
Community Services Committee

MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon, Dunedin on Wednesday 18 June 2025, commencing at 1:15 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr Marie Laufiso	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Mandy Mayhem	
Members	Cr Bill Acklin	
	Cr David Benson-Pope	Cr Christine Garey
	Cr Kevin Gilbert	Cr Carmen Houlahan
	Cr Cherry Lucas	Cr Jim O'Malley
	Mayor Jules Radich	Cr Lee Vandervis
	Cr Steve Walker	Cr Brent Weatherall
	Cr Andrew Whiley (via Zoom)	

IN ATTENDANCE

Sandy Graham (Chief Executive Officer), Scott MacLean (General Manager Climate and City Growth); Cam McCracken (Acting General Manager Arts and Culture), Paul Henderson (Acting General Manager Customer & Regulatory), Jackie Harrison (Governance Manager)

Governance Support Officer Lauren Riddle

1 OPENING

Cr Marie Laufiso welcomed attendees to the final Community Services Committee meeting for the 2022-2025 triennium. She acknowledged the passing whanau of Roka Ngarimu-Cameron, Richard Parata, and Dr Phil Silva and offered condolences to the bereaved whanau.

Cr Laufiso opened the meeting with a Karakia Timatanga.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

Notice of Motion - Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill

The following speakers spoke to Item 13 the Notice of Motion – Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill:

Rev. Canon Michael Wallace

Rev. Wallace spoke of his time in Jerusalem in April 2025 for Holy Week and described his experiences during his time. He requested that Council support the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.

Rev. Wallace responded to questions.

Dr Kerri Cleaver

Dr Cleaver spoke as mana whenua, a social worker and as an academic as a supporter of Free Palestine. She requested that the Committee support the Notice of Motion on the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill by writing to the Prime Minister.

Dr Cleaver responded to questions.

Dr Fairleigh Gilmour

Dr Gilmour spoke on behalf of the Otago University staff for Palestine in support of the Notice of Motion for the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill. She spoke of the 1,000 signature petition raised by the local community within the last 24 hours in support of the Notice of Motion.

Dr Gilmour spoke of the evidence supporting the need for the Sanctions Bill, and the importance of the issue to the University community.

Dr Gilmour responded to questions.

Cr Jim O'Malley returned to the meeting at 01:50 p.m.

Moved (Cr Marie Laufiso/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Committee:

Extend Public Forum beyond 30 minutes.

Motion Carried.

May Pik

Mrs Pik spoke as an immigrant to New Zealand from Israel 8 years ago, and as a recent citizen of New Zealand, in support of the Notice of Motion on the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.

Mrs Pik responded to questions.

Dr Rod Pik

Dr Pik spoke in support of the Notice of Motion Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill. He advised he held dual citizenship with New Zealand and Israel and had lived in Israel for 43 years before emigrating to New Zealand.

Dr Pik requested that Council write to the Prime Minister in support of the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.

Dr Pik responded to questions.

Olivier Jutel

Mr Jutel spoke in support of the Notice of Motion on the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill as a member of Otago University staff for Palestine, as an anti-Zionist Jew and in support of the Dunedin Palestinian community. He advised he strongly supported Council taking action as outlined in the Notice of Motion.

Mr Jutel responded to questions.

Cr Andrew Whiley returned to the meeting at 02:25 p.m.

Shane Loader

Mr Loader spoke in support of the Notice of Motion for the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.

Mr Loader requested that Council put pressure on central government to step up to its legal obligations to the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.

Mr Loader responded to questions.

Andrea Bosshard

Ms Bosshard spoke on behalf of her elderly parents in support of the Notice of Motion for the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.

Ms Bosshard responded to questions.

Lyndon Weggery (Dunedin Area Citizens Association)

Mr Weggery spoke on behalf of Dunedin Area Citizens Association (DACA) against Council supporting the Notice of Motion as the Association considered this to be outside of the Council's scope as a national and international issue.

Mr Weggery responded to questions.

Pastor Nigel Woodley (Coalition of Ministers supporting Israel)

Pastor Woodley (Coalition of Ministers supporting Israel) spoke via zoom link on behalf of 114 church ministers supporting the right of the Jewish people in Israel and spoke against the Notice of Motion.

Pastor Woodley responded to questions.

Cr Christine Garey left the room at 3:00 p.m. and returned at 3:02 p.m.

Roland van Noppen

Mr van Noppen questioned whether it was appropriate for Council to be involved in the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill. He considered it as a very divisive issue and that the Council position would not represent all of the Dunedin citizens.

Mr van Noppen responded to questions.

Evelyn Robertson

Ms Robertson spoke in support of the Notice of Motion for the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill and spoke of Dunedin as a vibrant and progressive city and the importance of Dunedin to speak up on for what is right and in support of Dunedin immigrant communities.

Ms Robertson responded to questions.

Oscar Bartle

Mr Bartle spoke in support of the Notice of Motion for the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill. Mr Bartle advised that the University of Otago Students and the Council of Trade Unions were in favour of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

Mr Bartle responded to questions.

Luca Schulz

Mr Schulz spoke as a Post graduate student at the University of Otago and the need for humanity in response to the genocide in Palestine. He supported the Notion of Motion for the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill and considered Council had a responsibility to act.

Mr Schulz responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Marie Laufiso/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Committee:

Adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m. and resumed at 3:48 p.m.

3 APOLOGIES

Moved (Cr Marie Laufiso/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Committee:

Accept the apology for Cr Sophie Barker for absence.

Motion carried.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The Chief Executive Officer (Sandy Graham) advised the meeting that the Part A reports numbered 7 -12 would be redistributed to upcoming Council meetings, with the only report to be considered by the Committee at the meeting being Item 13 – Notice of Motion.

The Part A reports to be distributed to upcoming Council meetings:

Community Services Committee - Forward Work Programme
Summary of Advisory Group Meetings (1 October 2024 - 6 June 2025)
Community Services Activity Report July 2024 - May 2025
Freedom Camping 2024/25 End Of Season Report
Ōtepoti Dunedin Housing Plan Update
Appointment of Chair, Music Advisory Panel

Moved (Cr Marie Laufiso/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Committee:

Confirms the agenda with the following alteration – that Item 13 Notice of Motion be taken at the meeting with the remaining Part A reports numbered 7-12 to be considered at future Council meetings.

Motion Carried.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arose between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

No updates were advised.

Moved (Cr Marie Laufiso/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Committee:

- a) **Notes** the Elected Members' Interest Register; and
- b) **Confirms** proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.

Motion Carried

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Committee:

- a) **Notes** the minutes of the Grants Subcommittee meeting held on 19 September 2024.

Motion carried.

6.2 GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING - 13 NOVEMBER 2024

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Committee:

- a) **Notes** minutes of the Grants Subcommittee meeting held on 13 November 2024.

Motion carried.

6.3 TOITŪ OTAGO SETTLERS MUSEUM BOARD MEETING - 4 MARCH 2025

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Bill Acklin):

That the Committee:

- a) **Notes** the minutes of the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board meeting held on 04 March 2025.

Motion carried.

6.4 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING - 16 OCTOBER 2024

Moved (Cr Marie Laufiso/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Committee:

- a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 16 October 2024 as a correct record.

Motion carried.

PART A REPORTS

13 NOTICE OF MOTION - UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE SANCTIONS BILL

In accordance with Standing Order 26.1, the following Notice of Motion was received from Cr Christine Garey.

Cr Garey spoke to the Notice of Motion and advised that she considered the motion as a conscious vote to take action on behalf of the Palestinian people. She outlined the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill and spoke of the resolutions previously passed by Council in regard to the issuing of humanitarian visas and of the correspondence sent by Mayor Radich to the Minister of Immigration.

In her Right of Reply Cr Garey advised she considered the role of Council was to advocate for the residents of Dunedin City.

Moved (Cr Christine Garey/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Committee:

- a) **Agrees** to support the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.
- b) **Requests** that Mayor Radich writes to both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, requesting the Government MPs support of the Unlawful Occupation of Palestine Sanctions Bill.

The Council voted by division

For: Crs David Benson-Pope, Christine Garey, Carmen Houlahan, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Jim O'Malley and Steve Walker (7).

Against: Crs Bill Acklin, Kevin Gilbert, Cherry Lucas, Mayor Jules Radich, Lee Vandervis, Brent Weatherall and Andrew Whiley (7).

Abstained: Nil

An equality of votes was recorded 7:7 following which the Chairperson used her casting vote in favour of the motion.

Motion carried (CSC/2025/001)

14 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

The meeting closed with a Karakia Whakamutunga.

The meeting concluded at 4:50 p.m.

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CHAIRPERSON