

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 7 JUNE 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.08 A.M.

PRESENT:

A. Robb (Chairman), P. Ewen, P. McDonnell, A. Birchfield, N. Clementson

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Planning & Operations Manager), G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media.

1. APOLOGIES:

MOVED (Robb / Ewen) *that the apologies from S. Challenger and T. Archer be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Clementson / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 10 May 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that the Karamea River mouth has been opened after causing flooding to farmland. M. Meehan advised that the river mouth is currently migrating to the south and is being carefully monitored. M. Meehan advised that emergency work has been done to prevent further erosion in the Wanganui rating district.

M. Meehan reported that design work is being finalised in the Franz Josef rating district with a view to raising the northern stopbank to protect the township. He stated that a joint process with NZTA is being considered as NZTA plan to raise the stopbank on the south side. M. Meehan stated that a consenting process to consent all of the rock protection work along the river is being worked through. He advised that a joint maintenance scheme is also being worked on with NZTA; a joint monitoring scheme is already in place. M. Meehan advised that Council, NZTA, Westland District Council and DoC are working on a long term solution for this area. A date for a workshop with all parties and consultants involved is to be set shortly. He stated that this information will be then brought to council in August or September. Cr McDonnell asked if the recent work that has been done in the Waiho River has kept the water levels down at the 55 km corner. M. Meehan responded that the river is going straight down the middle at the moment as a result of the work NZTA has done. He stated that this has kept the river from the north but it is only a matter of time before it goes to the north again. Cr Birchfield stated that he feels that Council does not have any choice but to maintain the existing stopbanks at Franz Josef. He stated that shifting the road is a long term solution but the banks on both sides of the river need to be continually beefed up

to protect the road and the town in the meantime. M. Meehan agreed with Cr Birchfield and stated that the long term solution, expected in a couple of months' time, will evaluate options. M. Meehan stated that the town needs to be protected and the banks to the south need to be maintained for now. The Chairman agreed, and stated that there is a good civil defence plan in place. He stated that there is a lot of work being done to find a solution and it is important that the best information is used to get a solution.

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

Carried

4.1.1 DISBANDING OF THE CANAVANS KNOB RATING DISTRICT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and gave a history of the rating district. He advised that this rating district was placed in abeyance in 2010 as NZTA have taken over the asset and are maintaining it. M. Meehan stated that 28 letters were sent out to the rating district and 12 responses were received, all were in favour of disbanding the rating district. M. Meehan advised that the reason for transferring the 300 tonne of rock from the Canavans Knob to the Lower Waiho rating district is because around half of the properties that were in the Canavans Knob rating district, then became members of the Lower Waiho rating district. R. Mallinson confirmed that the current balance in the Canavans Knob rating district is approximately \$30,000.

MOVED (Birchfield / McDonnell)

1. *That the Council agrees to disband the Canavans Knob rating district and refund the contributing ratepayers of the current Canavans Knob rating district fund balance.*
2. *That the Council transfers the 300 tonne of rock from the Canavans Knob rating district asset register to the Lower Waiho rating district asset register.*

Carried

4.1.1 PUNAKAIKI RATING DISTRICT – PROPOSED NORTHERN SEAWALL EXTENSION

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that the erosion is becoming much worse at the northern end, over the past couple of months weather events have taken out 8 – 10 metres of the dune system which is now impacting on the Punakaiki camping ground. M. Meehan advised that over the past 18 months staff have been working on engineering solutions to take to the community. M. Meehan advised OCEL Consultants were commissioned to provide a report and to look at options on how to protect the area to the north of the seawall. M. Meehan advised that a rating district meeting was held on 18 May. He stated that at this meeting there was a lot of discussion on what could be done and who would pay for it. M. Meehan advised that following on from this meeting a survey was sent out, 26 out of 33 surveys were returned, 10 responders wish to proceed with the works and 14 do not want to proceed. M. Meehan stated that a large number of responders wish to see the rating district expanded to take in more properties in order to spread the costs of works. M. Meehan advised that some responders suggested that visitors to the Punakaiki Blowholes and Pancake Rocks pay a tourism tax. He stated that the rating district wishes to use the best quality of rock as possible. M. Meehan advised that Mayor Howard is seeking central government funding and he has had Hon Nick Smith on site to try to progress this. M. Meehan stated that at the moment Council does not have clear support from the rating district to go ahead with the work particularly with the current funding model. He is recommending that Council relooks at the funding apportionments, and goes back to the rating district with a revised apportionments for the rating district to consider. M. Meehan answered various questions from Councillors, extensive discussion ensued.

MOVED (Birchfield / Clementson)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Council undertake further consultation with ratepayers of the Punakaiki Rating District, following the review of the proposed apportionment costs.*
3. *That staff report to the July 2016 Council meeting with an update.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson tabled an amended version of his report. He stated that there was a modest increase of \$56,000 to the investment portfolio during April with a strong rebound in May of \$130,000. R. Mallinson stated the investment return is slowly improving but Council will still be under budget for the whole year although the situation not looking as bad as it was several months ago. R. Mallinson reported that the operating deficit for the ten months to the end of April was \$566,000. R. Mallinson spoke of one off expenditure items including recruitment costs, legal costs and external accounting assistance. R. Mallinson reported that Audit NZ were on site last week to carry out interim audit work. R. Mallinson answered questions from Councillors.

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

Carried

4.2.1 DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL PLAN 2016 / 17

N. Costley spoke to this report. She advised that the C. Ingle's last day was spent at a Councillor workshop going through submissions; he then drafted a table of recommendations on submission points. N. Costley advised that once decisions have been made on the submission points, the Annual Plan can then be adopted. R. Mallinson advised that when the Annual Plan was first released it included the existing rating regime for the Punakaiki rating district with a maintenance rate of \$95,000 + GST being levied on the existing classifications of A, B and C. R. Mallinson advised that if the rating district is extended and a change is made to the rating benefit classifications system, then the maintenance rate would need to be rescinded and replaced with another rating decision based under Section 23 of The Rating Act. He advised this permits councils to set rates outside of the normal annual plan process in an emergency situation.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson)

- 1. That Council adopts the decisions on the submissions points in the attached table.*
- 2. That the Annual Plan for 2016 /17 be adopted.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and spoke of the various meetings he has attended during the reporting period. He reported that work with the Regional Growth Study Governance Group is progressing well although still in the early stages. The Chairman reported that he attended the South Island Regional Transport Committee meeting. He advised this was a workshop based on a collaboration of South Island Regional Transport Committee's to try to get best results for the whole of the South Island. He stated a positive outcome was achieved; this was an opportunity to put some pressure on central government to ensure the South Island gets their fair share of what is needed to grow the regions.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.44 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date