

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 9AM**

**PRESENT**

Mayor Sam Broughton, Councillors, P M Dean, S N O H Epiha, L L Gliddon, D Hasson, S G McInnes, G S F Miller, R H Mugford, E S Mundt & N C Reid

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Messrs. T Harris (Acting Chief Executive), K Mason (Executive Director Enabling Services), M England (Acting Executive Director Infrastructure and Property); and Mesdames D Kidd (Executive Director Community Services & Facilities), and K Hunt (Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive) and Ms T Davel (Committee Advisor)

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Mayor Broughton welcomed all to the Extraordinary Council meeting, noting the agenda and paperwork had been pre-circulated.

The Mayor spoke to Council about what good leadership might look like. He said for him, good leadership was about being able to do things beyond ourselves, to do things that people will never know that you were involved with. It was about understanding it's not about 'me', but about 'us'.

He added that poor leadership was quite reactionary, and about the self and your ego, about what people say to you in the moment. He was pleased that, as a Council, there was a collective position to think long-term. Thinking about the decision in front of Council today should bring out the leader and the best in each one.

The Mayor also spoke about the council affirmation and said that as governors, Council work together for the district. He said all councillors have the attributes cited in the affirmation, common sense, wisdom and experience. He asked that each treat the other with the values they bring to the table. Often in a confrontational moment people stop listening and think about what to say next, rather than taking time to truly listen and be open to what others have to say.

He said that the reason for today's Extraordinary Meeting is to consider a paper relating to the voting system as a part of the Representation Review currently underway. There is a statutory deadline by which the outcome need to be published.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence on behalf of Councillor Lyall were received.

**Moved** – Mayor Broughton / **Seconded** – Councillor McInnes

*“That Council receive the apologies of Councillor Lyall for absence.”*

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Acting Chief Executive**

#### *Choosing an Electoral System*

Acting Chief Executive, Mr T Harris took the paper as read but read out the recommendations. He said a resolution to move to a Single Transferable Voting (STV) system will apply to both the 2025 and 2028 elections. The reason for the extraordinary meeting was the due date of 19 September which is statutory.

Mr Harris also noted that should more than 5% of voters indicate a need for a poll Council would need to abide by that. Councillor Dean as Chairperson of the Representation Review Subcommittee spoke about the discussions at their last meeting. He said it was not an easy decision to make and the vote was split.

The Mayor said the Future for Local Government panel thought this change was needed and that means it is what most people want. In Selwyn's case there is no real way of knowing if it was the true preference. Council briefly discussed the result of the last election and how different, if at all, any outcome might have been under a different electoral system.

Councillor Gliddon said she voted against the change in the Representation Review meeting as she felt the process was backwards and that a ward structure (if any) should be determined before applying an election system. She added that most people did not understand how the STV works and that it was quite confusing.

Councillor McInnes said she would vote in favour of changing to STV as there is a changing demographic and an increase in ethnic minorities which may benefit from this system.

Councillor Mundt noted that this may not be a tactical way to vote and that it would be preferable to have a simple option.

Councillor Miller added he would also vote to remain with the current First Past the Post (FPP) system as it wasn't clear that the community wanted the change. He said Council should be asking the community what they want.

Councillor Hasson said it would appear that going out for consultation was already too late. Staff said there would be a poll regardless of the decision today.

Councillor Reid said it might be good to try a new system and it was what the Future for Local Government panel recommended. It could also be that Council could choose one system now and another for the 2028 elections.

Councillor Dean reassured Council that this decision will not hamstring the Representation Review as it is part of a package of considerations, including having Maori wards, voting at large or per ward etc. The budget, more than anything else, would be what would hamstring the process. That is something that can be planned for in the future though.

The Mayor said he was pleased about this discussion as it was the first time ever that Council has had a debate on this, usually it was a quick decision and did not change.

Councillor Epiha said this was a changing and growing district and changing the system will benefit the younger population and other minority groups. It showed better data, better engagement and the only way to improve engagement was to change the system.

The Mayor put the motion.

## RECOMMENDATION

**Moved** – Councillor Dean / **Seconded** – Councillor McInnes

*'That the Council:*

*(a) notes the recommendation from the Representation Review Subcommittee to Council to resolve to use Single Transferrable Vote (STV) for the 2025 and 2028 local government triennial elections.*

**CARRIED**

*(b) resolves, under section 27 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 to change the electoral system from First Past the Post (FPP), to Single Transferable Voting (STV), noting that if the resolution is successful, Single Transferable Voting (STV) will be adopted for the next two Local Government elections in 2025 and 2028.*

**LOST**  
**4:6**

*(c) notes that public notice must be given, no later than 19 September 2023, of the resolution passed under section 27 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the right of electors to demand a poll on the electoral system.'*

**CARRIED**

For clarity, Council decided to remain with the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system AND to undertake a poll.

The meeting closed with a karakia.

With no further business being discussed, the meeting closed at 9.45am.

DATED this 18 day of September 2023

  
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**CHAIRPERSON**