

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.40 P.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGY:**

There were no apologies.

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

There was no public forum.

#### **3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Ewen / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 12 December 2017, be confirmed as correct, with the amendment made to the third line of item number 4.2.1, and the inclusion of the late item relating to the Sullivan Coal Mining Licence.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

Cr Ewen raised the matter of late items. He said that late items must be recorded in the public section of the agenda, even if they for the confidential section of the meeting. He stated that the late item at the December meeting should be recorded in the public agenda. R. Mallinson agreed with Cr Ewen's comments.

Cr Clementson stated that there may be new information coming in relating to the Buller River flood modelling following on from Cyclone Fehi. He stated that had there been heavy rainfall at the same time there would have been a lot more damage.

#### **REPORTS:**

#### **4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that he is happy with the quality and price of the work undertaken for the Punakaiki seawall extension. He stated that there was no damage to the seawall after Cyclone Fehi.

R. Beal stated that there has been quite a lot of interest in the sale of the Whitehorse building site.

R. Beal displayed a PowerPoint presentation following Cyclone Fehi. Cr Archer commented that neither the Buller nor Orowaiti Rivers were above their normal operating heights during the cyclone, no stormwater was involved, only saltwater. It was noted that the water levels in all affected areas rose very quickly, within minutes with the cause being storm surge and high tide.

M. Meehan spoke of the severe damage sustained at Hunts Beach. M. Meehan advised that Council infrastructure got off lightly but there have been public inquiries about seawalls in Granity and other sites.

R. Beal advised that had the Grey River been in flood, Cobden would have been inundated. He stated that Council engineering staff is providing advice on damage that occurred at Okarito and consideration will be

given to building a bund to offer more protection. R. Beal advised that community consultation will be required in Carters Beach, Rapahoe and Cobden.

Discussion took place on quarry rock. R. Beal stated that he would be bringing a report on this matter to the next Council meeting.

**Moved** (Archer / McDonnell) *That the report is received.*

*Carried*

## **4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that the surplus for the six months is \$522,000. He stated that this is a satisfactory result for the first six months of the financial year. R. Mallinson stated that there has been substantial volatility with international financial markets during February.

R. Mallinson asked for an exemption for filing a financial report next month as he is busy with the Long Term Plan over the coming weeks.

**Moved** (Archer / Ewen)

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That a financial report will not be submitted to the March Council meeting.*

*Carried*

### **4.2.1 SIX MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2017 – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that most of the performance targets are ongoing, in progress or not achieved as this is the six month report. M. Meehan stated consent processing timeframes were not met. He also advised that Maritime NZ have refined the number of trained responders required for the region with ten responders being the new requirement. Cr Archer asked if there was a reason for going over the timeframe for resource consent applications as this is the first time this has happened. M. Meehan responded that sometimes by being helpful this can delay the process and in some cases it may be best to decline the application or take a different approach.

Cr Ewen spoke of monitoring requirements for mining consents as some of these are 12 monthly monitoring requirements and it is not optional, as monitoring has to be done to comply with the license conditions. M. Meehan advised that this performance could be amended via the upcoming Long Term Plan process.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson) *That the report is received.*

*Carried*

### **4.2.2 DELEGATIONS MANUAL REVIEW**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this document has been modified to take into account the personnel changes that have occurred since May 2016. Cr Birchfield requested that his vote against is recorded as he does not agree with staff decisions regarding prosecutions.

**Moved** (Clementson / Ewen)

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That Council approves the amended version on the Delegations Manual dated February 2018.*

*Against Cr Birchfield*

*Carried*

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger)

*That Section 338 (page 11) of the Delegations Manual be amended to read "The CEO and relevant manager, together, have the power to initiate or withdraw a prosecution for an offence, provided that decision must be unanimous, recorded in writing and reported to the next Council meeting.*

*Against Cr Birchfield*

*Carried*

## 5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and took it as read. He stated that the meeting with Hon Kris Faafoi went very well, with the Minister being very engaged with issues facing not just the West Coast, but all of New Zealand.

**Moved** (Robb / Archer) *That this report is received.*

*Carried*

## 6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report. He stated that the release of the TAG report was discussed at the recent CEG chairs meeting. M. Meehan advised that the move by MCDEM to the new structure has helped immensely and this will be worked through further as part of Council's Long Term Plan process.

M. Meehan reported that the CEG meeting on 7 February was an opportunity to discuss Cyclone Fehi. He stated that some projects will be fast forwarded as a result of the cyclone. M. Meehan advised that there will be a number of debriefs with operational teams as a result of the cyclone. M. Meehan answered questions from Councillors, including questions relating to recent meetings with Westland Milk Products.

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

*Carried*

### LATE ITEM

#### (Proposal for Mobile Tower on Council Owned Land near Whataroa)

R. Mallinson requested that a late item be accepted by Council. He advised that the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG) wish to act quickly and therefore it is not practical to wait until the next Council meeting.

**Moved** (Ewen / Clementson) *that the late item be accepted.*

*Carried*

R. Mallinson spoke to the late item and stated it is straightforward and the only question is how much rental Council wishes to charge. R. Mallinson stated that RCG has requested to pay a peppercorn rental as the less spent on rental, the more money available for the project at other locations. R. Mallinson stated the current lease expires later this year, the lessees may seek a reduction in rental due to the site being close to a silage pit and stockyards. The Chairman advised that this project benefits the local community and tourism as mobile blackspots impact on the entire region. All present were in agreement.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Clementson)

*That Council agrees to a lease for the proposed mobile tower site and access for power at a rental to be negotiated by the Corporate Services Manager, taking into account direction from Council.*

*Carried*

## GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Ewen stated that the mobile tower project along with the geothermal project are positive news stories for the West Coast.

### LATE ITEM

#### (Proposed Delegation of Council Functions for RC10055v3) – for Confidential Section of Council Meeting

M. Meehan advised that there is a late item for the confidential section of today's meeting. He advised that the matter relates to the planned Solid Energy Ltd liquidation and focusses on Spring Creek and Pike River coal mines. M. Meehan advised that the reason for this matter being a late item is that Solid Energy Ltd require an answer by tomorrow and if an urgent response is not achieved then parts of the sale will not proceed. Cr Archer queried the need for this matter to be treated as a late item. It was agreed that this matter is both urgent and commercially sensitive.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer) *that the late item be accepted.*

*Carried*

The meeting closed at 2.42 pm.

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Chairman

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Date