DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

Council

MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council held in the Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin on Thursday 05 November 2026, commencing at 9.00 am

PRESENT

Deputy Mayor	Cr Cherry Lucas	
Members	Cr John Chambers	Cr Jo Galer
	Cr Christine Garey	Cr Doug Hall
	Cr Marie Laufiso	Cr Russell Lund
	Cr Mandy Mayhem	Cr Benedict Ong
	Cr Andrew Simms	Cr Mickey Treadwell
	Cr Lee Vandervis	Cr Steve Walker
	Cr Brent Weatherall	
IN ATTENDANCE	Richard Briggs (Chief Executive Officer), Carolyn Allan (Chief Financial Officer), Scott MacLean (General Manager City Services), Nicola Morand (Manahautū - General Manager Community and Strategy), Paul Henderson (General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services), Mike Costelloe (General Manager, Arts, Culture and Economic Development), Heath Ellis (Group Manager Parks and Recreation), Stephen Hogg (Parks and Recreation Planner), Simon Smith (Acting Group Manager), Gina Hu'akau (Community Partnerships Manager), Meghan Cooper (Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua), Mike Hart (Acting Manager, Building Services), Grant Sutton (Principal Advisor Building Services) and Robyn Dillon (Manager Governance).	
Governance Support Officer	Lynne Adamson	

1 OPENING

Rev Ed Masters, Minister of First Presbyterian Church Dunedin provided the opening prayer.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 6 speakers in the Public Forum

2.1 Liam Harrison – Caversham Community Group – Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy

Mr Harrison spoke in support of the Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy and his written submission, highlighting the community's vision for a revitalised Caversham with improved pedestrian and cycling connections, enhanced streetscape amenity, and a thriving local business area. They emphasised the importance of Council support for future improvements to South Road and noted the opportunity to align streetscape upgrades with the opening of the Tunnels Trail to encourage visitors to travel through and spend time in the Caversham shopping area. In response to questions, the speaker discussed the potential benefits of the trail for local businesses and preferred route connections between Caversham and the city.

Mr Harrison responded to questions.

2.2 Joy Davis, Ōtepoti Community Builders – Draft Grants Policy

Ms Joy Davis, on behalf of Ōtepoti Community Builders, spoke in support of the draft Grants Policy being released for public consultation. She acknowledged the value of the Council's contestable community and arts grants programmes and the support provided by staff to community organisations. Ms Davis noted that community grants enable community development, leadership, arts and cultural activities, and support for diverse communities across the city. She expressed concern that the contestable grants funding pool had not kept pace with increasing demand and rising costs, and emphasised the importance of ongoing support for the operational sustainability of community organisations.

Ms Davis urged the Council to ensure robust public consultation on the draft policy, continue to engage with Mana Whenua and community stakeholders, and consider increasing the contestable grants funding pool to better meet community needs. She concluded by highlighting the significant social and community benefits generated through Council investment in the community sector.

Ms Davis responded to questions.

2.3 Amy Taylor, Disabled Persons Assembly – Marlow Park

Ms Amy Taylor, on behalf of the Disabled Persons Assembly, and her daughter Melanie-May Taylor-Connell spoke regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground design. Ms Taylor emphasised the importance of ensuring the playground met the needs of all children and advocated for an inclusive replacement of the existing dinosaur slide. She noted that the current slide, constructed approximately 60 years ago, was not designed to be accessible or inclusive for children with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

Ms Taylor encouraged the Council to prioritise accessibility and universal design principles, suggesting consideration of earlier concept designs that incorporated lower and upper levels and enabled children of all abilities to play together. Melanie-May emphasised that the dinosaur feature should be a functional and inclusive play element rather than a nostalgic replica, and urged the Council to ensure the new playground could be enjoyed by everyone. In response to questions, it was confirmed that the existing slide was approximately 60 years old.

Ms Taylor and Melanie May responded to questions.

2.4 Tony Cummings, Deputy Chair, Dunedin Area Citizens Assn Inc – Marlow Park

Mr Tony Cummings spoke on behalf of the Dunedin Area Citizens Assn Inc regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground redevelopment. He noted that he had a great-grandchild who used the park and expressed concern about the proposed expenditure of $4.6 million of ratepayer funds.

Cr Benedict Ong entered the meeting at 9.26 am.

Mr Cummings referred to playground developments in Christchurch and Timaru, noting that the Margaret Mahy Playground had received Government funding and that the Timaru playground had been funded by the Caroline Bay Association. He questioned whether the existing playground required a full redevelopment, suggesting that maintenance and tidying of the grounds may have been sufficient.

In response to questions, Mr Cummings advised that the existing dinosaur slide was well used, while the smaller slide received limited use, and considered the table tennis table to be the least-used feature within the park.

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Extends the Public Forum beyond 30 minutes.

Motion carried

2.5 Jennifer Thomas, Chair, Dunedin Area Citizens Assn Inc – Marlow Park

Ms Jennifer Thomas, Chair of the Dunedin Area Citizens Association Incorporated, spoke regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground redevelopment. Ms Thomas expressed concern about the proposed expenditure on the project, considering there were other priorities facing the city, including flooding issues in South Dunedin. She supported retaining the existing dinosaur slide, noting its significance to generations of children who had used the park since it was installed. Ms Thomas suggested that children should have been consulted on the preferred design for the playground and questioned the scale of the proposed redevelopment, advocating instead for a smaller playground. She also expressed concern about undertaking construction during the summer period, citing potential impacts on nearby businesses, including the miniature golf and train attractions. Ms Thomas concluded by raising concerns about Council spending and the impact of ongoing rate increases on the community.

During questions Cr Benedict Ong made disparaging comments and was asked to withdraw and apologise or leave the meeting. Cr Benedict Ong withdrew his comment but refused to apologise therefore was asked to leave the meeting.

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for two minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 9.37 am.
Cr Benedict Ong left the meeting at 9.37 am.
The meeting reconvened at 9.39 am.

Deputy Mayor Lucas recorded a formal apology to Ms Thomas

Ms Thomas then responded to questions.

2.6 Robyn Vintiner, Lyn Muir and grandson Mason Schmacher – Marlow Park

Ms Robyn Vintiner and Ms Lyn Muir spoke regarding the proposed Marlow Park playground redevelopment and advocated for the retention of the existing dinosaur slide. They suggested that refurbishment of the dinosaur, including repainting, could be undertaken with community involvement, and proposed the addition of new play features rather than replacing existing ones. The speakers questioned the prioritisation of the proposed expenditure, noting other infrastructure needs within the city, including South Dunedin. They supported continued community involvement in the park's development and emphasised the value of retaining well-used and recognisable features.

Ms Muir's grandson Mason Schmacher spoke in support of retaining the existing dinosaur slide, noting that both his mother and grandmother had also played on it and that it remained his favourite feature of the playground.

In response to questions, the speakers considered that the playground was serving the community well and supported improvements that would enhance accessibility while retaining existing popular play equipment.

3 APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Mayor Sophie for absence and from Cr Russell Lund for lateness.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Andrew Simms):

That the Council:

Accepts the apologies from Mayor Sophie for absence and Cr Russell Lund for lateness.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/118)

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Confirms the agenda with the addition of items 16, 17 and 18 from the 29 and 30 October 2026 meeting to be taken as follows:

Item 16 - Community Ranger Options Report - 10 Year Plan 2027-37, Item 17 Prioritisation and Funding of Seal Extensions Options Report - 10 Year Plan 2027-37 and Item 18 Caversham Tunnel Access for Dunedin Tunnels Trail Options Report - 10 Year Plan 2027-37 to be taken before Item 6 – Marlow Park Destination Playground Developed Design.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/119)

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.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the Elected Members' Interest Register; and

b) **Confirms** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.

c) **Notes** the proposed management plan for the Executive Leadership Teams' Interests.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/120)

Deputy Mayor Lucas appointed Cr Brent Weatherall to be the Deputy Chairperson for the meeting.

REPORTS

16 COMMUNITY RANGER OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

A report from Parks and Recreation provided background on the Community Ranger programme (the Programme) and options on its future.

The Programme had been delivered by Dunedin City Council and the Department of Conservation in partnership since 2018 and provided a seasonal, coordinated ranger presence at high-use visitor locations, with Community Rangers undertaking daily patrols from November to April.

The General Manager, City Services (Scott MacLean); Group Manager Parks and Recreation (Heath Ellis) and Parks and Recreation Planner (Stephen Hogg) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Mickey Treadwell left the meeting at 10.10 am and returned at 10.12 am.
Cr Jo Galer left the meeting at 10.17 am and returned at 10.20 am.

During discussion Cr Russell Lund entered the meeting at 10.57 am

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Council:

a) **Discontinues** provision of an annual funding contribution towards the Community Ranger programme.

Division

The Council voted by division

For:	Crs Jo Galer, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (6).
Against:	Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (7).
Abstained:	Nil

The division was declared **LOST** by 7 votes to 6

Moved (Cr Steve Walker/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** inclusion of a funding contribution toward the Community Ranger programme in the draft 10 year plan 2027-37.

Division

The Council voted by division

For:	Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (7).
Against:	Crs Jo Galer, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (6).
Abstained:	Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 6

Motion carried (CNL/2026/121)

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 11.27 am and reconvened at 11.39 am

17 PRIORITISATION AND FUNDING OF SEAL EXTENSIONS OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

A report from Transport responded to the Council request for advice on a prioritisation method for sealing unsealed roads and the associated funding implications.

The report outlined the historical approach to seal extensions in Dunedin, proposed a prioritisation framework based on a multi-criteria model, summarised approaches taken by other councils, and identified the financial implications of reinstating a sealing programme.

The General Manager, City Services (Scott MacLean) and Acting Group Manager Transport (Simon Smith) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Russell Lund entered the meeting at 11.41 am.
Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 12.01 pm and returned at 12.04 pm.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** Option 1 to maintain current focus on network renewals, safety and resilience, and existing dust suppression methods of Otta seal and bio-oils for the management of roading network seal extensions.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Mickey Treadwell, Lee Vandervis, Steve Walker and Brent Weatherall (9).
Against: Crs John Chambers, Jo Galer, Marie Laufiso and Mandy Mayhem (4).
Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 9 votes to 4

Motion carried (CNL/2026/122)

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 30 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 12.40 pm and reconvened at 1.12 pm.

18 CAVERSHAM TUNNEL ACCESS FOR DUNEDIN TUNNELS TRAIL OPTIONS REPORT - 10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37

A report from Commercial Services and 3 Waters provided an update on the steps required to make the Caversham Tunnel available for public use in accordance with the Council resolution.

The General Manager, Art, Culture & Economic Development (Mike Costelloe) and Project Director (Glen Hazelton) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Jo Galer entered the meeting at 1.15 pm.
Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 1.16 pm and returned at 1.20 pm.
Cr Russell Lund entered the meeting at 1.19 pm.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** allocating the $1m already included in the 10 year plan 2027-37 to Caversham Tunnel upgrade works.

b) **Approves** bringing this budget forward to years one and two for the 10 year plan 2027-37.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/123)

6 MARLOW PARK DESTINATION PLAYGROUND DEVELOPED DESIGN

A report from Commercial Services provided an update on the design of Marlow Park Destination Playground, sought direction on the options for the dinosaur slide and approval to begin construction.

The report discussed the background to Council's decision to upgrade Marlow Park as the first of three destination playgrounds in the city to be redeveloped. It outlined the design process, integration of public and Councillor feedback and the key features and equipment planned for the playground.

It also detailed risks related to the condition of the dinosaur slide and presented options of remediation, replication and removal for Council to consider.

The General Manager City Services (Scott MacLean), Group Manager Parks and Recreation (Heath Ellis) and Project Director (Glen Hazelton) spoke to the report, explained the vision and stages for the playground and responded to questions.

Staff advised that in response to feedback regarding the park's closure during construction, Marlow Park would now remain open for as long as possible over the summer period. Construction would be staged in phases beginning mid-to-late January, ensuring the project still met its final completion deadline of 30 June. Certain areas, would remain open throughout the construction period, though alternative access points may be implemented.

In response to enquiries regarding wheelchair and disabled accessibility, it was noted that the upgraded park would feature an accessible bank slide, an updated whale feature, and several standard, off-the-shelf inclusive play options. They explained other play styles and equipment such as sensory play.

Cr Marie Laufiso left the meeting at 1.59 pm and returned at 2.01 pm.
Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 2.13 pm and returned at 2.15 pm.

It was moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

a) **Extends** the meeting beyond 6 hours.

Motion carried

Cr Jo Galer left the meeting at 2.43 pm and returned at 2.47 pm.
Cr Mandy Mayhem left the meeting at 3.08 pm and returned at 3.11 pm.

It was agreed that the resolutions would be taken separately.

Moved (Cr Mickey Treadwell/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** the developed design of the Marlow Park Destination Playground for construction.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/124) with Crs Jo Galer, Russell Lund and Lee Vandervis recording their votes against

Moved (Cr Mickey Treadwell/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

b) **Approves** Option One for the dinosaur slide, being the replication of the dinosaur head and neck through 3D scanning and reconstruction, relocation to the proposed slide zone, and removal of the existing dinosaur structure.

Division

The Council voted by division

For:	Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (8).
Against:	Crs Jo Galer, Russell Lund, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis and Brent Weatherall (5).
Abstained:	Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 8 votes to 5

Motion carried (CNL/2026/125)

Moved (Cr Mickey Treadwell/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

c) **Authorises** staff to continue to seek additional funding through grants or sponsorship to increase the range and activity options within the playground, including the skate and parkour areas.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/126)

Moved (Deputy Mayor Lucas/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 3.40 pm and reconvened at 3.50 pm

7 DRAFT GRANTS POLICY

A report from Corporate Policy sought approval to consult on a draft of an updated Dunedin City Council's Grants Policy.

The Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) (Nicola Morand) and Community Partnerships Manager (Gina Hu'akau) and Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua – Senior Policy Analyst (Meghan Cooper) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Cr Doug Hall left the meeting at 4.25 pm and returned at 4.31 pm.

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Russell Lund):

That the Council:

a) **Notes** the contents of this paper.

b) **Notes** the renaming of the Dunedin City Council's Grants Management Policy to Grants Policy.

c) **Approves** the draft Grants Policy for public consultation through the Long-Term Plan process, with the amendment that DCC accepts applications from groups for events where there is an alcohol sponsor however DCC funding cannot be used directly to purchase or supply alcohol.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/127)with Crs Russell Lund and Lee Vandervis recording their votes against

8 SUBMISSION - BUILDING AMENDMENT BILL

A report from Corporate Policy and Corporate and Regulatory sought approval of the Dunedin City Council submission on the Building Amendment Bill to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee.

The General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services (Paul Henderson), Acting Manager, Building Services (Mike Hart) and Principal Advisor Building Services (Grant Sutton) spoke to the report, advised of some minor typos in the letter where the headings were referred to as the Building Amendment Bill when it should have been the Building Amendment Act, they then responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Russell Lund):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** the draft Dunedin City Council submission on the Building Amendment Bill.

b) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial amendments to the draft submission before it is lodged.

c) **Authorises** the Mayor or delegate to speak to the submission at any hearing.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/128)

9 EXCEPTION FOR NON-ELECTED MEMBER VOTING AND QUORUM RIGHTS

A report from Civic advised that as from 18 March 2027, non-elected members of specified committees would be unable to vote or be counted for quorum unless an exception applied.

The Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (ARAC) had an independent Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson with the quorum being three members which must include at least one independent member.

Section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002 allowed an exception to be made by an Order in Council where the Minister of Local Government considers it necessary or desirable.

This report sought consideration as to whether to apply for an indefinite exception so that ARAC can retain its current arrangements. The exception would apply only to the two independent positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. Elected members would continue make up five of the Committees seven positions and retain the voting majority.

The Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) Nicola Morand and Manager Governance (Robyn Dillon) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Christine Garey):

That the Council:

a) **Approves** an application to the Minister of Local Government requesting that the Minister recommend the making of an Order in Council under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002, specifying an indefinite exception for the Dunedin City Council Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee from the application of clauses 23(4) and 31A(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, limited to no more than two non-elected members appointed to the offices of independent Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, so that those office-holders may:

   i) be counted as members of the Committee for the purpose of determining the number of members required to constitute a quorum and whether a quorum exists at a meeting; and

   ii) vote at any meeting of, or in respect of any decision made by, the Committee.

b) **Approves** the application to the Minister of Local Government.

c) **Delegates** authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the application before it is submitted, provided the amendments are consistent with Council's decision and do not change the statutory provisions, Committee, roles, duration or scope of the exception being sought.

d) **Notes** that the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee currently comprises the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, three Councillors and two independent members, with an independent Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, and has a quorum of three members which must include at least one independent member.

e) **Notes** that if an Order in Council is not in force when the new legislative provisions take effect, changes will be needed to ARAC's governance arrangements, including its quorum requirements.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/129) with Crs Jo Galer, Russell Lund and Lee Vandervis recording their votes against.

10 PROPOSED EVENT ROAD CLOSURES

A report from Transport sought approval for temporary road closure applications relating to the following events:

i) Orange Parade

ii) Community Christmas Event

iii) Brighton Gala Day

iv) World Surf League

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

a) **Resolves** to close the roads detailed below (pursuant to Section 319, Section 342, and Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 (LGA 1974)):

i) Orange Parade

Friday, 20 November 2026	9.00am to 9.45am	• Great King Street, from Frederick Street to end
	9.25am to 9.55am	• Frederick Street, between Great King Street and George Street
	9.35am to 10.15am	• George Street, between Frederick Street and The Octagon
	9.15am to 11.00am	• The Octagon Central Carriageway, between George Street and Princes Street
	10.00am to 2.45pm	• Left downhill lane of Upper Stuart Street, between Littlebourne Road and Queens Drive

ii) Community Christmas Event

Sunday, 13 December 2026	1.30pm to 9.00pm	• Lanark Street, between Irvine Street and Gordon Road

iii) Brighton Gala Day

Sunday, 17 January 2027	8.00am to 7.00pm	• Brighton Road, between Bath Street and Taylor Street

* *Detours via Bath Street, Cole Street and Taylor Street*

iv) World Surf League

Sunday, 14 March 2027 UNTIL Tuesday, 23 March 2027	8.00am (14 March 2027) UNTIL 6.00am (23 March 2027)	• Forbury Road, between Victoria Road and Esplanade
		• Esplanade, between Forbury Road and Beach Street
		• One lane of Beach Street, from Bedford Street to Cliffs Road
		• Second Beach Road, from Beach Street to end

Motion carried (CNL/2026/130)

11 NOTICE OF MOTION - FILLING EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Notice of Motion lapsed as Cr Benedict Ong was not present to move and speak to the motion.

The meeting concluded at 5.32 pm

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MAYOR