number of groups would disband if there was further to travel to use a public facility. Mr Mason then responded to questions.

Michelle Bisset

Ms Bisset spoke in support of her submission. She noted that the Patearoa Hall had the same building rating as the Horizons Council building, despite there being many more earthquakes in the North Island. She also noted the dearth of meeting places in Patearoa and that this would make the problem worse.

Note: Cr Claridge left the meeting at 11.25 am and returned at 11.27 am.

David Hurd and Garry Price – Ophir Welfare Committee

Messrs Hurd and Price spoke to the submission on behalf of Ophir Welfare Committee. They noted that the current system of council ownership worked well and that the earthquake strengthening work had been done. They noted that some of the costs indicated might include depreciation.

Sally Mullally with Andrew King and Bryce Clapham – Dunstan High School

Ms Mullally spoke to the submission from Dunstan High School regarding the turf proposed to be situated there. It was noted that jointly owned spaces were not often found in New Zealand but were common in England. It was also noted that when a turf was built in Wanaka there had been an uptake on hockey by as much as 30%. They then responded to questions.

Peter Heron

Mr Heron spoke in support of his submission. He noted that the Centennial Milk Bar already was a viable building to run, that its running costs were met through fundraising and that there was no earthquake strengthening issues with building.

Aaron Dykes - Southern Football.

Mr Dykes spoke on behalf of the submission from Southern Football around floodlighting in Alexandra. He noted there was a space issue and then two teams training using floodlights was difficult, with three teams it was virtually impossible. Mr Dykes then responded to questions.

Rick Kristel – Roxburgh Pool Committee

Mr Kristel spoke to a submission on behalf of the Roxburgh Pool Committee. He noted the difficulty in finding lifeguards and the cost of training one. He noted the liability that the committee had running the pool and the potential for a criminal conviction as a result. Mr Kristel then responded to questions.

Helen Pinder

Ms Pinder spoke in support of her submission. She noted that the costs of transferring the Roxburgh Pool to council were too high and that she would like to see a local management option for the facility instead. Ms Pinder then responded to questions.

Note: Cr McPherson left the meeting at 12.26 pm.

Ray Wright

Mr Wright spoke in support of his submission. He noted that Central Stories was the best place for a museum in Central Otago. He suggested that a joint council / user pays system might be a solution for the funding gap.

Melissa Gare with students of Poolburn School

Ms Gare and students of Poolburn School spoke in support of keeping the Poolburn Hall. They pointed to the use the hall had, not only as an extension of school activities but in the wider community. They noted that many milestones and celebrations in the community were held there.

Allan Small – Poolburn Hall Committee

Mr Small echoed the sentiments of the students who spoke previously. He also noted that it was the middle of the community and the only facility that holds more than 100. He also noted that the hall was in good condition and that all the work had been done by volunteers.

Note: Cr Duncan left the meeting at 12.46 pm and returned at 12.47pm.

Steve Goodlass

Mr Goodlass spoke in support of his submission. He was against selling the Clyde Railway Station building, but would like the right of first refusal if it was. He noted that when his business took over the lease for the building it was semi-derelict, and that they had brought it back to life. Mr Goodlass then responded to questions.

Deborah Dons with Lynley Stewart

Ms Dons spoke in support of her submission. She noted that the Council should hold on to the Millers Flat Hall, as it was the only building on that side of the river that could be used as a Civil Defence post. She also noted that the hall group were planning to become an incorporated society so she would like to see any decision put on hold for now.

Note: The meeting adjourned at 1.07 pm and resumed at 1.26 pm.

Note: Cr McKinlay joined the meeting at 1.29 pm

Mark Jessop

Mr Jessop spoke in support of his submission. He outlined his involvement on the Millers Flat Sports and Recreation committee, and the plans they have to upgrade the pavilion. He also noted that there are members of the community who would be interested in taking over the Roxburgh Pool. He suggested a further public meeting to form plan to allow community ownership to continue.

James Barclay

Mr Barclay spoke in support of his submission, which covered Local Water Done Well, the closure of the halls, and the future of the Roxburgh Pool. He then responded to questions.

Alistair Crosland

Mr Crosland spoke in support of his submission. He noted that Clyde Hall was the last remaining indoor range for the small bore shooting club, so he was interested in making sure it remains in Council ownership to ensure the longevity of the club. Mr Crosland then responded to questions.

William Cockerill

Mr Cockerill spoke to his submission. He stressed the community halls and the purpose of these halls, not to make a profit but to provide a community service. He spoke in particular to the Ophir Hall and noted that the requirements for Manuherekia Valley ratepayers to pay a targeted rate towards the new Omakau facility when there are very adequate local halls in nearby communities. Mr Cockerill then responded to questions.

Louise Joyce – Promote Dunstan

Ms Joyce spoke to her submission on behalf of Promote Dunstan. She spoke specifically to the Clyde and Ophir Halls and the central social centre that these halls provide. She stressed that the proposed new Omakau Hub would not serve the same function as those other buildings. Ms Joyce then responded to questions.

Matthew Sole

Mr Sole spoke to his submission. He pointed to the archaeological impacts of council activities and the important heritage value in the district's halls in general. Mr Sole then responded to questions.

James Dicey

Mr Dicey spoke to his submission. He congratulated the council and elected members for the well communicated Long-term Plan submission process. He advocated for a new sports and recreation

facility and that the continued population growth meant they had currently outgrown the existing facilities. Mr Dicey then responded to questions.

Matt Tipa and Rin Tipa

Mr and Mrs Tipa spoke in support for the Ophir Hall and noted the significance of the historic building and the hub of the Ophir community. They believed that without the backbone of the hall the community would disperse. He outlined the passion around the building and the strong committee involvement and that they support and will assist in any repairs needed.

Andrea Ritchie – Clyde Museum

Ms Ritchie spoke to her involvement in the Clyde Museum and cited one of the completed passports from the 'Hunt for History 100 Objects exhibition' led by all five museums in Central Otago. She outlined the identity of the museum and its connection with the community and its plan for the multiple spaces under its control. Ms Ritchie then responded to questions.

Note: Cr McPherson rejoined the meeting at 2.36 pm.

Loretta Bush

Loretta Bush spoke to the Significance and Engagement Policy and that Central Stories was one of those listed as a key asset.

Gill Booth

Gill Booth spoke to her submission. She noted that the issue of water should be a central government referendum. She also spoke on issues she had with LGFA.

John Lister

Mr Lister spoke to his submission and noted that he believed that the current rates increases and council debts were unsustainable. He believed all functions other than core businesses should be reassessed. Mr Lister then responded to questions.

Campbell Hills and Jack Peszynski

Messrs Hills and Peszynski spoke to the lack of water infrastructure stymying growth in Cromwell. Mr Peszynski detailed his plans for a 200 lot subdivision in Pisa that was not able to progress due to the lack of infrastructure.

Note: Cr Paterson and Cr Browne left the meeting at 2.53 pm

John Cooney

Mr Cooney spoke to the proposal to increase the volumetric water charges and noted that there was potential for an overall increase in everyone's bills. He then responded to questions.

Note: Cr Browne rejoined the meeting online at 3.11 pm

Annetta and Ross Cowie

Mr and Mrs Cowie spoke to their submission and noted that the projected increase in water charges would mean it was unaffordable for many. They queried why there had not been an incremental increases in charges in previous years. They then responded to questions.

John Cocks

Mr Cocks stated that he is an elected member of the Patearoa Community Group and that they support the ongoing operation of the hall and he noted the increasing number of activities within the settlement. He noted that the pub has recently closed which has also come as a blow to the community and therefore the hall is even more of a lifeline. He asked for a deferral of any divestment of the hall to give the community time to assess their options..

Helen Scoles – Old Cromwell Incorporated

Helen Scoles spoke on behalf of Old Cromwell Incorporated and noted the group are now 40 years old with an objective to provide a historic precinct that ran multiple events and supported the heritage of the buildings. She noted the proposed increases in water charges and that they felt the new charges could be unsustainable. Ms Scoles then responded to questions.

Chris Winter

Chris Winter outlined his experience of the operational costs of the outdoor pools and stated that he has asked for full operational financials from the council but that these had not been provided. He noted his involvement in the ice swimming events and that the competition is a great opportunity to showcase the Alexandra and the whole district.

Paula Stevenson – Central Stories

Ms Stevenson spoke on behalf of Central Stories noting the successes at the centre, hosting many exhibitions, musical and arts events and acknowledged the amount of volunteer hours that go into the centre. She asked for a sustainable financial model that allowed the organisation to continue to thrive and grow.

Stan Randle – Grey Power

Stan Randle spoke on behalf of grey power, and reinforced the Council obligation to keep rates at a reasonable level and that the continued rates increase were not workable.

Note: Cr Feinerman left the meeting at 3.48 pm and returned at 3.50 pm.

Note: The meeting adjourned at 3.55 pm and returned at 3.59 pm.

Note: Cr McKinlay returned to the meeting at 4.01 pm.

Note: Cr Paterson returned to the meeting at 4.02 pm.

Beverley Fraser – Friends of Cromwell Cemetery

Ms Fraser spoke in support of her submission. She noted the plan that the Friends of Cromwell Cemetery had for the space. She also noted her support for supercars, but stressed that she was concerned that money for accommodation and dining would go to Queenstown.

Katie Seymour – Friends of Cromwell Cemetery

Ms Seymour spoke in support of her submission. She noted the plan that the Friends of Cromwell Cemetery had for the space including a toilet block and memorial seating. She advocated for funding for this work in the Long-term Plan. Ms Seymour then responded to questions.

Bob Scott

Mr Scott spoke in support of his submission. He noted that recent trips to the Cromwell Town Centre had found it deserted and mentioned that there is very little money allocated to its development in the Long-term Plan. Mr Scott then responded to questions.

Note: Cr Claridge left the meeting 4.18 pm and returned at 4.19 pm.

Bill Sanders

Mr Sanders spoke in support of his submission. He advocated for more accommodation options in Cromwell. He mentioned that there were lots of options the Council could investigate.

Stephen Carruth

Mr Carruth spoke in support of his submission. He noted that there was not enough information to make an informed decision on water. He also noted his opposition to the supercars proposal and to the proposed turfs.

Note: Cr Paterson left the meeting at 4.55 pm and returned at 4.59 pm

Ken Churchill

Mr Churchill spoke in support of his submission. He mentioned the Aronui Dam and the raupō there. He also noted that he would like the Mayor's ability to make a casting vote removed from the Standing Orders. Mr Churchill then responded to questions.

Trevor Tinworth

Mr Tinworth spoke in support of his submission. He noted that he thought the deal was already done in the water space. He advocated for it to remain in-house and he also noted that there were some errors in the document (facts section) where measurement increments are incorrect. Mr Tinworth then responded to questions.

Andy Davey

Mr Davey spoke in support of his submission. He noted the desire for a dark sky reserve in the Alexandra Basin and wanted to ensure that any new lighting for turfs did not leak light out into the environment. Mr Davey then responded to questions.

Grave Shattky

Mr Shattky spoke in support of his submission. He noted that there is no comment in the Long-term Plan for how Council would provide for the four wellbeings. He also noted the desire for some sort of metric to account for volunteer hours in the community. Mr Shattky then responded to questions.

Andrew Clark

Mr Clark spoke in support of his submission. He noted that the halls all played a part in the community they served. He supported the turf projects and also noted some innovative ideas in the water space that are taking place in India. Mr Clark then responded to questions.

Marcus Brown

Mr Brown spoke in support of his submission. He advocated for a walking and cycling way for the bridge in Alexandra which could be placed on the old piers and link to the Kaemoanahaehae project. Mr Brown then responded to questions.

Maryann Baxter

Mrs Baxter spoke in support of her submissions. She advocated to look at the bigger picture when it came to the Long-term Plan. She noted that the costs of water reform would be significant. She

also noted that budgeting \$700,000 being derived from uses of the Cromwell Memorial Hall when it is completed was too high. Mrs Baxter then responded to questions.

Note: Cr Cooney left the meeting at 5.23 pm and did not return

Sarah Falconer

Ms Falconer spoke in support of her submission. She highlighted that the community wanted the hall kept at Poolburn. Ms Falconer then responded to questions.

Gerrard Eckhoff

Mr Eckhoff spoke in support of his submission. He noted that there needed to be pushback to Central Government and there was no data to support a correlation between the amounts proposed to be spent and improvement in water quality.

Note: Cr Duncan left the meeting at 5.46 pm and returned at 5.48 pm.

Walt Denley

Mr Denley spoke to his submission. He noted that it is hard to attract investment when development contributions were to be set so high and were inequitable. It was noted that each ward had to stand alone and could not lean on another. Mr Denley then responded to questions.

Christopher Wild

Mr Wild spoke in favour of keeping the outside pool in Alexandra. He noted that the Council would need to be more creative to ensure there were enough pool staff. He also noted that it was hard to understand the costs as they were not itemised.

Neil Gellatley

Mr Gellatley spoke to his submission. He advocated for a system where events could get reimbursed for events depending on how much economic activity they brought into the area and if certain criteria were met. He then responded to questions.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Gillespie
Seconded: Alley

- A. Receives the verbal submissions from the Long-term Plan 2025-34.
- B. Acknowledges and thanks all submitters for making their verbal submission to the Long-term Plan 2025-34.

CARRIED

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 20 May 2025.

The meeting closed at 6.13 pm.