

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2015, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.32 A.M.

PRESENT:

A. Robb (Chairman), P. Ewen, P. McDonnell, T. Archer, A. Birchfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), J. Adams (Consents and Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *that the apologies from Cr Clementson and Cr Challenger be accepted.*

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 11 August 2015, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Archer asked for an update on the \$30,000 cash bond that Council called in to enable the rehabilitation of the property at Blue Spur. J. Adams advised that he has been contacted by Prospect Resources Ltd (PRL), they are the company that put the bond up for Little Paddock (2010) Ltd. PRL have asked if they can mine this site and they will rehabilitate it. J. Adams advised that he has given PRL six weeks to put a plan to him but part of the agreement is that Hanily Holdings Ltd who currently hold this consent, owe council money therefore the agreement is that PRL have to pay Hanily's account, which they have agreed to do. J. Adams advised PRL still have a couple more weeks to come up with the plan but if they fail to do this then the bond will be used to rehabilitate the site.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that emergency works have been done in the Taramakau rating district following a recent flood event. The cost of these works was just over \$86,000. Emergency maintenance works were also carried out in the Wanganui rating district. M. Meehan advised that future works have been identified in Franz Josef and Lower Waiho rating districts. The Chairman and M. Meehan attended the meeting of the Franz Josef Working Group on 19 August. M. Meehan reported that the group was formed by Westland District Council and this council, NZTA, Iwi, DoC and eight community members are also part of this group. M. Meehan advised that the main issue of direct relevance to the Regional Council is the rating district and the Waiho River hazard. He advised that removal work is progressing well for the motel site and he will inspect this area to see what is left to be demolished. M. Meehan advised that he will bring information regarding monitoring work and the future of the rating districts in this area to the next council meeting. The Chairman stated that the working group is a positive start for future progress and there are some good people on this group.

M. Meehan reported that a workshop is schedule to be held at the end of today's meeting to discuss progress to date with the Buller River Flood Working Group. Good progress has been made by civil

defence West Coast. They have been investigating evacuation plans for Westport which links in with the enhanced flood warning service proposal. M. Meehan advised that the group is now ready to present its findings to the Buller District Council and this council with a meeting tentatively scheduled for 23 September.

M. Meehan reported that a public meeting was held to discuss erosion issues with the community of Granity, Ngakawau and Hector recently. He advised that a small working group was formed at this meeting and a survey of the beach has been completed. A coastal expert will do a follow up report from the 2006 /07 Envirolink funded NIWA report. A further public meeting is scheduled for late October to discuss a potential rating district.

M. Meehan reported that bunding work has been done at Kiwi quarry and rock will be recovered once the weather is more stable. He stated that quarry operations have now been moved to Whataroa to ensure there is enough rock in this area for the coming spring period.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That this report be received.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that small positive returns are being shown for the first two months of the financial year.

Moved (Birchfield / McDonnell) *that this report be received.*

Carried

4.2.1 ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2015

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that this is the unaudited annual report for the year. He advised that due to Council's small total expenditure figures we qualify as a Tier 2 public benefit entity which enables councils to take advantage of the "reduced discloses regime" for Tier 2 entities. This allows council to considerably reduce the size of the Annual Report.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That Council receives the un-audited Annual Report.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and noted the various meetings he attended. The Chairman reported that he and C. Ingle recently met with the Chief Executive of the Local Government Commission, Sandra Preston to discuss the prospect of a single unitary council for the West Coast. The Chairman explained the background behind this. He advised that the next step is for the Commissioner, Janie Annear, to interview him and the local mayors. The Chairman advised that the Commission then gauges the community interest and then makes a decision as to whether or not the community wishes to progress this further. Cr Archer stated that he is interested in how demonstrable community support will be assessed as this is a key issue. He stated that the only enforced amalgamation that has happened in this country is Auckland and this has been an absolute failure. Cr Archer stated that funding and rates savings for Auckland did not happen, he stated that the opposite happened. Cr Archer feels in depth studies need to be done on what the potential savings might be. The Chairman advised that this is an opportunity to improve things, which has already started, without forming a unitary council. The Chairman noted that the last attempt in 1996 to form a unitary council on the West Coast failed. He stated that this is an opportunity for this council, as we are regional, to get the project going and to ensure that we save the community's money and deliver better services across the line. Cr Archer agreed with this. Further discussion took place. Cr Birchfield spoke of the example with Ecan and their amalgamation attempt and how they have evolved to the stage of where they are now.

The Chairman provided an update on the recent RSG meeting. He stated that Hon Nick Smith and the Attorney General both spoke, with the Attorney General speaking about treaty settlements.

The Chairman reported that the Regional Sector Group has an appointee to the Ospri Stakeholder Council. He advised that following the resignation of the previous representative, he has now been appointed to this position.

The Chairman reported that he was contacted by the Governor General's Office late last week to ask him to carry out investiture ceremony for Mr Gary Aburn from South Westland. Cr Robb advised that Mr Aburn is a conservationist and world renowned predator catcher who has contributed to the

protection of kakapo. Cr Robb carried out the ceremony on Saturday evening and stated that it was a very humbling and emotional experience.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that this report be received.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report and advised that he chaired and opened the SOLGM Community Plan conference in Christchurch on 17 August. He stated that there was some very good strategic discussion among the attendees, of which there were around 120. 30 year infrastructure strategies were discussed as they are now a requirement and are tied in with the provisions of the Long Term Plans. C. Ingle felt that people are now pretty positive about the last round of changes to the Local Government Act as these are driving the sector to think better about how infrastructure is managed.

C. Ingle reported that the last of the SIG review was completed at the recent Regional Chief Executive’s meeting in Wellington.

C. Ingle reported that he attended a strategic meeting held by Civica, Council’s software provider for its financial system. He stated that this the meeting discussed what local government is going to look like in ten years’ time from a software developer’s point of view as they are wanting to develop and lead in this area. C. Ingle stated that this was a very good meeting, with interesting discussions with fellow CEO’s.

C. Ingle provided an update on various matters from the recent RSG meeting including changes to the RMA, NES and NPS’s, consistency between regions, and other matters.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Adams announced his resignation as of October 30th. He is moving to Wellington to a position with NZ Petroleum and Minerals. The Chairman passed on this thanks to J. Adams for his service, on behalf of all the other Councillors; he stated that J. Adams has done a great job for Council in the three years that he has been here. The Chairman said that J. Adams has been approachable and worked well with resource users. The Chairman wished J. Adams well with his new role and hoped that the move goes well for his family.

The meeting closed at 12.36 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date