

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 JULY 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), S. Jones (Planning Team Leader), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Ewen / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 7 June 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that tenders are going out next week to raise the Franz Josef town stopbank. M. Meehan advised that part of the long term strategy for Franz Josef is to protect the town. M. Meehan advised that the road will be protected to a one in ten year level on the south side and eventually the bridge will be raised.

M. Meehan advised that the draft GNS Hazard Mapping report will go to the Franz Josef Working Group for feedback and following this it will be publicly released. M. Meehan stated that Council took a lead role in this project and sourced funding via Envirolink.

M. Meehan reported that costs were shared 50 / 50 with NZTA and the rating districts to fund the LiDar survey work. He stated having the comprehensive data set will be valuable in the long term for this area. M. Meehan stated that the workshop scheduled for 28 July will bring experts from local and national agencies together to work through the long term strategy for the Waiho River. M. Meehan stated that huge resources will be required to get this project across the line. He stated that progress is being made in getting government representation involved to observe and work alongside the working group.

M. Meehan advised that Council is still looking for sources of high grade amour rock in South Westland. He stated that a rock source has now been found along the Coast Road but in view of DoC reviewing the South Westland and the Paparoa National Park management plans, Council needs to make sure

that areas of rock are not locked up that potentially could be needed in future. M. Meehan advised that S. Jones is putting together submissions on these two plans.

M. Meehan reported that consultation is ongoing for the northern extension of the Punakaiki Seawall. He stated that the main issues being worked through are the apportionment of costs and working in with Buller District Council and the Camp Ground owner to find a fair solution. M. Meehan advised that a further report on this matter will be brought to the August meeting.

Discussion took place on Hon Nick Smith's visit to Franz Josef. M. Meehan advised that a lot of work is being done with the Franz Josef Working Group and progress is being made in this area. The Chairman advised that work being done with Regional Transport Committees throughout the South Island, and the Growth Study will provide information to that will assist with the issues affecting Franz Josef. The Chairman stated that once the information is to hand, and a plan is made, then an approach to government for funding is more likely to be successful.

Cr Archer raised the matter of the limitation of resources in the Operations area at the moment. Cr Archer stated that he is concerned that Council is behind the eight ball with expected delivery of services and meeting target timelines for projects. Cr Archer suggested that Council may need to take a more conservative approach in identifying timelines for projects such as the Westport flood water system, Granity / Ngakawau, Carters Beach matters, and Punakaiki. M. Meehan responded that these projects along with Neil's Beach, are some of the main projects that have come up outside of normal rating district work. He advised that these projects have not been forgotten. It was agreed that an identification of each target and where each of the mentioned projects is at would now be included in the operations report.

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

Carried

4.1.1 GRAVEL EXTRACTION COMPLIANCE MONITORING CHARGE

G. McCormack spoke to this report. He stated that contractors had asked Council to reconsider the gravel extraction compliance monitoring charge that was previously set out in the 2015 / 25 Long Term Plan. G. McCormack stated that he has met with the contractors affected to review the information and he is now recommending that the charge be reduced. He stated that a reduction in charges will still enable Council to carry out the gravel monitoring service. Extensive discussion took place on how this fee was set originally, and the changes in the charges from now on. M. Meehan suggested that this report be updated and brought back to the August meeting. Cr Ewen asked G. McCormack if the contractors are happy with the proposed monitoring charges. G. McCormack confirmed that he held a further meeting with the contractors and they are open to the new charge structure, and they agree with it. R. Mallinson confirmed that there is no issue in delaying this matter by a month.

Moved (Archer / Ewen)

That Council delays their decision on the gravel consent monitoring charge established in the 2015/25 LTP, until the August meeting, when additional financial information will be available.

Carried

4.1.2 OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEES ACROSS THE SOUTH ISLAND

N. Costley spoke to this report. She spoke of a recent meeting attended by South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs and officials where the opportunities of working together were discussed. She stated that a more holistic approach to transport is required for the South Island with connections to rail and coastal shipping. N. Costley advised that a prioritisation of actions is being looked into. She spoke of the top three priorities which are a shared advocacy approach, freight, and tourism. N. Costley explained the 90 day action plan and advised that Environment Canterbury is facilitating the implementation of this. N. Costley advised that the West Coast Regional Transport Committee is due to meet this Thursday. M. Meehan confirmed that transport will be discussed later on today during the Ecan Commissioners visit. The Chairman stated that Ecan has been very good at trying to bring the South Island together regarding transport matters. N. Costley spoke of the importance of supporting projects outside of our region for the betterment of the South Island as a whole and to put a better case forward for funding. She advised that the Treasury's Better Business Case is now used to get

funding for transport work. The Chairman advised that this approach is about telling the whole South Island story and ensure that areas like Franz Josef are accessible to visitors to New Zealand.

MOVED (Ewen / Archer)

That Council agree in principle to support the West Coast Regional Transport Committee to collaborate with Regional Transport Committees across the South Island, to develop and implement a shared programme of work.

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report and stated that this is the financial report for eleven months to the end of May. He stated that this report is very consistent with previous reports. R. Mallinson reported that total income is just under \$8.5M and total expenditure just over \$9M, there was an operating deficit of just under \$600,000 for the eleven month period. R. Mallinson reported that the investment fund portfolio increased in value by \$128,000 during May, all gains were reversed in June as a direct result of the instability of international equity markets following the Brexit vote in the UK. Cr Clementson asked R. Mallinson if he expected July to be better. R. Mallinson confirmed that he is expecting improvement, and expects a lot of the losses to be recovered during July.

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

Carried

4.2.1 ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAME ON VOTING PAPERS FOR 2016 LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS

R. Mallinson took this report as read. He advised that this resolution has been requested by the Electoral Officer at Grey District Council.

Moved (Ewen / McDonnell)

That Council adopt Alphabetical Order for the ordering of candidate names on voting papers for the October 2016 local authority election.

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that work with the Governance Group is progressing well and is now nearing the end of the consultation phase.

The Chairman reported that attended the Rural and Provincial Conference in Wellington recently. He stated that the Local Government Commission asked him to speak at the conference on how the review process has been progressing on the West Coast. The Chairman stated that he was well received at the conference, and it was felt that the Local Government Commission is on the right track with their work.

The Chairman advised that while in Wellington he filmed a short film clip for Council's nomination for the Local Government Excellence Awards ceremony which will be held later in the month at the LGNZ annual conference.

The Chairman formally congratulated M. Meehan on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer and stated that he and his fellow Councillors are looking forward to working with him.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and spoke of the various meetings he has attended. He stated that the roading and planning workshops he attended in relation to regional efficiency were very good, with the

planning workshop particularly good. M. Meehan advised that reports from both areas are due in the next month or so. He stated that there are a lot of benefits in aligning these areas.

M. Meehan stated that the work being done by senior staff from the Ministry for Primary Industries with the recovery of native timber following Cyclone Ita is going well. M. Meehan advised that a presentation to Council by the parties involved with this project is being considered.

M. Meehan stated that there was some very good discussion at the recent meeting with Maureen Pugh, National List MP, and the other visiting MP's on 24 June. M. Meehan stated that economic development, mineral extraction and roading opportunities to the north and south were discussed. M. Meehan stated that this was a very worthwhile meeting, with visiting MP's saying that discussions such as this allow for a better discussions at the Cabinet table when decisions are being made that are going to impact on their own regions.

M. Meehan reported that he met with senior managers from Westland Milk Products recently. He stated that he is familiar with most of these people from his previous roles at Council and has always enjoyed a good working relationship with Westland.

M. Meehan reported that staff from MfE visited Council on 7 July; he advised that they are visiting areas of New Zealand to discuss the NPS for Freshwater Management. M. Meehan advised that MfE staff is putting together a booklet for the Minister to ensure that he understands what each region is doing for the NPS. M. Meehan advised that the booklet is due for release early next year and will be distributed to each region so that everyone is aware of what each region is doing. M. Meehan reported that wade ability and swim ability was discussed with MfE staff during this visit, along with discussion about the misinformation for drinking water standards. He stated that MfE are looking at ways to communicate better with the public on what drinking water standards actually are, which is zero E coli. M. Meehan stated that there needs to be better public education in this area.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.48 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date