

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.01 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science and Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), M. Crowe (Regional Director Emergency Management & Natural Hazards), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk).

1. APOLOGY:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Ewen / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 14 August 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report in R. Beal's absence. M. Meehan advised that the workshop being held today will discuss Carters Beach, Okarito and work that has been done on the implications from the Edgecumbe flood event and recommendations from Sir Michael Cullen's report.

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

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report in R. Mallinson's absence. He advised that R. Mallinson is attending a SOLGM event and is to be presented with an award acknowledging his 30 years' service to Local Government. M. Meehan stated that this is a very brief financial report as R. Mallinson has spent a considerable amount of time on Council's Long Term Plan in order to enable the adoption of this at the special meeting on 18 September. M. Meehan answered questions regarding the audit process and advised that Audit NZ will comment as part of the audit report on the advice received.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That Council agrees to a Special Meeting on 18 September to adopt the audited Long Term Plan and to strike the 2018 / 19 Rate.*

Carried

4.3 MINOR CHANGES TO DELEGATIONS MANUAL

H. Mills spoke to this report and advised that the minor changes have been made for operational reasons. He stated that the main changes relate to changes to the RMA from last year. H. Mills stated there have been changes made to manager's titles and team leaders delegations and these were made for practical reasons. Cr Archer drew attention to page 25, it was agreed that the minor error would be corrected.

Cr Birchfield stated that he will be voting against this as he does not agree with Section 338 relating to prosecutions. Cr Birchfield agreed with the increase in the amounts delegated staff can spend. He stated that this is a well run Council with regard to spending.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Council adopts the proposed changes to the West Coast Regional Council's Delegations Manual.*

*Cr Birchfield Against
Carried*

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that all parties involved with the proposed mining ban on conservation land are working together to put the best case possible forward in order to support mining industries on the West Coast.

Moved (Robb / Ewen) *That this report is received.*

Carried

Local Government Commission Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Janie Annear, Gavin Beattie and Brendon Duffy from the Local Government Commission. Mrs Annear read the announcement to the meeting and stated that the draft proposal for a combined West Coast District Plan as a final proposal. The proposal will see the formation of a joint committee comprising members of the Buller, Grey and Westland district councils, the West Coast Regional Council and iwi, to be responsible for preparing and approving a new combined district plan. Mrs Annear stated that one change that the Commission made to the draft proposal is the inclusion of provision for Council to be responsible for funding the development of the Combined District Plan by way of a regional rate. There is also a provision for the joint committee to agree to future plan changes relating to local variations, they are to be the responsibility of the district council concerned, including the funding of that. Mrs Annear and Mr Duffy explained the process in detail and advised that the full final proposal document can be viewed on the Local Government Commission's website at <http://www.lgc.govt.nz/the-reorganisation-process/final-proposal-for-a-combined-west-coast-district-plan/>. Mr Duffy stated that the Commission is prepared to make a contribution of \$200,000 in support of the implementation of One District Plan. Mrs Annear and Mr Duffy answered questions from Councillors. The Chairman thanked the Commission for their engagement with this project over the past few years.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1.03 p.m.

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report. He advised that the group put together to work through the proposed mining ban on conservation land has held a few meetings to date.

M. Meehan advised that matters relating to Franz Josef were a big focus of his recent meeting with the Chief Executive of Westland District Council.

M. Meehan stated that Three Waters work was one of the major items discussed at the recent Regional Sector Group meeting in Wellington. He advised that Minister Mahuta is making decisions on this, which potentially, could result in some quite radical changes in New Zealand in view of the issues faced in Havelock North. M. Meehan advised that the Regional Sector has already provided a lot of information on this to the Minister. M. Meehan advised that MfE is also putting a lot of resources into water and related matters impacting on regional councils. The Chairman advised there has been some push back from the Regional Sector Group on the more extreme issues facing regional councils. Cr Archer agreed and stated that there is potential for huge appeal costs with no benefits to communities who have gone through extensive consultation processes. M. Meehan advised that Minister Parker is very motivated with regard to matters relating to water and was very pleased with the advice supplied by the Regional Sector Group. M. Meehan stated there is very good engagement across the sector as well as the secondment of a key staff member from Greater Wellington Regional Council to MfE who will provide a practical and realistic approach.

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

Carried

6.1 PROPOSED MINING BAN ENGAGEMENT WORK

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that Mr Mark Christensen has been engaged to look at the legalities, and to provide information on stewardship land in this area. M. Meehan advised that this Council has provided a facilitating role in bringing together those involved with these monthly meetings. M. Meehan stated that this group includes the Mayors, iwi, and industry leaders. He stated that work is progressing towards putting together a strong submission, on behalf of the region, to Government with input from councils and iwi. M. Meehan advised that the other three Councils have allowed up to \$20,000 towards a collective Council response and he is seeking \$20,000 from Council for this. Discussion ensued. Cr Ewen commented that this could have gone into the annual plan budget but he feels that the proposed mining ban is a bit of a nonsense on the land concerned. The Chairman stated that if Council does not fight its cause no one else is going to do it for us and he feels that there is no other option than to stand up for our community. Cr McDonnell asked what legal costs could be expected. M. Meehan responded that in order for the change to be enacted the Crown Minerals and Conservation Act may need to be changed. M. Meehan advised that there is still a lot of uncertainty around this as the consultative document is yet to be released, prior to that, the Conservation Minister has to take it to Cabinet. Cr Clementson stated that industry is keeping a careful eye on progress.

Moved (Clementson / Birchfield)

- 1. That this report is received.*
- 2. That Council coordinates the formal submission to Government's proposed ban on mining on conservation estate on behalf of the four Councils.*
- 3. That Council commits up to \$20,000 towards legal and other costs associated with the formal submission to Government's proposed mining ban.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that he received a letter from the Minister Mahuta, the Local Government Minister, giving Council a dressing down for being late with its Long Term Plan. The Chairman stated that he is suggesting a response back and pointing out that Council is currently dealing with Audit NZ, and their officials have been kept well informed throughout the process.

The meeting closed at 1.26 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date