

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.44 P.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 (Archer / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 December 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Birchfield asked R. Mallinson for an update on the Council owned parcel of land south of Hokitika. R. Mallinson advised that QV have advised him that the market valuation is \$225,000 which is substantially less than its rating value. R. Mallinson advised that this frontage is severely eroded and there is no legal access to the area.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that the demolition site of the Gateway Motels has now been left in a nice tidy state. He advised that the five cottages in this area will be picked up in the next month. M. Meehan advised that the work done at Punakaiki was done as emergency works. M. Meehan answered questions from Councillors.

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

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this is the six month financial report up to 31 December. R. Mallinson stated that Council is continuing to experience a very difficult year financially with an operating deficit is just over \$259,000 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$216,000. R. Mallinson stated that the investment portfolio income for six months

of \$160,000 represents the volatile nature of equity markets with negative returns in July, August and December. He advised that he has just received the January results and they are negative as well.

R. Mallinson reported that the first 100 letters have been sent out regarding the resource consent annual administration fee. He advised that a few phones have been received regarding this new fee. Discussion took place on the new annual resource consent fee. Cr Birchfield stated that he had received a phone call from a person with a resource consent for a septic tank. R. Mallinson advised that the fee was set at \$55 per consent whether it for a complex coal or gold mine consent or for a septic tank. Cr Archer stated that for minor resource consents that are a one off, Council might want to consider whether or not there is a legitimate cost on the Council to review these consents on an annual basis. R. Mallinson advised that this matter can be further discussed at the Budget Workshop following on from the March Council meeting. Further discussion took place on financial matters. R. Mallinson stated that Council is experiencing the most difficult financial year in his 19 years at Council. It was agreed that a sensible and pragmatic approach is what is required at the moment.

Discussion on quarries and rock prices took place. C. Ingle advised that Council's policy on quarries is not to make money but not to lose money either. He stated that in reality this is almost impossible. C. Ingle advised that R. Mallinson did an analysis several months ago which revealed that there are years that are unders and overs, and some years money is made and other years no money is made. C. Ingle advised that at the moment Council is in the second year of not making money in quarries. C. Ingle stated that some years there is a big demand for rock; and it costs a lot to run a quarry properly these days to keep a quarry running safely.

In terms of Council's investment fund, The Chairman commented that a long term view of investment returns needs to be taken. He stated that Council is a long term business, it has money invested, and a good eye is kept on the investment portfolio. He advised that it is very important that rash decisions based on short term issues are not made. Cr Birchfield agreed with these comments.

Moved (Archer / Ewen) *That this report be received.*

Carried

4.2.1 SIX MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2015 – 31 DECEMBER 2015

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He stated that all targets are either achieved or in progress except for the air quality in Reefton target. He stated that the Air Quality NES is up for review and is likely to change. Cr Archer commented that this is an excellent report. He congratulated management and staff for keeping their fingers on the pulse and ensuring good results.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *That this report be received.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and spoke of various meeting he attended including the meeting with M. Davies and R. Roberts from DoC regarding the proposed Great Walk in Paparoa National Park. The Chairman stated that Council is continuing to build a good relationship with DoC.

The Chairman reported that the meeting he and C. Ingle had with Maureen Pugh was very good. He stated it was an opportunity to catch her up with current matters such as economic development and the Local Government Commission matters. The Chairman advised that the Local Government Commission attended last week's Mayors and Chairs meeting and they will be attending every Mayors and Chairs meeting over the coming months. He advised that the Local Government Commission are going to pay for two investigations, one on shared services for planning, consenting and compliance and the other investigation is on roading. This will reveal whether there will be cost benefit and service benefit to the region by sharing those services. The Chairman advised that the Local Government Commission will begin community consultation over the coming months to ascertain what the public wants with regard to amalgamation.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He asked Council if they wished to make a submission on the Paparoa National Park Review. Discussion took place and it was agreed Council would support the review in principle.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

That Council supports the Paparoa National Park Review concept in principle, but this decision is not to influence any resource consents that might eventually be needed for track construction.

Carried

C. Ingle reported that a good strategic direction is being set by the Ministry of Civil Defence with looking at long term hazard avoidance matters. He stated that this is a very good move.

C. Ingle reported that he attended a LGNZ Regional Economic Development workshop recently. He stated that more than half of the regional councils are starting to get involved in this area. The Chairman stated he feels this is a good move and this is what is now happening in our region.

C. Ingle stated that he is now spending quite a bit of time preparing for the Regional Growth Study and is working closely with MBIE staff on this.

C. Ingle stated he is working closely with the new Regional Economic Development Manager, Kevin Stratful who commenced work last week.

C. Ingle reported that N. Costley has accepted the position of Council's Communications Manager. N. Costley will still be doing planning work as well particularly the RPS. He stated that N. Costley will now be attending the monthly Council meetings as well as the Mayors and Chairs meetings.

C. Ingle advised that the Minerals Strategy has now been through the submission process with 29 submissions received. He advised that over half of the submissions received were supportive.

C. Ingle advised that the Tb Strategy results are now to hand and they are continuing to look positive and Tb infected herds in the region trending downwards. The trend graph was circulated.

C. Ingle answered various questions from councillors. Cr Archer asked for an update on the appointment of the new Consents and Compliance Manager. C. Ingle responded the Mr Gerard McCormack won the position and he will commence employment at the beginning of May.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 1.52 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date