

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 JUNE 2018, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.14 A.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), R. Beal (Operations Manager), H. McKay (Consents & Compliance 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 (Archer / Clementson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 May 2018, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

Cr Ewen stated that he had requested that the Kiwi Quarry report be passed onto to KiwiRail and NZTA. Discussion took place and it was agreed the R. Beal would pass the report on to both parties, minus the financial information.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *that the John Ellis report on Kiwi Quarry is passed onto KiwiRail and NZTA.*

Carried

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

R. Beal spoke to this report and advised that NZTA has provided the affected party sign off this week for the river training work in the Franz Josef rating district. R. Beal advised that the additional bulldozer work will go ahead and will be completed by the end of June.

R. Beal reported that a planting day will be held this Sunday for the Carters Beach work. He advised that engineers are considering a box culvert for the area near Elley Drive, this area was hit hard by Cyclone Fehi. R. Beal advised that options will be presented to the community at a meeting in July.

R. Beal advised that a community group in Okarito may use their own funding for work required. He stated that Council's Engineer will provide support with contractors and consents.

Cr McDonnell asked R. Beal if the \$18,000 the Franz Josef rating district is proposing to spend on additional river training work is on top of the \$100,000 already spent. R. Beal confirmed that this is additional.

R. Beal confirmed that Neil's Beach has built up well, and the sacrificial bund was not touched by Cyclone Fehi.

Discussion took place on the costs of works to special rating districts and the expectations that communities have. Cr Archer commented that there is a fine line between keeping costs down and providing the appropriate protection levels that the community expects. Cr Archer commented that communities will always want to keep the costs of rates down, but suppressing rates often has adverse

effects and results in finger pointing if the work agreed to doesn't achieve the outcome intended. R. Beal advised that this has been raised previously by Audit NZ. He stated that agreed services levels will need to be discussed further at the annual rating district meetings later in the year. The Chairman spoke of instances where Council has had to override a rating district decision as ultimately Council is responsible for work in rating districts.

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

Carried

4.2 VARIATION 4 TO THE WEST COAST REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN 2015 – 21

N. Costley spoke to this report and advised that the improvements will provide cost savings across the local roading transport network. She stated that LED lights use up to 60% less power will be a long term cost saver. N. Costley advised that West Coast Regional Transport Committee has endorsed the variation and made the recommendations as below. N. Costley confirmed the cost share arrangement with Grey District Council.

Moved (Birchfield / Challenger)

1. *That Council approves the variation to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 for the inclusion of the Grey District LED Lighting Improvements - \$800,000.*
2. *That Council submits the variation to the West Coast Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 to the New Zealand Transport Agency.*

Carried

4.2.1 ADOPTION OF INTERIM REVIEW ON THE REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN 2015 – 21

N. Costley spoke to this report. She advised that the Regional Transport Committee have approved the review therefore Council can now also approve it and it can now be lodged with NZTA. Cr McDonnell drew attention to various errors in the report, he asked several questions relating to rail transport and drew attention to the Mingha Bluff work which has now been completed. Cr Archer agreed with Cr McDonnell's comments. Cr Archer drew attention to sections of the report relating to the LTP and several other minor matters. Cr Challenger stated that the keeping open of state highways should be a higher priority. N. Costley answered questions from Councillors and explained the prioritisation process to the meeting. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed that N. Costley would check the current status of matters relating to Solid Energy, and make the requested amendments to the report.

Moved (Clementson / Challenger)

That Council adopts the Interim Review of the West Coast Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 – 21 as per 18B (3) (a) of the Land Transport Management Act, and submits this to the NZ Transport Agency, subject to the minor amendments discussed at today's meeting.

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

R. Mallinson tabled an updated financial report. He advised that this is the ten month financial report with the result being a deficit of \$235,000. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio improved by \$187,000 during April, with a further increase of \$100,000 during May. R. Mallinson stated that Council's fund managers will be giving their annual presentation at the conclusion of today's meeting.

Moved (Archer / McDonnell) *That the report be received.*

Carried

4.3.1 DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT FOR 2018 – 2028

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this report was prepared prior to receiving sign off from Audit NZ. He stated that it was hoped sign off would have been received by the end of this week but it is now looking like Wednesday of next week. R. Mallinson stated that this has been a huge piece of work

which has run behind schedule due to increased expectations from Audit NZ, and under estimating the staffing resources required. R. Mallinson answered numerous questions from Councillors and provided further detail on various matters. R. Mallinson advised that once sign off is received from Audit NZ, a special meeting will be required to adopt the audited Consultative Document.

Moved (Challenger / McDonnell)

1. *That Council formally adopts the information that is relied on in the content of the Consultative Document, including:*
 - *Budgetary Information*
 - *Significant forecasting assumptions*
 - *Performance framework*
 - *Revenue & Financing Policy*
 - *Financial Strategy*
 - *Infrastructure Strategy*
 - *Groups of Activities Information*
 - *Funding Impact Statements*
 - *Forecast Financial Statements and other Financial Disclosures*
2. *That Council agrees pursuant to S 100 (2) of the Local Government Act 2002 that it is financially sensible and prudent to operate a deficit of operating revenue less expenditure of -\$502,000 for year 1 of the LTP (18/19).*
3. *That Council receives the Draft Long Term Plan.*
4. *That Council receives the LTP Consultative Document.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and took it as read.

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

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and spoke of the various meetings he attended during the reporting period. Cr Clementson asked M. Meehan about the reaction from the DHB regarding the Buller Hospital rebuild. M. Meehan advised that the DHB have done their due diligence, he stated that evacuation scenarios were discussed in the event of natural disasters and the information provided by the Civil Defence Regional Director was well received.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr McDonnell spoke of the email Councillors received regarding the possibility of having a covered lawn bowls stadium on the West Coast and the possibility of using Council owned land to the north of the building. R. Mallinson advised that the parties involved are interested in leasing land, not purchasing land. It was agreed that the Chairman would respond and advise the interested party that Council has previously resolved not to sell this land.

Cr Ewen spoke of the recent approach by the West Coast Whitebaiters Association to the district councils seeking \$7,000 to prepare a report to counter the report that Minister Sage has underway to change whitebaiting regulations on the West Coast. M. Meehan advised that H. Mills is working on this as the whitebait fishery was mentioned in the Growth Study. H. Mills advised that investigations are underway to look into how the fishery could be increased, by opening up fish passage and improving habitat. H. Mills

advised that this is being managed by DoC. R. Beal confirmed that the Alliance has no projects involving whitebait fisheries on the West Coast at present.

M. Meehan advised that Buller District Council is working on a master plan exercise for Punakaiki and are seeking \$15,000 in funding from Council. Cr Challenger stated that it is very important that Council looks at the master plan as Punakaiki is in a hazard zone. He stated that people need to be aware that one day they may need to retreat. He stated that most of the land in this area is DoC land. Discussion took place and it was agreed that M. Meehan would present this matter to the special meeting.

M. Meehan advised that he would circulate the remits for the LGNZ conference and these can be discussed and agreed upon at the special meeting.

Cr Archer stated that he has an item that he wishes to discuss which will run over time. It was agreed that the meeting would be adjourned and would reconvene after the JB Were presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 12.30 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 2.01 pm

Cr Archer stated that the issue of a tourism rate has once again arisen in the newspapers. He stated that he is disappointed that the Mayors have come out once again about this matter. Cr Archer acknowledged that it must be difficult for the tourism sector as a group to actually force benefitting parties in the tourism sector to contribute to the tourism rate. Cr Archer stated that his view is the only people that should be contributing to a tourism rate is the benefitting parties. Cr Archer said that he has reviewed the LTP's for the district councils and each one has a different structure for taking tourism money, and they each have a different mechanism for collecting tourism rates. Cr Archer stated that he would like to hear from Tourism West Coast and Development West Coast prior to making any decisions. Cr Archer feels that the statements from the Mayors need to be publicly refuted by this Council. M. Meehan stated that Council is not asking for a decision, and if there is going to be a targeted rate, then the benefitting parties would need to pay for it. The Chairman advised that if an economic development rate is to be set up at a later date then a discussion would need to be had with the benefitting parties, and a decision would be required as to whether the regional council would collect the rate on their behalf. The Chairman advised that at Mayors and Chairs level, it has been agreed that no decision would be made outside of this Council without consultation with Council, and our community via the LTP consultation process. He stated that this is the same type of process used for decisions relating to rating districts. Extensive discussion took place with Councillors expressing their opinions. Cr Ewen stated that there is a perception out there that Council is going to implement a tourism rate, and it is important that a clear message is put out to say that this is not happening. Discussion took place on whether a media statement should be released, and it was agreed that if the matter is raised again in the newspapers then the Chairman would release a statement outlining the actual approach.

The meeting closed at 2.23 pm.

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Chairman

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Date