

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2009, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.00 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

R. Scarlett (Chairman), P. Ewen, A. Robb, T. Archer, D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Birchfield

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents and Compliance Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk),  
The Media

#### **1. APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no presentation.

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 September 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **REPORTS:**

#### **4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS**

S. Moran spoke to his report and asked that it be taken as read.

**Moved** (Robb / Ewen) *that the report be received.*

*Carried*

#### **4.1.2 PROPOSED WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT**

S. Moran spoke to this report advising that this proposal went out to the vote with the result being that there is insufficient support for a rating district to be set up. S. Moran advised that it is possible that the community may wish to amend the proposal. Cr Scarlett stated that a 56% return might not be a true reflection of how people feel. Cr Scarlett wondered if it would have been appropriate to remind people to vote. S. Moran responded that usually it is left up to those proposing a rating district to generate the interest. He advised that there were people who attended meetings that didn't take the time to vote. Cr Archer wonders whether ratepayers in some of these areas clearly understand what sort of groundswell of support is actually required. Cr Archer stated that he was of the view that there would need to be around 75% of respondents but currently we have a response of 11 out of 30 ratepayers. He feels this is not a high level of support and he would prefer a more consistent approach to gauge what would be an appropriate level of support. He stated that in this

case there is not a 75% threshold. Cr Scarlett stated that in the past the test has been if the majority wants a rating district then it goes ahead with the collective view of staff and Councillors taken into account. Cr Davidson asked how critical is the maintenance work on the existing structure. S. Moran responded that maintenance is required before it becomes a major job. Cr Scarlett asked if it is possible for those who didn't vote to be contacted so a view on this can be obtained. S. Moran confirmed this is possible for a rating district of this size, he confirmed that 13 people did not vote. C. Ingle suggested that by going with the recommendation to decline the formation of a rating district this would become the motivator for those who are championing the idea to ensure that everyone responds to voting. Cr Chinn feels that at least 75% of ratepayers need to be in favour of forming a rating district; he supports C. Ingle's advice. S. Moran advised that he would be speaking to those wanting to form the rating district later this week when he attends the annual rating district meetings in South Westland. Cr Archer feels that the implementation of a policy for the formation of rating districts may be prudent to ensure that at least 51% of the entire eligible ratepayers vote. He does not mean respondents as he feels there needs to be a clear preference of the majority of the ratepayers who actually vote. Cr Archer stated he would be happy with 75% of ratepayers responding also as he feels there needs to be a benchmark. Cr Robb stated that by having a policy in place those proposing a scheme would be given a clear guideline of what level of support they need to get prior to approaching Council. Cr Birchfield agrees with Cr Chinn and he agrees with putting a threshold on this and he feels that 75% in favour is fair. Cr Ewen also agrees with this.

**Moved** (Robb / Chinn) *that a proposal be brought back to Council by management to establish a clear policy or guideline for the percentage of ratepayer support needed to form a new rating district.*  
*Carried*

## **5.1 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT**

R. Mallinson spoke to his report noting that this is a positive financial report for the first two months of the financial year of \$1.2M. R. Mallinson reported that this is high because of increased realised profit from some of the large aerial contracts that were in progress but not completed at the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. R. Mallinson reported that there were positive budget variances in the general rate area of just under \$45,000. R. Mallinson reported that the investment income return is also positive at just under \$438,000 for this two month period.

**Moved** (Chinn / Archer) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.1 ADOPTION OF AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2009**

R. Mallinson tabled the Audit Report from Audit New Zealand advising that this is an unqualified audit opinion. He advised there have been two main differences of opinion with Audit New Zealand. The first relates to costs for the LTCCP audit, Council has previously requested that these costs be written off during the three year life of the LTCCP. The other difference of opinion relates to quarry aftercare liability provisions of \$108,000. R. Mallinson suggested to Audit New Zealand that Council sticks with the original provision of \$85,800 due to the uncertain future of some quarries.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer)

*That Council adopt the audited Annual Report for the year to 30 June 2009 in accordance with Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

*Carried*

## **6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to his report advising that he was the Controller for the first shift for Exercise Ru Whenua. C. Ingle stated the exercise went well with some minor issues needing to be addressed.

C. Ingle drew attention to the two requests for sponsorship that are attached to his report. One of the requests is for sponsorship for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Westland Tai Poutini National Park celebrations. C. Ingle advised that there is no budget in place for sponsorship but stated that Council may wish to support these causes in principle. Cr Davidson stated he supports in principle but feels that the Districts will probably be funding this and it would mean that the ratepayers would be paying twice. Cr Archer agrees with Cr Davidson and stated that Council needs to be sticking to its core business, as there is no budget for sponsorship.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the Chief Executive's Report be received.*

*Carried*

## **7.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)**

The Chairman reported that he, Cr Ewen and C. Ingle met with Mr Laurence Yule, President of Local Government New Zealand on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. Cr Scarlett advised that issues relating to this area were discussed; Mr Yule also met with territorial authorities during his visit to the West Coast. Cr Scarlett reported that he participated in a teleconference with the Regional Affairs Committee to discuss biosecurity issues relating to Tb and funding of the Tb levy. Other matters regarding the Animal Health Board and the expectations of both parties were discussed. Cr Scarlett advised that he met with Hon Gerry Brownlee on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. Cr Ewen and C. Ingle also attended this meeting. Cr Scarlett recently met with Mr Basil Morrison, Chairman of the Local Government New Zealand Superannuation Scheme.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Archer) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.32 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date