

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PUNAKAIKI RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE KEATING RESIDENCE ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 7.03 PM.

PRESENT

M & F. Keating, C. King, C. Findlay, S. Casey, D. Bartlett, S. Lyle, T & M. Wilkins, G. & H. O'Dea, S. Gasson, J. Gerard

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
T. Archer, N. Clementson (Councillors)
R. Beal, P. Birchfield, T Jellyman (Staff)

Cr Clementson called for a moment of silence in memory of the late Mr John Lightfoot. Mr Lightfoot was a member of the rating district for a long time and made a significant contribution on behalf of the community.

D. Bartlett stated that Mr Lightfoot was a former international gymnastics coach and made a huge contribution to sport over the years.

APOLOGIES

D & G. Freeman, C. King, G and A. Beynon

Moved: *"That the apologies be accepted.*

D. Bartlett / H. O'Dea - Carried

BUSINESS

Cr Clementson opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the meeting. He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 17 October 2018, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

C. Findlay / D. Bartlett – Carried

Cr Archer drew attention to the section of the minutes relating to the rates, he clarified that he had stated that historically Council had required 70% of submission received would need to be in support of a change, but there was no statutory requirement to achieve this as this is just a target.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

R. Beal presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2019. He reported that the opening balance in the maintenance account was \$44,937.29 in deficit, and the closing balance as at 30 June 2019 is \$35,610.

The opening balance in the loan repayment account was \$9,379.20 and the closing balance is \$10,135.48. He reported that the balance of the loan outstanding as at 30 June 2019 is \$235,000. R. Beal advised that the interest rate on the loan is 2.25%.

Moved: *"That the financial reports be received"*

F. Keating / D. Bartlett – Carried

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield presented the 2018 / 2019 works report and advised that \$9,875.33 worth of works were completed during the reporting period.

P. Birchfield carried out an inspection in May 2019 and advised that a top up of the seawall crest is required. A survey was carried out and this identified a loss of height along several areas where the crest requires reformation. The cost of this work is approximately \$30,000. Council recommends the seawall crest height is raised to R.L.10.6m. P. Birchfield answered questions relating to rock costs, concrete and cartage.

P. Birchfield advised that she has allowed \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance over the 2019 / 2020 period.

P. Birchfield invited those present to view the annual cross section report.

Discussion took place on a proposed memorial for John Lightfoot. P. Birchfield suggested planting of trees or a seat. D. Bartlett stated that he has a constructed and placed a memorial with a plaque in the vicinity of where Mr. Lightfoot used to whitebait. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed that a garden seat would be placed in this area, and a plaque would be placed on the seat. D. Bartlett advised that tree planting has already been done.

Moved: *"That the rating district purchases a garden seat with a plaque with Mr Lightfoot's name and RIP, written on it.*

D. Bartlett / C. Findlay – Carried

RATES 2020 / 2021

It was noted that the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2020 / 2021 financial year is likely to be \$88,655.

The recommended maintenance rate is set at \$95,000 excluding GST for the coming financial year. Discussion took place on the rate strike. F. Keating suggested lowering the rate strike to \$55,000 as this would give a little relief to ratepayers. It was noted that should there be a major event the rating district would be covered by Council's insurance. R. Beal stated that he understands the desire for rates relief, but noted that the rating district has only just come out of overdraft in the maintenance account. He stated that Council encourages rating districts to build up a prudent reserve in their account to fund emergency works if required.

R. Beal clarified insurance details and stated that Council has 40% cover on declared values of assets, and under a State of Emergency, the Ministry of Civil Defence (MCDEM) will pay 60% for reinstatement of structures. R. Beal explained how insurance worked out for Franz Josef following the March severe weather event.

Extensive discussion took place on Provincial Growth Fund applications, and central government funding.

P. Birchfield advised that she attended a River Managers meeting recently where it was confirmed that the 60 / 40 funding from MCDEM and Department of Internal Affairs is under threat, and eligibility may also be changing.

S. Lyle agreed with F. Keating and stated that she cannot afford the rates at her property. S. Lyle stated that some people are benefitting from the changes to the classifications, and some are huge losers.

P. Birchfield advised that there could be an opportunity to use material from a slip at Fox River if required.

Extensive discussion took place on the rate strike and it was agreed that the \$10,000 would not be paid off the loan as the interest rate on the loan is very low anyway.

R. Beal advised the meeting that NIWA have advised that weather and storm patterns are changing and it is likely that weather events similar to those experienced in the 1980's are expected over the coming decade. Cr Archer advised that Council is very aware of the high rates this district has had over the past few years.

Further discussion took place regarding F. Keating's suggestion of cutting the maintenance rate strike and it was agreed that the rate strike would be \$75,000 for the coming year. It is likely that the balance in the rating district account would be approximately \$150,000. All present were in agreement. The \$10,135.48 credit in the loan account was discussed and it was agreed that it would be transferred to the maintenance account.

Moved: *"That the maintenance rate strike for the Punakaiki rating district is reduced to \$75,000 Excl GST for the 2020 / 2021 financial year, and the \$10,135.48 credit in the loan account is transferred to the maintenance account."*

D. Bartlett / F. Keating – Carried

Moved: *"That the works report is received."*

M. Keating / S. Casey – Carried

D. Bartlett stated that he lives in Christchurch, and he would like to thank F. Keating for keeping in touch with everything that goes on in the rating district. D. Bartlett stated that F. Keating is a great asset to the community.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cr Clementson read out the names of those on the committee. He asked if anyone wishes to either come off or stand down from the committee or if anyone present would like to be elected onto the committee. S. Lyle stated that she would like to join the committee.

Moved: *"That the existing members, G. Beynon, T. Wilkins, S. Casey, M. Keating, A. Beynon, I. Ryder, L. Totzauer, T. Sullivan, C. Findlay and S. Lyle are on the committee for 2019 / 2020 financial year".*

F. Keating / D. Bartlett – Carried

Cr Clementson asked the meeting if they were happy for C. Findlay and G. Beynon to continue in their positions as Spokesperson and deputy spokesperson. It was agreed that this would continue.

Moved: *"That the C. Findlay be elected as the Spokesperson for the 2019 / 2020 financial year and G. Beynon be the deputy Spokesperson".*

D. Bartlett / M. Keating – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

D. Bartlett stated that he would like to know what the boundaries are for the Punakaiki rating district. It was agreed that this information would be sent to F. Keating for distribution to the rating district.

D. Bartlett spoke of a group of people who have formed a group to build a town hall. He expressed anger about this matter. Cr Archer advised Mr Bartlett to contact Buller District Council's Mayor and Councillors regarding this matter.

Cr Archer spoke of the work he had done relating to a possible managed retreat from Punakaiki as discussed at last year's meeting. He stated that there was no support to seek other land options. Cr Archer advised that since the last meeting he has obtained aerial photos of all landowners in this area, he meet with the DoC Manager in Westport and was given an assurance that whenever Crown land comes up for disposal it must be first offered to iwi. Cr Archer advised this has been discussed with iwi and there have expressed a desire to purchase the cattle reserve. Cr Archer stated that at this stage there is no other options, should this ever be required.

D. Bartlett stated that currently there is no helipad or cell phone coverage, and first aid station with a defibrillator is also required. He stated with the new track coming in, Buller District Council and DoC need to look at this. R. Beal confirmed that he has had no luck in progressing cell phone coverage for the area.

P. Birchfield advised that Mike Allis from NIWA will be doing two short reports, one will be on coastal erosion 50 years from now and the other will be an assessment on the NZTA wall to assess if there are any potential detrimental effects on the rating district's seawall. She advised that Mr Allis will be on site in January, and funding was provided by Envirolink.

Cr Archer stated that he is retiring from Council this election. He thanked the meeting for the warm welcome he has received over the past 12 years, and for the open dialogue and solution finding over this time. The meeting thanked Cr Archer.

Cr Clementson advised that he is not seeking re-election this time around but may come back in the future. He stated that it is good to have a positive community group, who have robust discussions, and know what they want.

R. Beal thanked C. Findlay for his work with the rating district.

Moved: *"That Crs Archer and Clementson are thanked for their efforts over the years."*

M. Keating / F. Keating – Carried

C. Findlay stated that his children are keen surfers and they have noticed that sand is building up near the seawall and he feels that early indications could be that the NZTA wall is helping to build up sand.

Cr Clementson thanked the meeting for their attendance and he thanked Mr and Mrs Keating for hosting the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Action Point:

- R. Beal to follow up on cell phone coverage for Punakaiki, once again.