

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.33 A.M.

PRESENT:

A. Robb (Chairman), P. Ewen, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, A. Birchfield, N. Clementson, S. Challenger

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (McDonnell / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 9 November 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Birchfield initiated a discussion around procedures used at elections. R. Mallinson agreed to research this and get back to Cr Birchfield.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that a communications plan has been developed. Drop in sessions with the Buller community will be held starting in February to talk about civil defence work that has already been done along with flood warning work. Engineering solutions will be discussed as well as videos being played to display different scenarios. He advised that posters and pop up boards will be placed in key places. M. Meehan advised that a report will be put to council once the feedback from the drop in sessions has been worked through. Cr Archer asked if there will be opportunities for the community to make comments at the drop in centres. M. Meehan stated that feedback forms will be available at the drop in centres and informal feedback will also be taken. He is hoping the elected members from both councils may also come along to the drop in centres and presentations for various community groups will also be made.

M. Meehan advised that the monitoring equipment for the Reefton Airshed is currently being moved to the school site. M. Meehan answered questions from councillors relating to rock available in quarries.

Moved (Clementson / Challenger) *That this report is received.*

Carried

4.1.2 RATING DISTRICT LIAISON MEETINGS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that Council's procurement policy was discussed at some rating district meetings. M. Meehan advised that Council gets two to three quotes for any works of around \$5,000 but over \$5,000 to \$75,000 then this work is tendered out. M. Meehan stated that Franz Josef, Wanganui and Taramakau rating districts felt that \$5,000 was too low as very little work can be done at this price. These three rating districts felt this should be increased to \$15,000 to \$20,000. M. Meehan advised that it was suggested to some rating districts that council puts out a tender for one or two years so that a contractor would commit to doing the work for that rate and they would be immediately available at 24 to 48 hours' notice to do the work. Some rating districts were concerned about cutting out local contractors who are on site in emergency situations. Cr Birchfield drew attention to page 20 of the agenda where the minutes of the Taramakau rating district state that Cr Birchfield arrived at 12.17pm. This is a mistake in the minutes as he arrived with everyone else just prior to midday.

M. Meehan advised that Canavans Knob rating district is in abeyance, this was discussed several months ago, and it was agreed to consult with the community to discuss whether or not to disband this rating district. M. Meehan stated he is proposing to close the rating district and distribute the funds from the account to those properties that were in the Canavans Knob rating district. He advised that he would like to put the assets, which are rock stockpiles, into the Lower Waiho rating district as there are properties that have gone from the Canavans Knob rating district to the Lower Waiho rating district. The main asset which was the rock wall could be shifted to NZTA's ownership. M. Meehan advised that the 12 Mile rating district will also be disbanded as this rating district is no longer needed and all the property owners in this area are in agreement. The funds in the 12 Mile account will also be distributed to the property owners. C. Ingle suggested that the proposed disbanding of these rating districts be included in the motions below.

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen)

1. *That this report is received, with the correction made to the Taramakau minutes.*
2. *That the rate strikes recommended be placed in the next Annual Plan.*
3. *That the Canavans Knob and 12 Mile rating districts are disbanded, once landowners have been consulted.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this is the four month financial report up to 31 October. He advised that the operating deficit is \$280,000 with contributing factors being the Investment Portfolio underperforming though it made a substantial rebound during October of just under \$200,000. He advised that rating district and quarry expenditure exceeded budget by \$200,000. R. Mallinson stated that 2013 / 2014 / 2015 years have been challenging financial years and has resulted in council carrying more short term bank debt than he is comfortable with. He stated this amounts to \$1.15M as at 31 October and he is now bring a recommendation to Council that \$750,000 of this is put on a ten year repayment term with Westpac rather than this carrying on, on an interest only basis. He stated that things are not looking that favourable in the 2015/ 2016 financial year. R. Mallinson answered various questions from Councillors. Extensive discussion took place on investment returns, interest rates and market volatility. The Chairman asked each councillor for their opinions. All Councillors agreed with the recommendation. Discussion took place on the possible sale of a parcel of land that council owns south of Hokitika. It was agreed that R. Mallinson would bring a report on this matter to the February Council meeting.

Moved (Clementson / Archer)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That up to \$750,000 of the existing short term bank debt be placed on a 10 year repayment term (interest rate to floating).*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and spoke of various meeting he attended. He advised that the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Local Government Commission attended the recent Mayors and Chairs forum held in Westport on 16 November. The Chairman advised that he will be attended another meeting with them tomorrow.

The Chairman advised that he spoke at the launch of the Regional Growth Study on 26 November. He stated that the growth study is going to be driven by business interests rather than local government with local government sitting over this as a sponsorship group. The Chairman stated that Hon Nick Smith's stated at the Lake Brunner project meeting that this council is a regional council that has its act together. The Chairman stated this was very pleasing to hear. He stated that the Lake Brunner community is on the right track and has gotten behind this project, and it is important that the good work continues. The Chairman stated that the Shaffrey family has been one of the real leaders right from when it was first noted that there were problems in this catchment. They started the process on their own farm and led this project prior to any rules being put in place.

Moved (Robb / Ewen) *that this report is received.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report and stated that there were some very good speakers at the SOLGM Annual Summit. He stated that it was good to catch up with people who had good practical advice on some of the issues faced here.

C. Ingle stated that there was a lot of learning from other participants at the Civil Defence Controllers Course he recently attended.

C. Ingle reported that the CEG meeting that was held on 1 December was very good. He stated that the CEG group has now been slimmed down in order to be a lot more strategic with only the leaders of each organisation present. Sub groups have now been formed with the junior officers now attending these meetings.

Moved (Challenger / Birchfield) *that this report is received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Challenger advised he would not be able to get to the February meeting until 11.30. It was agreed that the meeting would start at 11.30 on Tuesday 9 February.

The meeting closed at 12.27 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date