

**CONFIRMED MINUTES**

**OF THE INAUGURATION AND MEETING OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE OAMARU OPERA HOUSE  
THAMES STREET, OAMARU  
ON TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2022 AT 5.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Gary Kircher (Chair from the second part of the meeting), Cr Hana Halalele, Cr Tim Blackler, Cr Brent Cowles, Cr Jeremy Holding, Cr Jim Hopkins, Cr Courtney Linwood, Cr John McCone, Cr Guy Percival, Cr Rebecca Ryan, and Cr Jim Thomson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Alex Parmley (Chief Executive) (Chair until the second part of the meeting)  
Paul Hope (Finance and Corporate Development Group Manager and Acting Assets Group Manager)  
Lisa Baillie (People and Culture Group Manager / Deputy Chief Executive)  
Ainslee Hooper (Governance and Policy Advisor)

The Chief Executive declared the inaugural meeting open at 5.30pm and welcomed everyone present.

A programme of activities followed. This included the Council-elect being led into the Auditorium by Piper Jonty Nelson, followed by a Mihimihi by Upoko Rūnaka o Moeraki David Higgins. The Oamaru Intermediate School Kapa Haka Group led the singing of the National Anthem, and then gave a Kapa Haka performance of 'Hareruia', which in turn was followed by the Waitaki Girls' High School Polyfest Group's Pasifika cultural dance.

The Chief Executive then directed the meeting to agenda item 4.1.

## **4 DECISION REPORTS**

### **4.1 DECLARATION OF THE 12TH WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The report, as circulated, provided copies of the Declarations to be made by the Council Members-elect in the first part of the inaugural meeting.

The Mayor-elect made his Declaration to Rūnaka Member Leigh Milmine in the presence of the Chief Executive, first in Te Reo and then in English. He signed both versions of his Declaration, which were in turn signed as witnessed by the Chief Executive.

The ten (10) Councillors-elect then made their Declarations (in alphabetical order) to Mayor Gary Kircher in the presence of the Chief Executive, and they each signed their Declarations which were also signed as witnessed by the Chief Executive. Councillor-elect Hana Halalele made her Declaration first in Te Reo and then in English and she signed both versions and they were both signed as witnessed by the Chief Executive.

Following the declarations, Reverend Rose Luxford, Minister of St Paul's Maheno Otepopo Presbyterian Church, blessed the new Council with a Samoan lotu (prayer), and then Upoko Rūnaka o Moeraki David Higgins gave a Karakia.

Copied below, instead of a meeting resolution, is a full record of the date, name, and office of the members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Waitaki District Council who made and signed their Declarations and had them witnessed by Chief Executive Alex Parmley at this inaugural meeting.

## DECLARATION OF MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Date	Name	Office
25 October 2022	Gary Kircher	Mayor for Waitaki
25 October 2022	Tim Blackler	Councillor
25 October 2022	Brent Cowles	Councillor
25 October 2022	Hana Halalele	Councillor
25 October 2022	Jeremy Holding	Councillor
25 October 2022	Jim Hopkins	Councillor
25 October 2022	Courtney Linwood	Councillor
25 October 2022	John McCone	Councillor
25 October 2022	Guy Percival	Councillor
25 October 2022	Rebecca Ryan	Councillor
25 October 2022	Jim Thomson	Councillor

The Chief Executive officially presented the 12<sup>th</sup> Waitaki District Council to the audience.

He then declared the meeting adjourned for a short intermission so that the stage could be reset for the meeting to continue in a formal meeting setting.

The meeting reconvened at 6.33pm, with Mayor Gary Kircher in the Chair and the ten Councillors seated at a meeting table, with the Chief Executive and Governance Advisor in attendance.

The Chair directed the meeting back to Agenda Item 1.

### **1 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair then directed the meeting forward to Agenda Item 5.1.

#### **5.1 EXPLANATION OF LEGISLATION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The report, as circulated, provided a summary of the key pieces of legislation of importance to elected members at this inaugural meeting of the new Council for the 2022-2025 triennium, as required under the Local Government Act 2002.

Chief Executive Alex Parmley took the report as read and highlighted specific sections of the report during his address to Council members. There were no questions.

**RESOLVED WDC 2022/153**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Courtney Linwood

That Council receives and notes the information.

**CARRIED**

**4.2 ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR FOR WAITAKI**

Mayor for Waitaki Gary Kircher then gave his address to the meeting, the contents of which are recorded in full below.

“Tena koutou katoa, Talofa lava, Malo a lelei, Bula vinaka, Magandang Hapon, Kia Orana, Ni hao, Namaste...

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, our new Councillors, family, and friends.

Today is a special day for all of us who have now been sworn in to serve our community as Waitaki’s Council for the next three years. We are honoured to be elected, and I am sure I speak on behalf of all of us on stage, when I say it is a humbling experience to be voted in by our community to represent you all.

This past election campaign has been a very difficult one, a sentiment that has been repeated all across Aotearoa New Zealand. I don’t know if anyone knows exactly why this election has been so much worse than previous ones – Has it been a result of these past thirty months of Covid impacts? Is it due to the rising antagonism on social media? Or is it a result of a deepening cynicism towards government, both central and local?

What I do know is that usually local government elections in New Zealand see about one third of Mayors either choose to retire or get retired. This election, that number is around 50%. Otago and Southland have a total of eight Mayors, but one retirement and four oustings means there are just three of us are still here – the two Cadogan Mayors in Clutha and Central Otago, and me. It has been a brutal campaign for many elected members...

Whatever the reasons for this past campaign being so damaging, it is time to look ahead and for us to join together to focus on the challenges we face and the opportunities that surround us. This election once again provided you, our community, with very good choices for who might represent you over this next term. Candidates have put forward ideas; we have challenged each other’s thinking; and the public has had the opportunity to hear what we’ve all had to say. To all of the candidates who stood – well done and thank you for giving the good people of Waitaki some excellent choices.

Elections tend to focus on differences as candidates try to get ahead of their opponents, but now the real work begins, and it is time to identify the things we have in common. This is a new Council with five new members elected to it. I look around this table and I see ten talented people looking forward to working hard to making Waitaki an even better place – an ambition which I passionately share with them.

The past three years were the most challenging that any term of Council has faced in the past thirty years, and the coming term will continue to test us. This won’t be an easy three years, but I promise it will be interesting and, if we get it right, it will be three years of mahi that will transform our Council into one that our community can rightly be proud of. It will also be three years of change for New Zealand’s Councils that could see them help fill the many gaps in society that have caused the levels of inequity and division to increase.

We want everyone in our community to have the opportunity to thrive and, if central government gets it right with the Future for Local Government reform, Councils will play a pivotal role in helping our people thrive. As I again look around this table, I see ten individuals who bring a wide range of skills and experience to this new Council. Each of these people represent different parts of our community and each will add a different voice to our decision-making. As I look around this table, I also see ten excellent reasons to be confident that this will be a strong, positive Council team who will take advantage of every possible opportunity to help our community thrive.

Does this mean we will get everything right? No, of course not. We deal with such a huge range of activities and issues, some things along the way will inevitably miss the mark. Each one of us is human and we govern an organisation of humans – mistakes will sometimes be made. But it is so important to acknowledge that the people who sit around this table, and the team who work for our organisation, love our Waitaki district and turn up to work every day to play their part in making it a great place to be!

We have some very good experience returned, with Jim Hopkins, Guy Percival, Jeremy Holding, Hana Halalele and, until a couple of weeks ago, our resident newbie, Jim Thomson. He loses that noble title though to our new 'newbies'! Well done to our new Councillors – Rebecca Ryan, Tim Blackler, Brent Cowles, John McCone, and our youngest ever Waitaki District Councillor, Courtney Linwood! Collectively, they bring greater youth and diversity to our table, and I am confident that it will be very little time before our newbies are making excellent contributions to our decision-making.

So, I say to our newly sworn-in Councillors – as we commence our work together for our community, we will have some very significant decisions to make over this coming term. Unfortunately, with some of those decisions, we will not be able to make everyone happy. That is the nature of the job.

Each of us has just sworn an oath to "...faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of our skills and judgement, execute and perform in the best interests of the Waitaki District..." That is our responsibility – we are not here to make decisions with just one ward or just one neighbourhood in mind. There is a bigger picture that we have to take into account and that is why we have sworn an oath to make decisions on behalf of everyone in our Waitaki district.

To do our job, we need to ensure that we are well informed, that we look at issues with an open mind, and that we make decisions with neither fear nor favour. We will be making decisions with more information than most people in our community will have, and often we have to balance what our community wants with what they can afford and balance their wants with the needs of others. We should always listen to our community, but it is a very rare occurrence when we get to agree with everyone! As an elected member, this can be difficult to deal with and it can cause a lot of anguish, but if you wanted an easy job, I'm sure you wouldn't have chosen this one.

My personal ambition for this Council is that it continues to be an enabler – enabling the 'doers' in our community: the volunteers, the not-for-profit organisations, the businesspeople, the social entrepreneurs, and the people in our many wonderful community organisations across Waitaki. I want our Council to engage, to listen, and to help achieve the aspirations and goals that the people of Waitaki have, and which they deserve to have come to fruition. To achieve that, we will work with the numerous and varied parts of our wider community across our large rohe.

The Waitaki district has a very large land area and only a relatively small population. But as the old saying goes, here in Waitaki, we punch above our weight, and we achieve a great deal. Council cannot do that on its own and in fact, it often takes many people working together across Waitaki to achieve most things worth doing. Within Council though, we must continue to nurture our role as an enabler; to be an organisation which helps our community achieve success by minimising any hurdles; and to be an organisation which, when asked for assistance, replies with a strong, "Yes!" We have the team around this table to do that.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge family. Serving as a Councillor or Mayor can be very demanding and stressful at times and juggling all of life's various demands alongside the role requires understanding and support from our families. Thank you to all of our families for the support you give. I want to especially thank my awesome wife Kerry who, after a hard day at work, is still required to take on the role of Mayoress and turn up to all sorts of events. I wish to also thank my extended family for their strong support over the years, and throughout the campaign over the last few months. Making our community a better place for our generation and our tamariki and mokopuna is why we do what we do!

Nga mihi, thank you."

**RESOLVED WDC 2022/154**

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That Council receives the Address by the Mayor of the 12<sup>th</sup> Waitaki District Council.

**CARRIED**

**4.3 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

The report, as circulated, provided information, choices, and options under section 41A(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002 regarding the appointment of the Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Gary Kircher acknowledged that the choice of a deputy mayor can be done in different ways. One option is for the Mayor to appoint someone. The other is for a nomination to be made. In each triennium, he had opted to go to the nomination. When looking at who to have as deputy mayor, he advised that he had considered many factors. With the retirement of (former Deputy Mayor) Melanie Tavendale, there were 'large shoes' to fill. He had had discussions with all Councillors-elect, and believed he had their support to make the following nomination:

"It is with great pleasure that I move, with the support of Councillors, that the Deputy Mayor for the Waitaki District Council in the 2022-2025 Triennium will be Cr Hana Halalele". Cr Jeremy Holding seconded the motion, and it was put to the meeting. The Chair declared the motion carried unanimously.

The full record of the resolution pursuant to legislation governing the appointment of a deputy mayor to a local authority is recorded below.

**RESOLVED WDC 2022/155**

Moved: Mayor Gary Kircher

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Holding

It is with great pleasure that I, Mayor Gary Kircher, nominate Cr Hana Halalele for the appointment of Deputy Mayor for the 12<sup>th</sup> Waitaki District Council in the 2022-2025 Triennium, under Clause 17(1) Schedule 7 and Clause 25(1)(b) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Meeting participants and the audience applauded the appointment. Mayor Kircher congratulated Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele and presented her with the "Deputy Mayor" nameplate in recognition of her appointment.

**4.4 CONFIRMATION OF DATE AND TIME OF FIRST MEETING OF THE 12TH WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2022, FROM 9.00AM**

The report, as circulated, sought Council's agreement to the date and time of the first meeting of the local authority following the Local Elections 2022 in accordance with statutory requirements.

There was no discussion on the report.

**RESOLVED WDC 2022/156**

Moved: Cr Jim Hopkins

Seconded: Cr Brent Cowles

That Council agrees to set the date and start time of the First Waitaki District Council Meeting of the 2022-2025 triennium as Tuesday, 1 November 2022, from 9.00am.

**CARRIED**

**6 MEETING CLOSE**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.53pm.

CONFIRMED at the First Meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> Waitaki District Council held on Tuesday, 1 November 2022.

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CHAIRPERSON