

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 9.00AM ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017 AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 96 WEST END, KAIKOURA.

**PRESENT:** Mayor W Gray (Chair), Councillors L Bond, T Blunt, C Harnett, J Howden, D Millton, N Pablecheque.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** A Oosthuizen (Chief Executive Officer), J Parfitt (Advisor to CEO), S Syme (Committee Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor C Mackle.  
***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Pablecheque and resolved that apologies be accepted. Unanimous.***

## **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Millton was a director of Waipapa Limestone which was involved with roading projects in the district.

## **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

K Mallindar, Bare Kiwi, was running Destination Kaikoura's Facebook page and was being the voice of Kaikoura in the social media world. He hoped to bring his audience from overseas to the pages. The reaction from the New Zealand public to date had been incredible. All stories would be positive.

***The Council meeting adjourned at 9.12pm and resumed at 11.13am.***

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Council 30/06/2017**

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Millton and resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2017 be confirmed a true and accurate record. Unanimous.***

**Extraordinary Council 26/07/2017**

***Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 26 June 2017 be confirmed a true and accurate record. Unanimous.***

## **4. COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Included in the agenda was a draft communications and engagement strategy. Post-earthquake there was a huge need for communications. The demand for communication was something which needed to be met and would continue to grow. It was noted there was very little budget for communications in the current financial year. Communications could be bigger and better but this could wait. Some money had been put into Facebook where items were of high community interest or the wrong information has been circulated.

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Howden and resolved that the Communications and Engagement Strategy report be received. Unanimous.***

## **5. FINANCE REPORT**

The finance report had been separately circulated. There were significant cash movements in June which resulted in \$6.5 million in the bank account as at 30 June. Trade payables were extremely high at over \$7.6 million, emergency road repairs and harbour remediation works formed the bulk of this amount with \$4million paid out on 1 July.

Rates were down on budget due to the write off of the Hospital Charge due to the loan being repaid and rates remissions for uninhabitable buildings.

A large amount of year-end adjustments were still to be made with some grant money potentially needing to be transferred to the current year.

It was noted to obtain the roading subsidy New Zealand Transport Agency required Council to pay the roading contractor prior to claiming the money. To date Council had been provided with advances from MCDEM and insurers however they would now like Council to transition to a claims basis where Council claimed the funds once the money had been paid to the contractor. All indications were that payments would be made quickly to Council.

***Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that the Finance report be received. Unanimous.***

***The meeting adjourned at 11.49am and resumed at 1.25pm.***

## **6. WINTER WARMERS COLLABORATION**

Caroline Shrone from Community Energy Action (CEA) was in attendance to present this item. CEA had been undertaking work in Kaikoura for a very long time. They were a charitable trust with a staff of 40 people. The Trust wanted to empower people to help themselves.

A 50% subsidy was available to home owners for them to insulate their home. CEA was also involved with repair programmes and offered independent advice. BRANZ had undertaken a study which indicated there were 830,000 houses in New Zealand which were not properly insulated or had damp issues. The Canterbury District Health Board had provided \$1 million dollars to assist with warmer and drier homes but did not have any further funding available.

CEA, Red Cross, Council and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet were collaborating with other organisations and agencies to support the most vulnerable. This could include money for power bills, insulations, minor repairs and provision of fire wood outside of insurance cover.

Initial assessments by the Red Cross in Kaikoura had indicated that most cases to date required assistance with power bills. Where there was an identified need a case management approach was undertaken.

CEA always used local contractors. It was noted however that most local builders in Kaikoura were really busy and did not have time to undertake emergency work.

## **7. PUBLIC FORUM**

### **Plastic Bag Free Kaikoura**

Ralph Hogan and Julie Ratcliffe were in attendance to present this item. J Ratcliffe and R Hogan were part of Inspire Kaikoura who were a group of likeminded individuals who were passionate about the environment and had got together post-earthquake.

They had long standing issues about plastic bags. It was noted the top five tourist attractions in Kaikoura undertook a lot of educational work regarding the environment however there were still plastic bags floating around. 80% of the plastic bags in the ocean came from land and something needed to be done about it. This was an amazing place to live and people were not protecting it. It was noted that plastic bags did breakdown over time into small pieces however these were ingested by sea life and ultimately be humans when sea life was harvested for food.

It was requested that Council resolve to fast track a plastic bag bylaw. It was noted when the campaign "Fantastic, no plastic" was introduced many years ago it was hoped that Kaikoura would be plastic bag free within three years. An overview of places which had legislative restrictions in place was provided with hundreds of places around the world either banning or restricting plastic bag use. It was noted that whilst banning light weight bags was good for the marine environment consideration had to be given to what would replace them. Reusable bags were considered the best overall solution environmentally. Any solution had to be designed to change habits. Whilst Kaikoura was behind the world in terms of a stance on plastic bags it could lead the way in New Zealand.

A discussion was held regarding where a levy would go, whether the collection of refuse could be improved, and whether the legislation allowed for a bylaw.

It was agreed a report regarding a bylaw would be put to Council at a future meeting. R Hogan would assist with research with regard to the matter.

## **8. TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

The purpose of the fund was to provide financial support for local tourism-related infrastructure where tourism growth (domestic and international) was placing pressure on existing infrastructure or was constraining growth. It was anticipated the first round of the fund would open in August.

***Moved by Councillor Millton, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that;***  
***1. A working group be formed comprising of Councillor Bond, Councillor Howden and Mayor Gray, the Chief Executive Officer, Economic Recovery and Iwi.***

- 2. That the initial members determine which external representatives be included in the working group and invite them to be part of the working group.**
- 3. That a meeting be convened as soon as possible to commence identification of projects for consideration. Unanimous.**

#### **9. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

##### **Destination Kaikoura**

It was concerning that there may not be enough accommodation in Kaikoura for visitors following all the marketing of the district which had been undertaken. Kaikoura Information and Tourism Incorporated would work with accommodation providers who were not currently open to help them through.

##### **Remuneration of Elected Members**

It was suggested that Elected Members who were undertaking extra work currently as part of recovery be remunerated for their extra work given the special circumstances. The Chief Executive Officer would follow up regarding whether this was possible.

***Councillor Millton left the meeting at 3.11pm***

#### **10. COUNCIL PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

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

- a) Confirmation of Council Public Excluded Minutes 30/06/2017***
- b) Audit New Zealand. Unanimous.***

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.22pm.***