

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 MAY 2022,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH,
COMMENCING AT 11:22 A.M**

PRESENT:

A. Birchfield (Chair), S Challenger, J. Hill, P. Ewen, D. Magner, B. Cummings, L. Coll McLaughlin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

H Mabin (Chief Executive), N Costley (Manager Strategy & Communications) (via zoom), M Schumacher (IT Support) (via zoom).

Also present: Brendon McMahon (Grey Star), member of the public

1. WELCOME

Cr Birchfield read the prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair called for apologies. There were no apologies.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair called for declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair called for any speakers for the public forum. There were no speakers.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Council Meeting 12 April 2022

The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 April 2022. In the 'general business' section, Cr Coll McLaughlin clarified that Kiwirail did not attend the Joint Committee meeting, but she understood that discussions would be held with them at a later date.

Moved (Challenger/Cummings) *that the minutes of the Council meeting dated 12 April 2022 be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair took his report as read. He noted that he was getting a lot of enquiries about flood damage repair work from landowners hesitant to do works in the riverbed without getting reassurance first. He had fielded calls and gone to look at a number of jobs.

Moved (Ewen/Cummings) *That this report is received.*

Carried

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

7.1 Monthly Report

H Mabin took her report as read. In response to a question from Cr Coll McLaughlin, H Mabin outlined that the letter to Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu was from the relevant South Island Regional CEOs and Chairs requesting a meeting with Ngai Tahu, to build relationships.

Moved (Magner/Cummings) *That this report is received.*

Carried

7.2 Buller Flood Recovery Steering Committee minutes

H Mabin noted the purpose of the report was to table the April meeting minutes of the steering group. There were no questions.

Moved (Cummings/Magner) *That the Council receive and note the attachments to the report.*

Carried

7.3 LGNZ membership

This item was deferred. The Chair advised he had been contacted by LGNZ and will defer this item until next month. LGNZ will speak to Council at that meeting.

7.4 LGFA Debt Maturing 26 May 2022 (late report)

H Mabin provided copies of this report to the meeting and apologised for this being late. She advised the Council that following on from last month's meeting to increase Council's debt, a review had been undertaken

of this documentation by Russell McVeigh which she received last night, for today's meeting. She advised that this is the same process undertaken in May and November last year.

In response to a question from the Chair, H Mabin explained that the increase of approximately \$1.7m was solely for Organ's Island works, which would become a new asset in the register. The catastrophe fund was going to be liquidated for the works at O'Connor Rest Home, which is another piece of work the Council is going to undertake.

In response to a question from Cr Coll McLaughlin, H Mabin explained that Russell McVeigh required that the correct amounts were populated in the report 5 days prior to maturity, so the actual figures did not appear in the paper as yet but would do so when the documents are prepared for signing.

Cr Cummings asked what the repayments were. H Mabin explained that the LGFA repayments were interest only, and that the exact amount was unknown at this time. Interest rates are currently between 1-3%.

H Mabin advised the Council that when it borrows to complete the Westport project, Council has committed under the LTP to borrow \$10.2m and this will take Council close to, if not over, its threshold of \$20m total debt. For it to borrow more it would need to become a guarantor with LGFA, and this would provide Council with lower interest rates. This will depend on what happens with Westport works. Cr Coll McLaughlin noted they had previously discussed this and had acknowledged it as inevitable given the works that they had to do. H Mabin advised that this will be workshopped with Council at an upcoming funding workshop. The Chair said this would depend on what funding was available from central government, and Cr Ewen felt that Council was in a good position currently, with lower relative debt than other Councils.

Moved (Magner/Hill) *That the Council:*

1. *approve the issue of a \$3,750,000 zero coupon debt security to LGFA on 26 May 2022 (or such other date as agreed between the Council and LGFA) for six months, replacing Council's 7 June 2019 \$2,000,000 zero coupon debt security so that the new maturity will be 25 November 2022;*
2. *delegate authority to any two of the Chief Executive, Chair Allan Birchfield, and Cllr Debra Magner (Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Committee) to execute the following documents (subject to minor changes), to give effect to recommendation 1. above:*
 - *Security Stock Certificate (in relation to the security stock to be issued to LGFA);*
 - *Stock Issuance Certificate (in relation to the above Security Stock Certificate); and*
 - *Chief Executive Certificate.*
3. *delegate authority to any two of the Chief Executive, Chair Allan Birchfield and Cllr Debra Magner (Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Committee) to execute the Final Terms for the debt securities issued by the Council to LGFA on 26 May 2022, to give effect to recommendation 1. above; and*
4. *delegate authority to any two of the Chief Executive, Chair Allan Birchfield and Cllr Debra Magner (Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Committee) to execute such other documents and take such other steps on behalf of Council as the Chief Executive considers is necessary or desirable to execute or take to give effect to recommendation 1. above.*

Carried

7.5 LGFA Debt Maturing 30 May 2022 (late report)

H Mabin provided copies of this report to the meeting. There was no further discussion.

Moved (Cummings/Coll McLaughlin) *That the Council:*

1. *approve the renewal of a \$1,400,000 medium-term bespoke trade debt security to LGFA on 30 May 2022 (or such other date as agreed between the Council and LGFA) for five years, effectively rolling over the Council's existing 7 June 2019 \$1,400,000 zero coupon debt security so that the new maturity will be 30 May 2027;*
2. *delegate authority to any two of the Chief Executive, Chair Allan Birchfield, and Cllr Debra Magner (Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Committee) to execute the following documents (subject to minor changes), to give effect to recommendation 1. above:*
 - *Security Stock Certificate (in relation to the security stock to be issued to LGFA);*
 - *Stock Issuance Certificate (in relation to the above Security Stock Certificate); and*
 - *Chief Executive Certificate.*
3. *delegate authority to any two of the Chief Executive, Chair Allan Birchfield and Cllr Debra Magner (Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Committee) to execute the Final Terms for the debt securities issued by the Council to LGFA on 26 November 2021, to give effect to recommendation 1. above; and*
4. *delegate authority to any two of the Chief Executive, Chair Allan Birchfield and Cllr Debra Magner (Chair of Council's Audit and Risk Committee) to execute such other documents and take such other steps on behalf of Council as the Chief Executive considers is necessary or desirable to execute or take to give effect to recommendation 1. above.*

Carried

8. REPORTS

8.1 Operations Group Report

H Mabin spoke to this report. She advised that she is looking at resourcing for this area.

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked for an update on the note in the report that the verbal quotes would be confirmed in writing. Cr Magner responded that she was aware staff had obtained written confirmation from landowners about written costs per landowner. Cr Cummings asked whether there was further work that needed doing on the Wanganui River. Cr Magner advised there were two areas of emergency work, one is completed and one is underway. There is also further work needing to be scoped. She noted there will be quite a lot of work that will need to be done there. H Mabin said that they are aware that there needs to be a management plan and that this needs to be coordinated, and her understanding is that John Ellis and Gary Williams are looking at this. There is an application going in to NEMA regarding funding of emergency works that have been completed.

Moved (Cummings/Magner) *That the report is received.*

Carried

8.2 Westport Rating District Joint Committee minutes

N Costley joined the meeting via zoom. She noted the purpose of the report was to table the 3 March meeting minutes of the Joint Committee. There were no questions.

Moved (Coll McLaughlin/Hill) *Receive and note the minutes of the Westport Rating District Joint Committee meeting of 3 March 2022.*

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The Chair adjourned the meeting for the lunch break at 11:46am.

10. PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Moved (Challenger/ Cummings) *that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of the meeting, namely, -*

- *Items 10.1 – 10.4 (inclusive)*

| Item No. | General Subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter | Ground(s) under section 7 of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Item 10.1 | Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – Council meeting 12 April 2022 | The item contains information relating to commercial matters and information that was subject to an obligation of confidence | To protect commercial information and to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence (s 7(2)(c) and s 7(2)(b)). |
| Item 10.2 | Rating District merger | The item contains information relating to commercial matters | To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)). |
| Item 10.3 | VCS Schedules of Work Approvals | The item contains information that relates to Council's commercial activities | To enable the Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities (s 7(2)(h)). |
| Item 10.4 | Franz Josef (Waiho River Stopbank Protection – Phase 1) contract | The item contains information relating to commercial matters | To protect commercial information (s 7(2)(b)). |

and that:

- *Heather Mabin and Neil Selman be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge on these subjects. This knowledge will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed; and*
- *The Minutes Clerk also be permitted to remain at the meeting.*

Carried

The meeting reconvened at 12:34pm in a public-excluded session.

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Chair

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Date

UNCONFIRMED