

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2017, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.13 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science & Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk, The Media.

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

There were no apologies.

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

There was no public forum.

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

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 August 2017, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

Cr Archer drew attention to page 2 of the minutes and asked if there has been any community discussion on the Granity, Hector, Ngakawau erosion issue as yet. M. Meehan stated that work is being done with BDC staff and the intention is to go back to the community with alternative options which will be discussed at a community meeting in the next month or so.

#### **REPORTS:**

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

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that works in the Kaniere rating district are 50% complete. He reported that the issue in the Karamea rating district has now been resolved at the rating district's cost.

R. Beal reported that the outcomes of the Annual Plan and amendments to the rating classifications were discussed at the recent meeting of the Punakaiki rating district. R. Beal reported that work on the extension of the seawall will commence as soon as the contractor is available.

R. Beal reported that he met with GDC's assets team to discuss the NIWA report and the recommendations for the Cobden Lagoon and Range Creek. He advised that GDC are in agreement, but with a slight variation in what is to be done to protect Cobden, which is to update the floodgate rather than a sacrificial bund. Cr Ewen stated that he still supportive of a sacrificial bund for Cobden. R. Beal advised that there are other issues to consider in order for the sacrificial bund to be effective. Cr Birchfield stated that this is discussed at the annual Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee meeting. M. Meehan suggested that this meeting is brought forward and held after the September Council meeting.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That updated costings and methodology for flood protection options for Cobden are presented to the September Council meeting for approval.*

*Carried*

#### **4.1.2 NEIL'S BEACH RATING DISTRICT SURVEY**

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that positive outcomes were achieved with the teleconference held on 26 July. He reported that the survey results revealed that 70% of respondents were in favour of one classification, 30% not in favour; he stated that the response rate was 78% which is a lot better than previous surveys. Cr McDonnell commented that the meeting was far more positive than previous meetings and the attendees now have a much better idea as to how a rating district works.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer)

1. *That Council amends the classification of Neils Beach Rating District to a ONE classification rating district.*
2. *That a letter is sent to the rating district members with the Council's decision.*
3. *That the report is received.*

*Carried*

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

R. Mallinson spoke to his report and advised that this is the 12 month financial report to 30 June. He reported that the surplus is \$840,000. R. Mallinson advised that there was write down of value of rock in the Camelback and Whataroa quarries. R. Mallinson stated that there was no significant portfolio income during June. He advised that the transfer of funds to JB Were is almost complete. R. Mallinson reported that Council has paid significant legal costs defending proceedings between Avery Bros Ltd and F. Inta and he doubts whether these costs (\$40,000) will be recovered. R. Mallinson stated that overall the financial result for the year is very good with short term bank borrowing being reduced from \$1.3M at 30 June 2016 down to \$350,000 as of 30 June 2017. Cr McDonnell asked if it is likely that the costs for general rate funded activities, which blew out \$785,000, are likely to occur year after year. R. Mallinson advised that he has previously advised that he feels Council has been far too optimistic in its budgeting for overhead costs and this has an impact on all activities. He stated that it is essential that Council keeps a close watch on its overheads, but steps have been taken with budgets for the 2017 / 18 year. R. Mallinson noted that there has not been the volume of resource consents processed as in previously years. G. McCormack stated that there will be not the influx of resource consent applications for whitebait stands next year. R. Mallinson answered questions from Councillors relating to budgets, bank borrowing and financial matters. He stated that he will be bringing a discussion paper to a pre long term plan workshop about council finances generally and how they might be made more sustainable long term. The Chairman stated that Council's finances are in good shape, it has been a good year but it is very important that Council gets the level of funding right.

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

*Carried*

#### **4.2.1 SETTING OF RATES FOR 2017 / 18**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He drew attention to a minor typographical error on page 20. He advised that the rating for Punakaiki, Kaniere and Neil's Beach rating districts reflect the changes made via the annual plan process.

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger)

1. *Setting of various rates as per 1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y), (z), (aa), (bb), (cc), (dd), (ee), (ff)*

2. *Adopting due dates for payment.*
3. *Setting Penalties as per 3 (a), (b)*

*Carried*

#### **4.2.2 SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW UNDER SECTION 17A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 (LGA 2002)**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this is an internal piece of work which is a requirement under section 17A of the Local Government Act 2002. Cr Challenger drew attention to a minor error on page 32. Cr Archer advised that the Mokihinui River has been missed off the service level for flood warning. R. Mallinson commented that the amount of money this Council put into this report is miniscule compared to the amount other Councils in New Zealand have spent.

**Moved** (Challenger / Birchfield)

1. *That Council receive the report.*
2. *That Council adopt the recommendations contained in the review with regard to the various Council activities.*

*Carried*

#### **4.2.3 TWELVE MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2016 – 30 JUNE 2017**

M. Meehan spoke to his report. He advised that G. McCormack's implementation of tablets for compliance monitoring will lead to long term gains as this is very efficient and allows for a more thorough inspection. M. Meehan stated that staff have been very busy with submissions this year, with a lot of consultation with MfE as most of this work relates to the Freshwater NPS. He stated it has been a busy year for Council Planners working on our own planning documents. M. Meehan spoke of the extra work that is being put in at Marrs Beach and Shingle Beach at Westport in order to meet the target for bathing beach sampling and to improve the water quality. He noted that Seven Mile at State Highway 6 Rapahoe and the Arahura River has also exceeded the sampling threshold at the start of the summer monitoring season. M. Meehan spoke of the performance target for mining work programmes and advised that 48 out of 68 work programmes were processed within the 20 day target but the 20 that weren't processed within the timeframe is due to either lack of information or there was a conflict between the work programme and the consent conditions. M. Meehan stated that he feels this target has been achieved for this reason. M. Meehan stated that overall performance has been very good. Cr Archer agreed with M. Meehan.

Cr Clementson asked if a councillor phones in via teleconference, is this counted as an attendance. R. Mallinson confirmed that this is counted as an attendance, as is any other workshop Council holds which does not fall on a Council meeting day. The Chairman passed on his congratulations to staff on the good work that they do.

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

*Carried*

## **5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that following the launch of West Coast Economic Development Action Plan the West Coast, reports and recommendations have shown that there is a more unified approach for economic development and this is a very important function for DWC to bring together and moved forward. The Chairman stated that the West Coast is well positioned to add value to its communities over the next few years.

The Chairman reported that the LGNZ preconference tour to Northland was very interesting and was followed by the LGNZ conference in Auckland. The Chairman reported that he and M. Meehan presented to a workshop on collaboration and the work being done on the West Coast between this council and the three district councils. The Chairman stated that the highlight of the conference was winning the LGNZ Award for Best Practice Contribution to Local Economic Development for the Untamed Natural Wilderness brand.

The Chairman reported that while in Auckland he, M. Meehan, Mayor Smith and key central government agencies met with Tonkin & Taylor to go over the draft report on Franz Josef. He stated that this was a very thorough session and will provide good information for a plan and way forward for Franz Josef. Discussion took place on matters regarding Franz Josef and the hoped for outcomes of the Tonkin & Taylor report. Further discussion took place on economic development opportunities for the region. The Chairman and Chief Executive answered questions from Councillors. Cr McDonnell applauded the work done by those involved in both the West Coast Economic Development Action Plan and the Untamed Natural Wilderness brand and the winning of the award. He stated a lot of effort has gone into this and good results have been achieved.

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

*Carried*

## 6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report. He stated that the launch of the West Coast Economic Development Action Plan was full day and a very positive day for the region.

M. Meehan reported that M. Davies from DoC and F. Tumahai and S. Wallace from Iwi have now been included in the West Coast Chief Executives forum. He stated that the Chief Executive from Tai Poutini Polytech may also be included in the forum; in order to have a wider group and to get more done.

M. Meehan reported that the South Island Chief Executive's Forum held on 28 – 29 July was hosted by ECAN. He stated that the function of Harbourmasters and natural hazard work was discussed at the forum. M. Meehan stated that he is looking forward to Council's Natural Hazard's Analyst coming on board, as there has been a gap in this area.

M. Meehan reported that work relating to the Economic Development Action Plan including the steering group, One Window for mining, defining what a sustainable fishery for whitebait is, and Franz Josef work is progressing well. He stated that staff will soon start to become involved with these projects.

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

*Carried*

## GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Archer stated that in Buller there is significant anxiety with the proposed new medical facilities. Cr Archer stated that he would like to see some support to the local community from Council as there has been virtually no communication or consultation with staff or the community on this. Cr Challenger stated that he supports this, it is related to economic development. He stated that if there are not good medical facilities then people won't come. Cr Clementson agreed and stated that there has been virtually no communication on this. Cr Archer stated that the lack of communication has really fired up the community. It was agreed that Council would write a letter of support.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson)

*That Council writes a letter to the Ministry of Health expressing concern about the lack of consultation on the proposed new health facilities for Westport.*

*Carried*

The meeting closed at 12.21 p.m.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date