

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 JUNE 2012, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.18 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance 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. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 May 2012, be confirmed as correct with the correction made as below.*

Carried

Cr Birchfield asked that a correction be made to the minutes. He had asked the question "do compliant wood burners have wet backs"; he did not say that they didn't have wet backs.

Matters arising

Cr Chinn asked M. Meehan about the proceeds from the sale of the Wanganui Quarry and if this money should be retained in the Council quarry account, or go to the Wanganui River rating district. M. Meehan advised that by the time Westland Schist Ltd is paid out and the legal fees are paid, plus the cost of the new access road to the quarry which was built at the request of the rating district some years ago there will still be \$3,000 owing on the road and therefore there will be nothing left of the proceeds of the sale.

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting dated 29 May 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that works have been completed in the Nelson Creek and Redjacks Creek rating districts. He advised these works were carried out by GH Foster Contracting Ltd at a cost of \$19,008 and \$8,748 respectively. M. Meehan reported that work was also carried out in the Vine Creek rating district at a cost of \$24,750. M. Meehan reported that work has been tendered out in the Lower Waiho rating district and will begin this week. He advised that the costs for the works tendered in the Coal Creek rating district will be brought to the next council meeting.

M. Meehan reported that advice has now been received on a safe methodology to remove rock from the overhang at Kiwi Quarry. He stated that staff are meeting with the contractor tomorrow to work through this as there is planning around the road closure and safety to be worked through prior to work

commencing. M. Meehan reported that Westland Contractors Ltd have won the tender for the quarry contract. He advised that the weighted attribute method was used to evaluate the tenders with the accepted price being \$4.59 per tonne of drilled, blasted and stockpiled rock. He advised that the price for waste material removal and transport to dump sites is \$2.81 per tonne. M. Meehan reported that staff have carried out site visits to the quarries with Westland Contractors Ltd and work is currently underway at the Blackball Quarry. M. Meehan advised that there is now a lot more rock in the Blackball Quarry than what was mentioned in his report due to this current work. M. Meehan advised that the figures for the amount of rock in all quarries are a little deceiving as there is currently blasted rock in rock face which is yet to be pulled down. He advised there is still a high demand for rock particularly Kiwi and Blackball rock. Cr Chinn commented that the price for blasted rock is a very good price. M. Meehan responded that the tenders received were all very competitively priced.

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

Carried

4.1 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report stating that it is an interesting report this month with the operating surplus now being \$737,000 with one of the reasons for this being the revaluing of the costs carried with quarry rock with amounts to 58,000 tonnes as at the end of April. R. Mallinson advised that this rock is now valued at \$9.00 per tonne. He stated that previously it was the quarry rock for sale was valued at an unrealistically low price. R. Mallinson reported that a considerable amount of money has been spent this financial year on building up the stock of rock available for sale with the current asset rock available for sale valued at over \$525,000 (58,000 tonnes). M. Mallinson reported that there are net positive budget variances amounting to in excess of \$220,000 in general rate funded activities. M. Mallinson advised that Meridian Energy Ltd would be paying Council's legal and expert evidence costs following the withdrawal of the Mokihinui Hydro Scheme. R. Mallinson advised that the cost recovery would be around \$57,000. Cr Davidson stated that this is very positive and Council should be grateful for recovering these costs.

Cr Davidson asked R. Mallinson if the quarries are now operating at a break even basis. R. Mallinson stated that over the past ten years the quarries have generated well in excess of \$300,000 and they have been standing on their own for some time and generating a modest profit most years. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio is performing better than it was seven months ago with the Forsyth Barr investment being just under \$273,000 and the Westpac returns just under \$82,000. R. Mallinson stated he is very happy with how the portfolio has bounced back but he is not expecting much more improvement in the next few months.

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

Carried

Cr Scarlett handed over the chairmanship to Cr Chinn as he was not at the hearing of submissions for the Long Term Plan and Cr Chinn had chaired this hearing.

4.2.1 DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF LONG TERM PLAN

Cr Chinn invited C. Ingle to speak to this report. C. Ingle advised that 22 submissions were received and nine people spoke to their submissions. C. Ingle advised that decisions now need to be made at this council meeting. C. Ingle stated that Audit NZ has advised that the final Audit Report needs to be adopted and therefore a special meeting will need to be held to adopt the final Long Term Plan. Cr Archer asked if the special meeting could be held at the end of the Land and Water Plan hearing, which is being held next week. R. Mallinson advised that he is certain that this could be arranged with Audit NZ, as this would be a very efficient way of doing things.

Cr Archer suggested that the last three paragraphs on page 16 of the agenda relating to Community and Public Health's submission could be incorporated into a response to Community and Public Health. Cr Archer stated that his happy with all the recommendations in the report but he would like some words added into submission 20 on page 20 of Mr Huber Miranda Suarez submission saying that council supports the Environment Protection Authority as a reviewer and approval agency for genetically modified organisms.

Cr Davidson drew attention to the first paragraph of appendix A and stated that he is unsure whether the ratepayers in the B class actually know how much their rates will be. C. Ingle stated that the opinion

survey showed how many cents per \$1,000 capital value these ratepayers would pay. Cr Davidson asked if there was a public meeting on the implementation of this rating district as was done for the setting up of the Whataroa rating district. C. Ingle responded that a public meeting was not called but members of the Gladstone community had asked for a meeting, which he and the Greymouth Councillors had attended. C. Ingle stated it would be difficult to arrange a meeting with 600 people and the opinion survey results were relied upon as this had the costings in it. C. Ingle stated that in view of the large number of ratepayers involved and the small amount of money involved it was more efficient to include the proposed rating district with the Greymouth Floodwall rating district committee. Cr Davidson stated he is concerned how large the proposed rating district would get and would it be limited to solely keeping the mouth of the river open. Cr Robb responded that it would be a similar situation to the Greymouth Floodwall committee and if the terms of the rating district were going to be changed then the community would be consulted via an opinion survey similar to the one that was done to raise the Greymouth floodwall. Cr Birchfield stated he feels that the rate for the proposed rating district is a little light. C. Ingle responded that this rate is only for the opening of the mouth and Grey District Council is happy to continue to take responsibility for the access road to the groyne and the groyne itself.

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

1. *That Council consider each of the submissions and the staff recommendations, deliberate, and make their decisions on each submission.*
2. *That the Long Term Plan for 2012-22 be amended, including any amendments resulting from (1) above.*

Carried

4.2.2 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

C. Ingle spoke to this report and invited R. Mallinson to add to this. R. Mallinson advised that he would like to attend a meeting in Nelson on the 29th of June with SOLGM and Local Government NZ on the Local Government Amendment Bill. He also emailed Councillors inviting them to attend with Cr Archer responding that he would like to attend and other Councillors are considering attending. Cr Archer drew attention to an example of a benchmark / parameter in the Bill where it states rates cannot be increased more than a percentage of the CPI. He stated if new systems have to be implemented then councils could struggle to meet this. Cr Scarlett stated that he attended a meeting with Minister Nick Smith some time ago and it was felt that government were very keen to implement these changes. Cr Archer is concerned that reorganisation outlined in paragraph 5 of the report where a large city like Christchurch could take over the whole South Island as the current consensus is that 50% of support must be have for areas that wish to merge. He feels that a large city could have a 50% majority. Cr Scarlett stated that it will be interesting to see what happens with this.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report advising that Colin Dall, Consents and Compliance Manager has tendered his resignation. He stated that C. Dall's is a significant role at this council. C. Ingle advised that with the imminent departure of C. Dall there will be changes required to the Delegations Manual to ensure there is cover during the period of departure and prior to a new Consents and Compliance Manager being appointed.

C. Ingle drew attention to the letter to Reefton ratepayers that is attached to his report. He advised that the letter encourages Reefton ratepayers to take advantage of the EECA grant offer which is only available until July next year. Cr Archer stated that he supports the letter to Reefton ratepayers. Cr Archer asked C. Ingle if he had considered future proofing the Delegations Manual on a more generic basis to cover whenever a manager is absent for a significant period of time. C. Ingle stated that his recommendation would fix this problem forever if the change he is recommending is made and it would cover any future situations.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That Council amends Part 4 of the Council's Delegation Manual, to delegate to the Planning and Environmental Manager all sections of the RMA currently delegated to the Consents & Compliance Manager; and amends the Council's Enforcement Policy so that all references to the Consents & Compliance Manager also apply to the Planning and Environmental Manager.*

Carried

7.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he attended the hearing for the Canterbury Land Transport Programme and spoke to Council's submission at this hearing relating to the Mingha Bluff section of State Highway 73. Cr Scarlett advised that this is the third submission we have made to this programme and he feels this time it was very positively received. Cr Scarlett stated that money is tight but the fact that there was a recent fatality in this area may well stir them into action. Cr Scarlett stated that it is only by the grace of God that there haven't been more fatalities in this area. He stated that the reason why the accident statistics are not that high is because many of the accidents are more minor and seem to go unreported. Cr Scarlett advised that there would be answer towards the end of this month.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date