
Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – 25/03/20

Minutes of the Emergency Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2020, commencing at 11am, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, John Falloon, Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Angus McKay, Liz McMillan, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

[Crs Letham and Wilson joined the meeting via Zoom]

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Paul Brake (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Ruben Garcia (Communications Manager), Aisling O'Reilly (PE to Chief Executive), Casey Lang (IS Support Officer) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Covid-19 Response Committee

The Chief Executive outlined the purpose of the report and proposal to form a committee of the whole of Council with all necessary powers, except those expressly prohibited by legislation. The committee will have a quorum of only two members who will be required to be physically present at meetings. Remaining members will be able to join meetings via audio-visual means.¹

The Chief Executive advised that the intention is to create an agile vehicle for Council decision-making by meeting on a weekly basis, initially. If the community is in lockdown, and Council's focus is on providing essential services, weekly may be too often and meeting frequency would reduce, subject to the Mayor and Council's agreement.

¹ An amendment to the Local Government Act to remove requirement for a quorum to be physically present at meetings is now in place. The *Covid-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Bill* was read in Parliament on Wednesday 25 March 2020. The Omnibus Bill received Royal Assent and has been enacted.

Council heard that technology is in place to enable elected members to join meetings remotely and today's meeting is an opportunity to trial this. Meetings will continue to be live-streamed.

1. **That** Council receives the report.
2. **That** Council establishes the Covid-19 Response Committee, in accordance with the Terms of Reference contained in Appendix 1, noting that the Committee will have all the delegated powers, duties and functions of the Council, except those specified in the Local Government Act, and that the Committee will have a quorum of two members.
3. **That** Council resolves, with immediate effect, that meetings of all of Council's committees, with the exception of the Library & Civic Centre Project Control Group, are suspended until further notice.
4. **That** Council notes that the community board meetings will not be held until further notice, and where possible, staff will use best endeavours to seek board member views about matters that are subject to decision that impacts their community board area.
5. **That** Council circulates this report to the Methven Community Board.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

The meeting concluded at 11.24am.

Confirmed 9 April 2020



MAYOR