

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 MARCH 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.05 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) R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. Mills (Planning Science and Innovation Manager), N. Costley (Strategy & Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGY:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (McDonnell / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 13 February 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that work on the Cobden Cut had to be done as prevention work. He stated that it is expected that river training work in Franz Josef will start around 19 March but NZTA are yet to sign off as affected parties.

R. Beal reported that Crs Ewen and Birchfield attended a meeting at Rapahoe to discuss possible options for protection works. R. Beal advised that Council will put a resource consent in place for beach nourishment using natural rock material, possibly slip material that will raise the profile of the beach. He advised that costings are being sought for a sacrificial bund and once the costs are to hand a community meeting will be held. R. Beal stated that if either of these options are progressed, a rating district would need to be formed.

R. Beal reported that Make Safe work has been completed in the Inchbonnie Quarry. He advised that an independent Geotech engineer has been engaged to provide a report on the future management of the Kiwi Quarry. R. Beal advised that there are issues with affected parties in this area and it is unlikely that a resource consent will be obtained. M. Meehan advised that WorkSafe have been on site and Council's Quarry Manager is working with them. M. Meehan advised that the report will be shared with WorkSafe.

M. Meehan advised that a meeting will be held with Grey District Council to discuss the issues with the SNA in this area.

R. Beal has advised that no formal offer has been received for the Whitehorse land as yet.

Cr Ewen commented that it is pleasing to see that the Kiwi Quarry report is to be shared with Grey District Council.

Cr Archer spoke of the recent weather events and coastal erosion affecting communities. He stated that the community needs to be able to engage with staff and Council following these type of events

as it is important that Council is responsive to community needs. M. Meehan stated that staff would come back to Council should there be financial implications for communities or potential rating districts. Discussion took place on SNA's.

Cr McDonnell asked if Neil's Beach sustained any damage following the recent cyclones. R. Beal responded that the sacrificial bund at Neil's Beach was untouched but the road to Jacksons Bay was badly damaged. R. Beal advised that a meeting may be held at Neil's Beach on 14 April.

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

Carried

4.1.2 COASTAL EROSION REPORT

R. Beal took the report as read, but requested that recommendation three is expanded to include Neil's Beach as another site for trial work. R. Beal advised that there is no blueprint in place for managed retreat as there is nothing that can be copied from anywhere else around the country. It was agreed that long term solution for coastal communities is managed retreat as the funding of seawalls is very costly and is not a long term solution. M. Meehan advised that in the interim people's livelihoods are being affected and it is important that something is done that is sustainable for these communities. Discussion took place on the impacts of coastal erosion, protection works in communities, potential rating districts for maintenance only and options to work in with other agencies. Cr Birchfield spoke of the public's expectation that Council could afford to fund this, he advised that it is important that the public is made aware that this is not the case. It was agreed that Council's contribution with staff's engineering advice and skills along with obtaining resource consents is helpful to these affected communities.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

- 1. That the report is received.*
- 2. That Council supports a long term approach to coastal erosion management.*
- 3. That Council undertake trial work in Granity/Ngakawau/Hector, Neil's Beach and Rapahoe to secure resource consents on behalf of the community and provide guidance to the community in respect to what is permitted under these resource consents.*
- 4. That Council investigate long term solutions relating to managed retreat for these, and other, communities in consultation with the District Councils, Central Government and other agencies.*
- 5. That Council leads the development of a natural hazards strategy for the region.*

Carried

4.1.3 DRAFT COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY

H. McKay spoke to this report. Cr Ewen expressed concern about the wording on page 15 regarding extreme weather events. He feels this should be included in consent conditions and consent holders design systems to withstand the worst case scenario. Cr Archer disagreed as Council has delegated the authority to Council management and staff to follow a process and he feels this is a transparent and robust process. Cr Challenger stated that he has people coming to him who have had enforcement action taken against them and they have said there has been a lot of personalities coming into it, rather than process. Cr Challenger stated one person asked the staff member "why are you doing this" and was told to "look in a mirror". Cr Challenger stated that people have come to him about enforcement action that Council hasn't been taken. Cr Challenger said although he voted for this at the last meeting, he is now uncertain about this due to people coming to him asking whether Council can actually work on an even playing field. The Chairman advised Cr Challenger that if he has evidence or complaints about staff he needs to take these to the Chief Executive, as this is the policy, and carrying out of policy is done by staff. Cr Challenger stated that he has been given copies of emails which have been sent to the Chief Executive, which have not been replied to. The Chairman asked Cr Challenger if he has taken this up with the Chief Executive. Cr Challenger stated that he is not going to follow this any further as in his mind, this is all done and he is now looking in the future. The Chairman expressed concern that these matters have been aired in a public area, when Cr Challenger has not given the Chief Executive the opportunity to respond to these accusation. Cr

Challenger said he would bring them to the next meeting. The Chairman stated that his concerns should be taken to the Chief Executive, in the first instance and not brought to a public meeting. Cr Birchfield stated the he feels this is open discussion as he has issues with the enforcement policy. M. Meehan stated that this policy is a contentious and complex issue and there are a lot of things to be taken into account and as Cr Ewen stated the factors to be considered when undertaking enforcement action are quite wide. M. Meehan stated that if he hasn't come back to people with an email he is happy to look again at this and he would like the opportunity if there are issues from ratepayers or constituents he is happy to talk through the decision and process. M. Meehan stated that he does not think that staff have taken personalities into decision making. Cr Archer stated that these are staffing matters, they are not Council policy matters, they are matters that Councillors might want to address with the Chief Executive, as he is Council's only employee and everyone else is employed by the Chief Executive. Cr Archer stated that this is the correct process to go through, but general matters may be discussed in public, but not in cases where individual specifics where somebody's name comes up. Cr Birchfield stated he is voting against this policy as he feels elected representatives should be more involved in what is happening, some of these cases are very expensive and there could be staff bias involved. Further discussion took place. The Chairman advised that Councillors set policy and staff carry out the policy, and if Councillors are not monitoring the Chief Executive and that side of things is not being carried out then that is Councillors role.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell)

1. *That the report be received, and;*
2. *That the Compliance and Enforcement Policy dated March 2018 is adopted and replaces the previous Enforcement Policy dated February 2013.*

*Against Cr Birchfield, Ewen and Challenger
Carried*

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

R. Mallinson advised that as agreed at the February meeting, there is no March report due to the amount of time spent on the Long Term Plan project. R. Mallinson spoke of the timeline for the Long Term Plan project and advised that the amended timeline will still allow Council to confirm the Long Term Plan by 30 June.

Moved (Birchfield / Ewen) *That the report be received.*

Carried

4.2.1 REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that he recommends that Council stays with the existing representation arrangements.

Moved (Clementson / Archer)

That in accordance with section 19I of the Local Electoral Act 2001:

1. *There will be three constituencies.*
2. *The three constituencies be called Buller, Grey and Westland and that the boundaries of these constituencies will be the existing boundaries of the Buller District Council, Grey District Council and Westland District Council.*
3. *The numbers of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each of the three constituencies be;*
 - *Buller constituency shall elect two members.*
 - *Grey constituency shall elect three members.*
 - *Westland constituency shall elect two members.*

That public notice of this to be given pursuant to the requirements of section 19 M of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and took it as read. He stated that the information is starting to filter through following the launch of the Provincial Growth Fund held in Gisborne recently. The Chairman advised that a workshop will be held shortly with all Councillors in the region being invited. Cr McDonnell asked what has happened with projects that the previous Government had on the table, such as the Ahaura Bridge replacement. The Chairman advised that this is still in the mix but new direction from NZTA is awaited. The Chairman advised that the rest of the Action Plan has been adopted by the new Government and some of this has been moved up further. The Chairman stated that there is \$3B over three years which is supposedly going to be spent on economic development and the West Coast is one of the areas that is being looked at. He stated there is a lot of opportunity and it is important that a regional approach is taken to ensure that benefit is delivered. Cr McDonnell requested an update on the One Coast One Voice strategy. M. Meehan advised that this should be One Coast One Message to get a consistent message to Government. He gave the example of communication issues raised during the recent cyclones, to ensure that the Government hears one consistent message. M. Meehan advised that the recommendations from the Growth Study were around Development West Coast taking a lead on economic development and will be leading into this space. M. Meehan advised that the Government has not given any indications that they are going to throw out anything that was in the pipeline and they are going to try to enhance this work.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and took it as read. He advised that there has been good engagement with Ministers from the Sector regarding matters relating to water quality, swimmability and the opportunity for big game changes in this area. M. Meehan spoke extensively of work that is being done for the sector.

M. Meehan advised that the recent Long Term Plan engagement session held with stakeholders was a positive meeting and there were no matters of concern. He advised that the uniform annual charge was discussed. M. Meehan advised that stakeholders in attendance expressed a desire for Council to take on more of an advocacy role with government. He stated that the more resilience message is being pushed especially in the area of communications.

M. Meehan stated that the Local Government Commission consultation work on the One District Plan is due to commence very soon.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 1.02 pm.

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Chairman

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Date