

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Queenstown Lakes District Council held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown on Thursday 27 June 2024 commencing at 1.00pm

Present:

Mayor Glyn Lewers; Councillors Bartlett, Bruce, Cocks, Ferguson, Gladding, Guy, Smith, Tucker, White, Whitehead and Wong

In attendance:

Mr Mike Theelen (Chief Executive Officer), Ms Meaghan Miller (General Manager, Corporate Services), Mr Stewart Burns (General Manager, Assurance, Finance and Risk), Mr Tony Avery (General Manager, Property and Infrastructure), Mr David Wallace (General Manager Planning and Development), Mr Ken Bailey (General Manager, Community Services), Mr Caleb Dawson-Swale (Business Planning Manager), Mr Peter Harris (Manager, Economic Development), Ms Marie Day (Community Partnerships Manager), Ms Jan Maxwell (Relationship Manager, Arts and Events), Ms Alyson Hutton (Planning Policy Manager), Mr Giovanni Stephens (Community Investment Advisor), Ms Amy Bowbyes (Principal Planner, Planning Policy), Ms Gizelle Regan (Chair, Three Lakes Charitable Trust), Mr Daniel Hadfield (Senior Policy Planner), Ms Bridget Gilbert (Landscape Architect, BGLA) (on line), Mr Jon Winterbottom (Governance Team Leader) and Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Governance Advisor); one member of the media and approximately four members of the public

Apologies/Leave of Absence Applications

There were no apologies.

The following requests for leave of absence were made:

- Mayor Lewers: 17-19 July 2024
- Councillor Wong: 18-24 July 2024
- Councillor Bartlett: 19-22 November 2024
- Councillor White: 3-9 December 2024

It was moved (The Mayor/Councillor Tucker):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council approve the requests for leave of absence.

Motion carried unanimously.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Councillor Ferguson declared a conflict in respect of item 6 and undertook to leave the room during discussion on this item.

Councillor Smith advised that he had been a Commissioner for item 7. He also noted that he was a Trustee for the Alpine Community Development Trust and Upper Clutha Tracks Trust,

both of which were recommended to receive funding in item 6 as well as the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival Trust, in receipt of events funding in item 7.

Councillor Gladding declared a conflict in regard to item 9 and undertook to leave the room for discussion of this item.

Public Forum

1. Olivia Egerton (Te Atamira)

Ms Egerton spoke in support of 'Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata: The Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy' for the Queenstown Lakes District. She spoke of the many different voices that it expressed, the large number of plans that it served to pull together and the many thousands of hours that had gone into its preparation. It was new era for the arts in the district and the arts were a global language and she asked the Council to endorse the strategy.

2. Kevin Bouchier (Co-Chair of Te Atamira) (speaking on behalf of Alison Price)

Mr Bouchier appeared for Alison Price, music teacher at Wakatipu High School who was unwell and unable to attend the meeting. Musical education provided young people with many skills important for their future success. 'Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata: The Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy' gave cohesion to the youth arts sector and a sense of ownership. Involvement in the creative arts enhanced personal well-being and helped mental health.

3. Pierre Marasti (Extinction Rebellion)

Mr Marasti confirmed that May 2024 was the 12th month in a row to break temperature records. He detailed recent examples of extreme weather conditions but noted that this news barely got any public reaction now. Most warming was caused by the use of fossil fuels and the easiest action an individual could take was to boycott fossil fuels. Communities should also try to reduce waste and New Zealand should learn from the zero waste initiative in place in the city of Roubaix in France.

Confirmation of Agenda

The Mayor advised that Queenstown Airport wanted the Statement of Intent item (currently item 3) to be moved to become item 1 in the meeting.

It was moved (Councillor Gladding/Councillor Smith):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve that the agenda be confirmed with item 3 becoming item 1 and all the subsequent items following in the published order.

Motion carried unanimously.

Confirmation of minutes

6 June 2024 (Ordinary meeting)

It was moved (The Mayor/Councillor Gladding):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Queenstown Lakes District Council held on 6 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Motion carried unanimously.

1 Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) Statement of Intent

A covering report from Meaghan Miller (General Manager, Corporate Services) introduced Queenstown Airport's Statement of Intent (SOI) for the year ending 30 June 2025. The SOI was presented in two forms, the first being a clean version and the second marked up showing where changes had been made in response to the Council's requests. The report recommended that the Council agree the SOI for the year ending 30 June 2025.

Ms Miller presented the report. In response to a question, she noted that there was no option provided in the covering report to request further changes to the SOI as the QAC Board had recently considered the SOI and approved it. Accordingly, the only options available were for the Council to agree the SOI (or not).

Councillor Gladding did not agree that it was the right time to invest in tourism growth and although she acknowledged the quality of the latest SOI, she stated that she could not support the recommendation.

It was moved (Councillor Cocks/Councillor Bruce):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Note the QAC is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO) as per Section 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) and must therefore comply with Section 64 of the Act that requires all CCOs to have a Statement of Intent that meets with the requirements of Schedule 8, noting that this is a statutory requirement; and**
- 3. Agree under Section 65 (2) of the Act the Queenstown Airport Statement of Intent year ending 30 June 2025.**

Motion carried with Councillor Gladding recording her vote against the motion.

2. Long Term Plan 2024-34L Consultation Document adoption

A report from Caleb Dawson-Swale (Business Planning Manager) introduced the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan consultation document and draft Long Term Plan ('LTP') supporting document for public consultation due to occur between 28 June 2024 and 28 July 2024. The report recommended that the consultation document and supporting document (LTP) be adopted for consultation between 28 June and 28 July 2024.

Mr Burns and Ms Miller presented the report. Ms Miller acknowledged that the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan would be Mr Burns' last LTP for the Council and she thanked him and the wider team for the hard work that had begun 18 months earlier. She noted that since publication of the agenda, there had been several minor changes made to the consultation document and the current version of this was available on the website.

Mr Burns stated that he could not think of another LTP that had been so uniquely difficult to prepare. Nonetheless, it was not easy to propose a 15% rates increase and he acknowledged the work of the elected Council and staff to balance the budget over the next 10 years. The Mayor also recognised the massive contribution of Mr Burns to the 2024-34 LTP and praised the hard work of all staff involved. Members observed that a 15% rates rise was less than many other councils in New Zealand were contemplating.

It was noted that the district-wide capital investment dashboard would remain in place beyond the current consultation period as an ongoing live tool.

There was further discussion about risk, leaky homes, operating costs, targeted rates, arterial projects, revenue from development contributions and funding for sport turf rehabilitation. Although the consultation document identified key topics, it was noted that submissions could be made on any aspect of the LTP and elected members encouraged the community to get involved and make submissions

Councillor Gladding expressed concern around operating expenditure and the impact of agreed levels of service. She was particularly concerned that it was not affordable and that the Council had not debated the baseline levels of service in a public meeting. Accordingly, she indicated that she would vote against the motion.

It was moved (the Mayor/Councillor Tucker):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Adopt the Draft Long Term Plan supporting document for consultation;**
- 3. Adopt the Long Term Plan Consultation Document for consultation; and**
- 4. Approve consultation on the proposed amendments to the Policy on Development Contributions in accordance with Part 6, section 106 (6) of the Local Government Act 2002.**

Motion carried with Councillor Gladding recording her vote against the motion.

3. Approval of User Fees and Charges commencing Financial Year 2024/25

A report from Caleb Dawson-Swale (Business Planning Manager) detailed the consultation undertaken on fees and charges, the hearing held and the panel's recommendations in regard to biennial inspection of moorings. The report recommended that the Council approve the user fees and charges for environmental health, sport and recreation (including aquatics, community facilities and parks/reserves), library services, parking, mooring and jetty fees, Wānaka Airport and planning and development. The report also recommended a biennial safety inspection for moorings.

Mr Burns and Mr Avery presented the report.

The Mayor noted that the proposed fees and charges had been through a full hearing process and he invited Councillor Guy, who had chaired the hearing panel, to make further comment. Councillor Guy acknowledged the assistance of staff who had prepared detailed responses to the panel's questions which had assisted the panel's deliberations. The hearing panel had specifically recommended a biennial safety inspection of moorings as it had concluded that an annual inspection was too costly for each owner. All other fees had been recommended for approval (although parking and mooring/jetty fees had been recommended by a majority and were not a unanimous agreement).

There was further discussion about the need to ensure that fees were reviewed regularly to avoid the need to implement infrequent but large fee increases.

Councillor White noted that although officers had explained why there was no difference in the environmental health fees charged for small and large food operators, she remained opposed to these fee increases for this reason.

Councillor Gladding was critical of the report as she did not consider that it addressed specific submission points and neither did the hearing minutes. She considered that there was no sound basis for increasing parking fees and she had voted against their adoption at the hearing. She also considered that there was a major flaw in the consultation process used for the mooring fee increases as she did not understand why a proposed biennial inspection had been included in the Statement of Proposal. In addition, the consultation process had not taken into account the consultation requirements of the QLDC Navigation Safety Bylaw 2018.

A request was made for part (4) of the recommendation to be voted on separately from the other parts.

It was moved (Councillor Bruce/Councillor Bartlett):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Consider the submissions received on the proposed user fees and charges commencing financial year 2024/25, together with advice from officers;**
- 3. Approve the proposed user fees and charges commencing financial year 2024/25, in line with the recommendation of the hearing panel;**
- 5. Note that the proposed user fees and charges commencing financial year 2024/25 have been included in the draft budgets within the Long Term Plan 2024-34.**

Motion carried with Councillor White recording her vote against the motion.

It was moved (Councillor Bruce/Councillor Bartlett):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

- 4. Approve as follows:**
 - a. To prescribe as a requirement for the administration of the QLDC Navigation Safety Bylaw 2018 (bylaw), a biennial safety inspection of each mooring under this bylaw, together with any ancillary actions related to**

the inspection, to be carried out by a suitably qualified person approved by the Council (in accordance with s52 of the bylaw); and

- b. To prescribe the following fees and charges (in accordance with s53 of the bylaw): a \$500 annual fee for jetty permits, private and commercial moorings.**

Motion carried with Councillors Gladding, Smith and White recording their votes against the motion.

4. Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata: The Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy for the Queenstown Lakes District

A covering report from Marie Day (Community Partnerships Manager) presented the Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy to Council for endorsement as well as an implementation Plan for the strategy. The report noted that the strategy had been developed in a partnership arrangement involving the Council, the Three Lakes Cultural Trust, Lakes District Museum and Kāi Tahu and had been informed by community consultation. The report recommended that the Council endorse the Creative, Culture and Heritage Strategy/ Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata.

Ms Day and Mr Bailey presented the report. Ms Day introduced Giselle Regan, the Chair of the Three Lakes Cultural Trust and acknowledged her role as chair of the working group that had developed the strategy.

Members noted that the strategy made many references to the role of Lakes District Museum, but none to the Upper Clutha Historical Records Society. In response, it was reported that there had been several meetings with the society and there was a commitment to work with the Upper Clutha. Officers also explained which parts of the previous heritage strategy had been incorporated into the strategy and how information remaining had been recorded.

Councillor Smith expressed concern that some of the terminology used in reference to disabled people was inconsistent with the New Zealand Disability Strategy and he asked for these changes to be made.

It was moved (Councillor Ferguson/Councillor Whitehead):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

- 1. Note the contents of the report; and**
- 2. Endorse Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata |The Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy for the Queenstown Lakes District**

3. **Agree Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata |The Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy for the Queenstown Lakes District will come into effect on 1 July 2024; and**
4. **Revoke the Heritage Strategy 2010 effective from 1 July 2024.**

Motion carried unanimously.

5. QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 Allocation Recommendations

A report from Giovanni Stephens (Community Investment Advisor) presented an overview of the QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027 application and review process and sought approval from Council on recommended funding allocations which had been considered and determined at meetings held on 21 May 2024 and 6 June 2024.

Mr Stephens, Ms Day and Mr Bailey presented the report.

In response to a question, officers commented on plans to alter the process for future years, with a new platform for submitting applications to be introduced and plans for policy development to help guide future funding decisions.

Councillor Bartlett expressed disappointment that a long-standing partner, Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group, had not received its full allocation in the latest funding round.

It was moved (Councillor Wong/Councillor Tucker):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

1. **Note the contents of this report; and**
2. **Approve the following recommended funding allocations from the QLDC Community Fund 2024-2027:**

Organisation	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	One-off grant '24/25
Queenstown Arts Society				\$5,000
Glenorchy Heritage & Museum Group	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Three Lakes Cultural Trust	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Te Atamira Whakatipu Community Trust	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	
Lakes District Museum Incorporated	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	

Organisation	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	One-off grant '24/25
Upper Clutha Historical Society Inc	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Women's Shed Queenstown	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	
Happiness House Trust	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	
Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country Community Association				\$10,000
Queenstown Community Cats				\$3,000
Community Networks/ LINK (Alpine Community Development Trust)	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	
Out&about Wānaka				\$10,000
Lake Hāwea Community Association	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Wānaka Community Workshop Trust	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	
Kingston Community Association				\$17,000
Volunteer South Trust/ Kaitūao o te Taitonga	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	
Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Kāhu Youth Trust	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Mint Charitable Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Path Wānaka/Ara Ki Wānaka	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Aspiring Beginnings Early Learning Centre				\$4,000
Wānaka Playgroup				\$2000
Wakatipu Youth Trust t/a Whakatipu Youth Trust	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	
WORD Limited (World Off-road Riding Department)				\$5,000
Lakes District Air Rescue Trust	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Wakatipu Community Foundation				\$10,000
Shaping Our Future	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Glenorchy Community Association	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Gibbston Community Association				\$10,000
Queenstown Harvest Community Gardens	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Arthurs Point Community Association Inc				\$10,000
Tucker Beach Wildlife Trust				\$10,000
KAPOW Queenstown				\$2,000
Wai Wānaka	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Te Kākano Aotearoa Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	

Organisation	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	One-off grant '24/25
Ruby Island Management Committee	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Incorporated (WCG)	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	
Wao Aotearoa	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Whakatipu Wildlife Trust	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Whakatipu Reforestation Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Southern Lakes Branch of NZ Deerstalkers Association	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Baskets of Blessings Charitable Trust	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Grow Wānaka Community Gardens	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Food for Love	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
KiwiHarvest	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Upper Clutha Children's Medical Centre Trust				\$3,000
Māori Women's Welfare League - Whakatipu-Wai-Māori Branch				\$10,000
KnowYourStuffNZ				\$5,000
Parent to Parent, Otago				\$5,000
Queenstown Cricket Club Inc				\$10,000
Queenstown Pickleball Club				\$3,000
Rad Community Trust				\$10,000
Wānaka Associated Football Club				\$10,000
Whakatipu Waka Ama Inc				\$5,000
Waiorau Nordic Sports Club				\$5,000
Queenstown Gymnastics Club				\$4,000
Southern Lakes Swimming Club				\$2,000
Glenorchy Trails Trust				\$10,000
Upper Clutha Tracks Trust	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Bike Wānaka	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Queenstown Trails Trust	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Queenstown Mountain Bike Club Inc	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	
The Kiwi Kit Community Trust	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Queenstown Citizen's Advice	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Ferguson and Councillor Smith left the meeting at this point.

6. Events Funding Round 2024/25

A report from Jan Maxwell (Relationship Manager, Arts and Events) noted that in 2024/2025 there were 29 applications requesting a total of \$994,767 for events funding support. The funding panel (Councillors Craig Ferguson, Matt Wong, Quentin Smith and Barry Bruce) had considered the applications on 29 May 2024 and agreed on funding allocations for amounts less than \$30,000 for which it had the delegated authority. The report noted that funding of more than \$30,000 needed Council approval and the report recommended for consideration allocations to Challenge Wānaka, LUMA Light Festival, Queenstown Marathon and Wānaka Festival of Colour.

Ms Maxwell and Mr Harris presented the report. They acknowledged the work completed by Phoebe Arthur (Events and Film Facilitator) on the applications.

There was considerable discussion about waste management and the desire for event managers to demonstrate sustainable practices. Ms Maxwell detailed initiatives to support the industry in achieving sustainability.

It was moved (Councillor Wong/Councillor Guy):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Note the decision of the Events Panel for under \$30,000:**

Ripe – Wānaka Wine and Food Festival	\$25,000
Wānaka A & P Show	\$25,000
Wheels at Wānaka 2025	\$20,000
Arrowtown Autumn Festival	\$20,000
Winter Games NZ	\$20,000
NZ Golf Open	\$20,000
Proving Grounds (mountain biking event)	\$20,000
Motatapu	\$20,000
Lake Hayes A & P Show	\$15,000
NZ Junior Rugby – Global Games	\$15,000
The WILD (trail running event)	\$15,000
Wao Summit	\$12,000
Central Lakes Polyfest	\$10,000
Queenstown Multicultural Festival	\$10,000
NZ Mountain Film Festival	\$5,000
OUT & About Wānaka	\$5,000

3. Approve event funding for \$30,000 or more to the following events:

Challenge Wānaka	\$30,000
LUMA Light Festival	\$35,000
Queenstown Marathon	\$32,100
Wānaka Festival of Colour	\$30,000

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Ferguson and Councillor Smith returned to the meeting at this point.

7. **Upper Clutha Landscape Schedules Variation Notification Request**

A report from Daniel Hadfield (Senior Policy Planner) presented the Upper Clutha Landscape Schedules Variation to the Proposed District Plan (PDP). The Variation would introduce landscape schedules to be included in Chapter 21 Rural Zone of the PDP and Council approval was sought to notify the Proposal as a Variation to the PDP.

Mr Wallace, Ms Hutton, Mr Hadfield presented the report. Ms Gilbert joined on line to address any technical questions.

It was moved (Councillor Tucker/Councillor Bruce):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

1. Note the contents of this report;
2. Approve for notification pursuant to section 79(1) and clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Upper Clutha Landscape Schedules Variation to the Proposed District Plan (PDP); and
3. Authorise the Manager of Planning Policy to make any minor edits and changes to the proposal and section 32 report necessary to improve clarity and correct errors prior to notification.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Chief Executive's report**

A report from the Chief Executive sought delegated authority from Council to enter into a contract with Aon for insurance brokerage services which would include the provision of associated insurance policies. The report noted that the total cost of brokerage services was not large, but with the addition of insurance policies (>\$12M) the sum exceeded the Chief Executive's financial delegations.

It was moved (Councillor Bruce/Councillor White):

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve to:

- 1. Note the contents of this report;**
- 2. Delegate to the Chief Executive the power to enter into a contract with Aon for insurance brokerage services which includes the provision of associated insurance policies (for a maximum term of 5 years);**
- 3. Note that officers will provide an insurance renewal report to the Assurance, Finance & Risk Committee, prior to renewing insurance policies (currently renewal periods are April and November each year) and**

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Gladding left the meeting at 3.10pm.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

It was moved (The Mayor/Councillor Bruce)

That the Queenstown Lakes District Council resolve that the public be excluded from the following parts of the meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Agenda items

Item 9: Appointment of Commissioners to the Independent Hearings Panel for the Urban Intensification Variation to the Proposed District Plan

General subject to be considered.	Reason for passing this resolution.	Grounds under Section 7 for the passing of this resolution.
9. Appointment of Commissioners to the Independent Hearings Panel for the Urban Intensification Variation to the Proposed District Plan	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of information is necessary to: a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased natural persons	Section 7(2)a)

This recommendation is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as shown above with respect to each item.

The meeting went into public excluded at 3.10pm.

The meeting came out of public excluded and concluded at 3.14pm.

MAYOR

DATE