

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KOWHITIRANGI RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE KOWHITIRANGI HALL
ON 7 NOVEMBER 2016, COMMENCING AT 10.45 AM.

PRESENT

S. Keenan, G. Monk, T. Taft, P. Cook, N. Monk, J & C. Henry, R. Burden (arrived 11.02)

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
P. McDonnell, S. Challenger (Councillors)
R. Beal, B. Russ, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

A. Godfrey.

G. Monk / T. Taft – Carried

BUSINESS

Cr McDonnell opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
He introduced himself, Cr Challenger and the Council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 15 October 2012, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

S. Keenan / P. Cook - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

S. Keenan stated that there was a lot of discussion about the rate strike at the last meeting. S. Keenan stated that sometimes there are slack periods where not much work is required but over the past 15 months works have cost around \$30,000. He stated that the money in the rating district can be chewed up quite fast if work is required.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2016. He reported that the opening balance at 1 July 2015 was \$125,037.50. The rate strike for the previous year was \$10,000 and total expenses were \$12,373.96. The closing balance is \$128,404.87.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the financial report.

WORKS REPORT

B. Russ presented the works report, which covered the 12-month period; 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. He reported that \$11,691.96 worth of works were carried out during the reporting period, at Cook's and Monk's frontage. Further works were recently carried out in the same area; an access road was included in this contract.

G. Monk stated it was good that there wasn't a spring flood during this time. S. Keenan stated that more work could be required in this area. He stated that the access road only cost the rating district \$1,000 and this was good value as it will allow easier access to the area. B. Russ carried out an inspection on 10 September 2016 and \$25,400 worth of works were identified, this includes \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance.

RATES 2017 / 2018

The recommended rate strike for the 2017 / 2018 is \$10,000. The balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2017 / 2018 financial year is likely to be approximately \$119,000. T. Taft asked why a rate strike of \$10,000 is necessary this year when there is a good balance in the rating district account. S. Keenan stated that the work that has just been completed will adjust the account back down to around \$107,000. S. Keenan stated that historically around a third of the cost of rock work has been paid for by the interest in the account. He stated that this is a balancing act as some years more money is spend than other years and the \$10,000 is spread over a lot of properties. G. Monk stated it is better to have money in the account. S. Keenan stated that \$20,000 to \$30,000 can sometimes be spent on rock. T. Taft expressed concern with rock prices. B. Russ advised that contractor's costs and health and safety requirements have had an impact on rock prices. S. Keenan stated that it is important to have a good balance in the rating district account and to keep on top of any works as they come up.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee. S. Keenan stated that A. Godfrey has expressed a desire to retire from the committee. S. Keenan asked all present if they were happy to stay on the committee. S. Keenan nominated N. Monk. P. Cook seconded the nomination.

Moved: ***"That the committee consist of the following: -***

S. Keenan

R. Burden

P. Cook

T. Taft

N. Monk

be re-elected as the committee for the 2017 / 2018 financial year."

S. Keenan / P. Cook - Carried

Moved: ***"That S. Keenan be re-elected as the spokesperson for the 2017 / 2018 financial year."***

T. Taft / G. Monk - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Henry drew attention to a media article in the Greymouth Star in May 2016 relating to the possibility of a national regulation preventing stock entering waterways and the possible regulation of fencing off waterways. Cr McDonnell responded that the document has mentioned that any waterway over a metre wide and 30 cm deep was considered a waterway and stock will have to be excluded from it. Cr McDonnell advised that Council put in a submission on this as did Westland Milk Products. Cr McDonnell stated that an exception may have to be made for the West Coast as this is going to impose difficulties for farmers as it will be impractical for farmers if the rules are too strict. S. Keenan stated that Government need to take into account the dilution factor. Cr McDonnell stated that

water quality on the West Coast is generally excellent. Cr McDonnell offered to follow up with Council's CEO on this matter.

S. Keenan stated that he feels some of the fees imposed on contractors for gravel extraction are quite high. He suggested that the fees are spread over the year or waived in some cases. Cr McDonnell stated that Council staff have been working on the fee structure and contractors are now happier with the fees. He stated that some fees will be waived completely where gravel build up is a problem in some rivers. B. Russ advised that in the past not enough monitoring had been done and contractors are now improving their gravel returns.

S. Keenan stated that this is the first meeting in four years, he would like to see at least biannual meetings take place as this provides continuity. S. Keenan stated that it is important that the rating district can put people off and onto its committee and to discuss any work that needs to be done. Cr McDonnell stated that in some rating districts there is not much work going on from year to year. Discussion took place on what time of year the meeting is held. A speaker stated he would like the meeting to be held in late October as this is the end of calving. Cr McDonnell stated that late October clashes with the local body elections every third year, and there can be changes in personnel. It was agreed that late October is the preferred date for the annual meeting. S. Keenan stated that when the meeting was held each year often there would be 30 people in attendance.

J. Henry stated that she would like more information from Council regarding the wetlands matter. Cr McDonnell offered to follow up on this.

Cr McDonnell thanked those present for their attendance. He also thanked N & G. Monk for showing him and Cr Challenger around the rating district assets.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.15 a.m

Action Point

- T. Jellyman arrange meetings for late October, and ensure that Vine Creek and Raft Creek meetings are held biannually.