

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 9.03AM ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015 AT MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

**PRESENT:** Mayor W Gray (Chair), Councillors T Blunt, J Diver, G Harmon, J Howden, C Mackle, D Millton, D Morgan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), S Syme (Committee Secretary).

## **1. OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public wished to present in the open forum.

*The meeting adjourned at 9.04am and resumed at 9.47am.*

## **2. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Kaikoura Information and Tourism**

A lot of positive comments had been received regarding the draft Development Contributions Policy. A discussion was held regarding an economic review of Kaikoura and when it had last been undertaken.

### **Regional Transport Committee**

7 submissions had been received on the draft Regional Plan and the plan was in the redrafting stage.

## **3. POSTMAN'S TRACK**

The matter of a creation of a signed and poled route along Postman's Track which ran from Goose Bay to the Kahutara River had remained on the table since the September meeting. This was to allow for further discussion with the landowner at Rakanui regarding an alternate track. It was noted the property at Rakanui was in overseas ownership and whilst there may be the opportunity to relocate a section of the track it could be a very long process which still left the outstanding matter raised by Walking Access New Zealand regarding a signed and poled route.

The District Planner advised the Track had been around since 1896. The track was a legal road and people could use the road as they would any other road. Feedback had been sought from adjoining property owners regarding signage and marking of the route. Concerns had been raised regarding the following;

- Illegal activities
- Dangers to walkers from legal and illegal hunting
- Stock management
- Use of motor vehicles
- Fire danger
- Biosecurity risk
- Risk to walkers from farming activities
- Walkers straying/styles
- Need for a key Council contact.

Councillor Millton advised 74% of the land in the district was public land and it was Council's responsibility to get the best use of the assets it had and he did not think the cost and legal implications were necessary for the district. He enquired what Council was trying to achieve and advised a lot of people would be upset if Council continued with the process. Councillor Blunt felt the best views could be had with an up and back track.

The District Planner advised the process had commenced in 2008 when local residents had wanted more people to be able to use the track. Since that time Council had adopted a Walking and Cycling Strategy. He further advised there were advantages for a tourist town to have accessible walking tracks and the Walking Access Commission would like Council to make a decision on the matter. If the status quo remained none of the concerns raised by landowners would be addressed.

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Diver that;***

- 1. Council work with Walking Access New Zealand to allow for the development of signage and pole markers on the unformed legal road known as Postman's Track.***
- 2. Council develop a Traffic Bylaw to prevent damage on the surface of the unformed legal roads.***

**Discussion:**

Mayor Gray advised when walking the track he had been taken by how good the track was after so many years and the views were fantastic. However in some areas the track would not have been found without the use of GPS. He felt the walk was fantastic and the possibility of closing off the track for part of the year was an option.

Councillor Blunt felt the key issue was safety and there was a risk from cows with calves and also a serious risk from legal and illegal hunting. He also advised he had spoken with the Walking Access Commission who had advised they could provide some signage and some markers but Council would need to provide funding and additional markers. He felt if the track was to end by Rakanui it was a much better end point in terms of vehicle access. Another concern was rapid changes in waterway conditions following rainfall in the area which could make them impassable. He further advised a "no dogs" sign would not stop people taking their dogs on the track and sheep measles were a significant financial risk to property owners. Another concern was the biosecurity risk and every time an animal or a person was on a track they spread weeds.

Mayor Gray advised there were risks wherever people went and suggested Council could work with landowners to have portions of the track closed during calving and lambing.

It was noted the track would need fixing to allow access and that would come at a cost to Council and the question was asked whether or not Council was prepared to fund every paper road in Kaikoura for people to walk. It was also suggested that the possible deviation of the track through

Rakanui would only shift the problem. The District Planner reiterated all paper roads in the district were able to be walked now.

The District Planner advised he had contacted the Walking Access Commission and the Enhancement Access Fund had closed but the Chief Executive Officer had a fund and he was prepared to allocate money for marker and signage but Council would need to be committed to the project. The Chief Executive Officer advised if the recommendation was adopted Council could look at markers and signage on unformed legal roads but it did not have to be tomorrow or the following week.

The issues of safety and poaching were reiterated. Councillor Blunt enquired how much staff time had been spent on the matter and whether or not it was part of Council's core business. The District Planner advised the matter could have been put to Council's Operations and Maintenance Manager who had delegated authority over all roads but given the controversial nature of the issue some time had been required on the matter.

The Chief Executive officer advised since the Walking Access Commission had been set up there was a lot more interest in access to tracks and Council had to decide if it wanted to proactively ensure people stayed on the legal road.

The District Planner reiterated that the marking of the track was instigated by members of the community who lived in the area.

***The motion was put. A division was called.  
The result of the division was announced: Four all.  
The motion was lost.***

#### **4. COUNCIL PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

***Moved by Mayor Gray seconded by Councillor Harmon and resolved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting namely;***

- a. Confirmation of Minutes of Council Public Excluded meeting on 18/02/2015***
- b. New Zealand Police Update***
- c. Civic Building Update Report***
- d. Clarence Forest***
- e. Sale of Pynes Building***

***The meeting adjourned at 11.40am and resumed at 1.19pm.***

#### **5. YOUTH COUNCIL**

S Beardmore and M Sterling were in attendance to present this item.

A report of Youth Council activities was tabled. Two Youth Council meetings had been held in 2015. An effort would be made to increase Youth Council membership to at least 15 youth. There were currently 9 members.

Youth Week would be celebrated the week commencing 23 May. This years' theme was "We are the future/Ko tatau tea o apopo".

Councillor Blunt advised he had been approached about a Young Farmers Club. He advised he would find time to assist if there was some interest.

#### **6. MARLBOROUGH KAIKOURA RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY UPDATE**

D Smith, Chairman of the Board, and R MacNamara, Principal Rural Fire Officer, were in attendance to present this item. D Smith provided an overview of the organisation. He advised the way the Authority worked had been excellent and was a good way of managing rural fire.

R MacNamara advised he was in charge of operations and managed volunteers and their expectations. R MacNamara provided an overview of the fire fighting response to the large forest fire which had occurred near Blenheim in February.

R MacNamara acknowledged the work of the Board and the hard work of volunteers.

#### **7. DESTINATION KAIKOURA UPDATE**

G Ormsby was in attendance to present this item. The Outcomes of the 2014/15 business plan were tabled. The priority focus areas in 2014/15 had been;

- Relationship Management
- Product Development
- Destination Management
- Destination Marketing
- Online Marketing
- Events
- Cruise
- i-Site
- Administration and Structure

Engagement work had been undertaken with a major coach company who were hoping to have two nights per week in Kaikoura for 40 to 50 weeks.

It was noted Chinese visitors were the biggest spenders while the North American market was up 20%.

Most areas of the Business Plan had been delivered on.

#### **8. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Gray advised the Water Zone Committee had allocated \$80,000 from Immediate Steps funding to a Black Fronted Tern predator control project in the Clarence. It was noted there were still funds available for projects which met the criteria.

## **9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Council 18/02/2015**

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Harmon and resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 February 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.***

## **10. ADOPTION OF REPORTS**

**Works & Services Committee 18/02/2015**

***Moved by Councillor Harmon, seconded by Councillor Mackle and resolved that the minutes of the Works & Services Committee meeting held on 18 February 2015 be adopted.***

**Environmental Services Committee 18/02/2015**

***Moved by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that the report of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 18 February 2015 be adopted.***

**Finance & Policy Committee 18/02/2015**

***Moved by Councillor Howden, seconded by Councillor Millton and resolved that the report of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 18 February 2015 be adopted.***

## **11. MINUTES TO BE RECEIVED**

**Kaikoura Zone Water Committee 28/01/2015**

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Blunt and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikoura Zone Water Committee held on 28 January 2015 be received.***

## **12. MINUTES ACTION LIST**

### **Eco Burials**

The reports which had previously been presented to Council had been circulated to Councillors the previous day. Mayor Gray advised there was quite a cost to proceed to the next stage. If Councillors wished the matter to be taken further the item could be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.58pm.***