

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 APRIL 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.52 P.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

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

**Moved** (Robb / Archer) *that the apology from Cr Birchfield be accepted.*

*Carried*

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

There was no public forum.

#### **PRESENTATION**

Mr Greg Kelley and Mr Francois Richeboeuf from Westpac Banking Ltd made a presentation to Council relating to Council's investment portfolio. They answered various questions from Councillors.

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

**Moved** (Archer / Ewen) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 10 March 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

C. Ingle drew attention to the central paragraph in his CEO's report that relates to the change to the compliance monitoring funding source from 70 to 80% user charges and 20 to 30% general rate. C. Ingle advised that the Audit Director asked him whether Councillors had considered this to be a significant change or not. C. Ingle informed the Audit Director that he did not feel this was a significant change but he now needs to ask Councillors if they feel this is significant change in terms of the overall budget.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson)

*That the Council is satisfied that the proposed compliance monitoring funding source changes are not significant.*

*Carried*

#### **REPORTS:**

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

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that a small amount of works were carried out in Saltwater Creek, the Greymouth rating district and Wanganui rating district.

M. Meehan reported that significant work has been done in the Whataroa quarry and there is now a lot more rock available. He will report further on this next month.

**Moved** (Ewen / Challenger) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

#### **4.1.2 WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL FLOOD PROTECTION BYLAW**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that the consultation for this bylaw was timed for around the annual rating district meetings. He advised that it was agreed to publicly notify the draft bylaw at last year's October Council meeting. M. Meehan advised that the purpose of the bylaw is for Council to be able to control activities on or near Council's flood protection structures, in particular planting and stock grazing. The submission period closed on 19 January 2015 with two submissions received. One submission was in support but the submitter asked for some minor amendments. The second submitter (Fulton Hogan Ltd) was opposed to the bylaw with their concerns being around the Coal Creek rating district area where their gravel operation being in this area. M. Meehan advised that a signed agreement has been put in place between Fulton Hogan Ltd and Council which allows them to continue their work and should any problems arise then these will be discussed. M. Meehan explained the amendments from the first submitter, both amendments were approved.

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger)

1. *That Council approve the drafted amendments to the Bylaw resulting from submissions, and*
2. *That Council adopt the operative West Coast Regional Council Flood Protection Bylaw, and publicly notify its operative status as per Clause 157 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

*Carried*

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

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this report covers the eight month results to the end of February. He reported that this is a low result but is in line with trends that have been reported to council previously. He stated that a small surplus of \$77,000 has been made compared to the budgeted figure of \$700,000 for the eight month period. R. Mallinson advised that work done in the Lake Brunner enhancement project is being done but the bulk of the funding was received in the last financial year. A substantial amount of this money is being spent in this financial year. R. Mallinson advised that \$178,000 has been spent in the Whataroa quarry. He stated that a report on this quarry is awaited and good detail of this amount will then be capitalised. R. Mallinson reported that enforcement expenditure is twice the budgeted amount but significant cost recoveries from a number of prosecutions are awaited. R. Mallinson advised that consent processing income is under performing with solutions for this currently being worked through. R. Mallinson answered various questions from councillors. R. Mallinson advised that the investment portfolio is continuing to perform well. C. Ingle stated there have been a lot of legal costs incurred this year but cost recovery is imminent in some cases. Cr Ewen asked on behalf of Cr Birchfield if Grey District Council has paid for the works carried out in the Nelson Creek / Red Jacks rating district yet. M. Meehan advised that this work has not been paid for. C. Ingle stated that he is hopeful that some of the costs that council is trying to recover will come in before the end of the financial year.

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

*Carried*

#### **4.2.1 EIGHT MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2014 – 28 FEBRUARY 2015**

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He drew attention to a mistake in the resource consent section of this report and advised that Council has not incurred any costs for resource consent applications. C. Ingle advised that Council is on track with all performance targets. C. Ingle advised that the results at the top of page 27 relate to data that goes back to 1996 and the trends that are being reported on in this report are better than the results published in the SOE report because the early data is being taken into account. It was agreed that the wording at the top of page 29 of the report relating to costs incurred

for five resource consent applications would be amended to show that no costs were incurred during the reporting period.

Cr McDonnell asked C. Ingle if he thought there would be any benefit in Councillors doing a basic civil defence course should there be a civil defence emergency in the region. Cr Ewen stated that in the past Councillors have attended civil defence training. The Chairman stated that Councillors are community leaders and they would benefit from training. C. Ingle advised that one of the important roles for elected members could be to look after Ministers of the Crown who visit the region following a disaster. He stated that elected members could also assist with media responses if they were not involved in the actual emergency management side of things. It was agreed that C. Ingle would discuss this with C. Raine, the Regional Manager for Civil Defence, and arrange for a workshop on civil defence training.

Cr Archer passed on his thanks to staff for their efforts with meeting the performance targets in this report. Cr Robb agreed with Cr Archer comments.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

*That this report is received with the amendment made to the resource consent costs not being incurred.*

*Carried*

#### **4.2.2. DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN FOR 2015 – 2025**

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that last month a budget workshop was held following the council meeting. C. Ingle stated that he and R. Mallinson have now put the numbers into the Long Term Plan (LTP) and the next step is to adopt the LTP once the audit has been finalised. C. Ingle drew attention to the financial strategy and the overview at the top of this report on page 8 and the 30 year infrastructure strategy which are the key parts of the strategy. Cr McDonnell drew attention to the first bullet point regarding the increase of \$500 per ratepayer; he stated this would have implications for keeping the debt repayment plus interest to below 15%. Cr McDonnell stated that hypothetically council could borrow \$17M. R. Mallinson explained that the only reason that this was pitched so high is because the existing debt of about \$5M is about \$150 per head of population, and there is potential need to borrow up to a \$10M for a flood protection scheme in Westport. R. Mallinson stated that council needs to be able to cope with that scale of borrowing if it has to without having to amend the LTP. R. Mallinson advised that council is required by the legislation to adopt quantified limits on rates and quantified limits on borrowing. C. Ingle advised on page 9 under 4, rate caps are illustrated and Audit NZ advise that rate caps have to be in place for targeted rates as well. Extensive discussion ensued. R. Mallinson gave various examples of how loan repayments would work out if a large loan was taken out. C. Ingle drew attention to other small changes to the report including the two proposed changes to rating districts, (Hokitika and Waiho rating districts). R. Mallinson advised that he is now completing minor changes that audit have requested. Consent deposit fees on Page 119 have been adjusted. He explained several of changes in fees including the costs incurred with Official Information request charges.

Discussion on the proposed gravel compliance fee occurred. Extensive discussion ensued regarding whitebait stand consents, administration costs and annual consent holder fees. Cr Archer stated that he feels this area needs to be tidied up and that the fees and charges need to be made very clear so that there is no dispute. Cr Archer suggested that "f" is moved to "b" and everything else is moved down. It was agreed that J. Adams would provide data to council on the costs involved with the monitoring and administration for whitebait stands. Extensive discussion took place regarding council charges with all Councillors having input.

**Moved** (McDonnell / Challenger)

*That this report is received and Councillors note the contents of the draft Long Term Plan.*

*Carried*

#### **5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman reported that the recent Landcorp meeting he, C. Ingle and J. Adams attended was very good. Cr Robb advised that Landcorp may be developing more land in the region.

Cr Robb advised that he and C. Ingle attended a meeting with the Westland District Mayor on matters relating to Franz Josef. C. Ingle advised that the hearings for the fault avoidance zone are happening

now and a decision is imminent. C. Ingle stated that once this matter is settled and people know what the rules are, there will be more certainty in the town. C. Ingle stated that the district council does have some issues around water supply and sewage disposal and they are not capturing income from visitors. It was noted that during the tourist season numbers can increase to around 8000 for visitor nights. Cr Robb advised that he gave the Mayor assurance that this council is here to help in any way it can.

Cr Robb advised that he and Cr Ewen met with Hon Damien O'Connor recently to discuss matters relating to Council and they agreed to have more regular meetings.

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

*Carried*

## **6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to his report and advised that he has been involved with meetings with Grey District Council relating to the hospital rebuild from a civil defence perspective.

C. Ingle advised that he attended a webinar on opportunities for Ultrafast Broadband and increasing cell coverage within the region. C. Ingle stated that he is hopeful that the West Coast will get some of this money.

C. Ingle advised that the Civil Defence Co-coordinating Executive Group meeting was held yesterday. The Director from Wellington was in attendance and this was a very good opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the Director.

C. Ingle advised that he and R. Mallinson have been spending a lot of time on the Long Term Plan. He circulated a new copy of the Consultation Document and advised that he and the Audit Director have been through this document together. C. Ingle advised that the main changes are on page 10 to the targeted rate cap. C. Ingle stated that once the audit opinion and the rating data is to hand the document will then be complete. Council can then adopt the LTP next Thursday 23 April and it will be released for public submissions the same day.

**Moved** (Ewen / Clementson)

1. *That this report is received.*
2. *That Council receives the Long Term Plan Consultation Document as a draft.*

*Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Challenger advised that he will be away for the May Council meeting.

Cr Clementson stated that he attended a meeting with the Buller River Flood Working Group last night. Cr Clementson advised that Council's Hydrologist provided a very informative presentation to this meeting. He provided council with an update from this meeting. M. Meehan advised that a meeting will be arranged for June or July with both councils and options will be finalised and discussed at this meeting.

C. Ingle advised that Development West Coast is providing board training in leadership and governance. Cr Clementson stated that he is unable to attend this due to conflicting events. C. Ingle invited other councillors to consider this. Cr McDonnell has previously attended this training and advised that it is very good training.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date

