



# EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM ON FRIDAY, 7 MAY 2021 COMMENCING AT 9AM.

The Council Meeting was live streamed to the Westland District Council Youtube channel.

Kw Madgwick performed the Karakia.

## 1. MEMBERS PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Chairpersons	His Worship the Mayor	
Members	Deputy Mayor Carruthers	
	Cr Davidson	Cr Hart
	Cr Keogan	Cr Martin
	Cr Neale	Kw Madgwick (via Zoom)

## NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

Cr Kennedy  
Kw Tumahai

### ABSENT:

Cr Hartshorne

Moved Deputy Mayor Carruthers, seconded Cr Hart and **Resolved** that the apologies from Cr Kennedy and Kw Tumahai be received and accepted.

## STAFF PRESENT

T. Cook, Acting Chief Executive and Group Manager: Regulatory and Community Services; L. Crichton, Group Manager: Corporate Services; F. Scadden, Planning Manager; P. Jayawardana, Finance Manager; D. Maitland, Executive Assistant; E. Rae, Strategy and Communications Advisor; M. Smith, Committee Secretary.

## 2. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interest Register had been circulated via Microsoft Teams and was also available on the day on the council table. There were no changes to the Interest Register noted.

His Worship the Mayor spoke to the last 12 months of Council and the future of the Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

*(The Mayor's speech is attached as appendix 1)*

### 3. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS

- **Adoption of supporting policies and documents to the Revenue and Financing Policy for consultation concurrent with Long Term Plan consultation.**

The Group Manager: Corporate Services spoke to this item and advised the purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the documents listed below, attached as appendices, as supporting policies and principles to the Revenue and Financing Policy, and for consultation as components of the Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 (LTP).

- Draft Funding Needs Analysis
- Draft Rating Policy
- Draft Funding Impact Statement
- Audit Report

Moved Cr Hart, seconded Cr Keogan and **Resolved** that:

- A) Council receives the report.
- B) Council adopts the following appendices documents as supporting policies and principles to the Revenue and Financing Policy, and for consultation components of the LTP:
  - Draft Funding Needs Analysis
  - Draft Rating Policy
  - Draft Funding Impact Statement
  - Audit Report

- **Adoption of Revenue and Financing Policy for consultation concurrent with Long Term Plan consultation.**

The Group Manager: Corporate Services spoke to this item and advised the purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Moved Cr Martin, seconded Cr Davison and **Resolved** that:

- A) Council receives the report.
- B) Council adopts the Revenue and Financing Policy, attached as appendix 1 to the Agenda, for consultation concurrently with the Long Term Plan consultation as provided by LGA s83A.

- **Adoption of the draft Long Term Plan 2021-2031 and Consultation Document**

The Strategy and Communications Advisor spoke to this item and advised the purpose of the report is to adopt the draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 (LTP) and Consultation Document (CD).

Kw Madgwick advised that amendments were required regarding the noted Rūnanga details and would liaise with council staff to correct these items.

Moved His Worship the Mayor, seconded Deputy Mayor Carruthers and **Resolved** that:

- A) Council receive the report.
- B) Council adopt the draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and Consultation Document subject to amendments being made as noted by Kw Madgwick.
- C) Council direct staff to undertake consultation with the community.

*Actions from the reports as below:*

- *Once the Consultation Document has been adopted, that a paper copy be provided to elected members as requested.*
- *Mayor's speech to be circulated to elected members.*

His Worship the Mayor thanked the elected members for their attendance and complimented them on their unflinching dedication since March 2020. The Mayor also noted the performance of the Westland District Council staff and congratulated them on their efforts.

The Deputy Mayor then congratulated His Worship the Mayor on his leadership through some difficult times and thanked the staff.

Moved Cr Martin, seconded Cr Keogan and **Resolved** that the Mayor's speech on the last 12 months of Council and the future of the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 be received and accepted.

**DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 27 MAY 2021  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM.**

**MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35AM**

Confirmed by:

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**Mayor Bruce Smith**  
Chair

**Date: 27.05.21**

## **Mayor Bruce Smith's Speech to the Extraordinary Council Meeting to adopt the draft Long Term Plan and Consultation Document on the 7 May 2021**

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Councillors, today we get to consider the release for consultation of the ten year Long Term Plan.

What is very clear is we must thrive to survive.

This year we continue our focus to deliver accelerated infrastructure where funding is in place.

Next year it's another year of delivery and we anticipate that by the end of the 2022 year we will have the majority of the funded projects completed.

After that in 2023 it's business as usual and that's where the decision in the LTP kicks in to build up a resilience fund for use in emergencies.

Council has always wanted to build a fund but other priorities always got in the way.

Like all plans, by the time council gets to the 10 year mark it will likely bear little resemblance to today's document.

The decision to defer and carry the cost of last years projected 8.3% rate increase and bring it into this year's plan was in my opinion, the correct stance to take.

COVID-19 was ripping the world as we knew it apart and anything to ease the immediate cash costs for our ratepayers until the recovery began was important.

Today we are consulting on a 13% increase which covers 2 years, last years and this year and in many ways further increased investment by ratepayers would make sense.

There is no other monthly account we pay in our households where the level of services provides as good value for money as councils do coast-wide.

Let's reflect on Council's response to COVID-19 from March 2020.

When I refer to Council I refer to the best team of hard working Councillors I have had the pleasure of working with and the staff led by Simon Bastion as CE, as focused and competent team as any council would be lucky enough to have on its side in difficult times. Councillors and staff have proved to be solid under the high ball.

Council in March of 2020 knew that Central Government would need to stimulate the economy for it to survive and the first step your council took was to establish a competent team to apply for various grants as they became available to stimulate our Westland economy.

In Franz and Fox and surrounding townships, it was clear that a 95% reduction in income due to the disappearance of international visitors would only be minimized by job creation schemes and jobs for nature was a winner in my mind.

The wage subsidy scheme was one of the best policies I have ever seen executed by a Government department, and this by MSD.

Not every project we considered has got off the ground.

When you give yourselves permission to fail, you, at the same time, give yourselves permission to excel.

Now I want to comment on the plan we followed for ensuring firstly Hokitika and its surrounds were insulated from the downturn.

Seek Government/lotto/Development West Coast (DWC) and other funding across all council and community activities to become the number one focus and be achieved by setting up a top fund application team.

Change focus to 100% domestic tourism.

Increase support and investment into events.

Increased investment in construction around Hokitika.

Accelerate infrastructure projects.

Dig out historical dump sites near rivers or the sea.

Support private projects to gain funding.

What did increased investment in construction around Hokitika look like in early 2020?

We wanted to support Department of Conservation (DoC) in finding a suitable new office block in town.

The Mitre 10 building is a private investment by a forward thinking company, showing the way forward.

Advocate to get Westland High School rebuilt after the fire underway.

Sunset Point restoration.

Carnegie Building strengthening project.

Accelerate cycleway enhancements.

Increase Elderly Housing stock target by 33 more units over the next three years.

EVENTS - we need to support as it provides a direct stimulus to our economy

- Wildfoods
- Kids day
- Sand Dunes Classic
- Gold Rush series
- Matariki
- South Island Ultra
- Coast to Coast
- Coast to Coast Mountain bike.

**We wanted to accelerate infrastructure projects by gaining Government grants, so what did that look like?**

- Franz Rock protection North and South side.
- Hokitika river increase protection to 100 year event
- Hokitika sea wall extend 500m to North
- Extend terminal at the airport
- Upgrade old Christchurch Road
- Cron Street Franz upgrade
- Franz waste water station upgrade
- Franz Dump station
- Fox Glacier water treatment plant upgrade
- Plan and build Arahura water treatment plant
- Ross WTP intake
- Franz Josef water main replacement in Cron Street
- Scope Kaniere sewerage pump upgrade
- Fitzherbert Street wastewater, put in standby generator

- Franz waste water pump station upgrade
- Accelerate scoping for beach street realignment
- Accelerate scoping for Jollie Street stormwater upgrade
- Upgrade Sewell Street pump station
- Accelerate Livingstone Street pump station and pipe line upgrade
- Cap the Haast dump
- Sunset Point and beach front, road to be sealed, power on Tambo, new toilets, furniture installed, rubbish bins, sow grass.
- Dig out historical dump sites near rivers or the sea.
- Dig out old Fox dump
- Dig a new cell at Butlers

Due to its success we wanted to access more MTFJ funding for 2022 and have been awarded an extra \$200k to be used before 30th June.

We are anticipating a further \$500,000 will be allocated July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Support private projects to gain funding.

Find funding to restore Seddon House and how exciting that was when Heritage New Zealand bought the building and a \$22 million restoration was announced.

### **Then we move to the FRANZ FOX recovery PLAN**

PGF \$12 million dollars to be released for rock protection work on the north bank of the Waiho River. This was announced last week.

Council to accelerate infrastructure spend.

- 1.5 million dollars has been released and the tenders let for the upgrade of Cron Street and an accelerated spend on footpaths in Franz Josef (local contractors).
- Ross, Hari Hari and Franz Josef Water Mains Replacements. Contracts let.
- Fox (Kerr Rd) and Haast Water Mains Replacements. Contracts let.
- Haast, Franz Josef and Fox Waste Water Mains Replacements. Contracts let.
- Franz add extra reservoir capacity (accelerate program) tender let Friday 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Hari Hari add extra reservoir capacity (accelerate program) tender let Friday 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bums in beds project:**

We approach MSD, GOVT and DWC to commit to \$150,000 each over 2 years.

DWC turned down contributing to the bums in beds project.

DWC advises it will launch its own bums on bed project aimed at larger groups.

MSD still in discussions.

Refocus marketing on the Australian Bubble.

### **Predator free South Westland:**

Run by ZIP and DOC a project that will minimise the damage to the communities caused by the lack of international tourism and create a stable part of the Franz Fox community until 2030 and beyond.

Projected funding \$45 million has been announced.

Priority Two:

Pounamu Pathway Haast, Hokitika, Greymouth and Westport \$18.9 million approved and the project is under way.

Ensure any rebranding in Glacier Country captures the marketing advantage for South Westland that this project brings.

### **An International centre of excellence for conservation in Franz and Fox.**

This major initiative would create change the economic base of both of these towns for decades.

CMS review to be completed to allow us to advocate for the Gondola at Franz Josef Glacier a South Island game changer.

Geothermal investigation on the fault line with GNS and the potential for minerals hot pools (convert existing), shrimp farms, motel/hotel heating, glass houses etc.

University programs, science studies on global warming from the sea to the mountains with permanent classrooms.

### **Museum of NZ in glacier country**

Including South Westland's aviation (ski planes, helicopters) venison hunting and timber mills. Just up the road the Giles family have an early working mill I think it is steam, as well as their own brand of motor vehicle.

Priority Three:

### **Move all government department buildings off the Alpine fault line:**

- DOC.
- Police
- Community Centre
- Fire station.

The service station although privately-owned needs to be moved.

All of the buildings to be moved to a welfare zone which will accelerate the move to the north of Franz.

Release of the block of Stewardship land at the 55km corner.

Assume the buyout of the south side of the Waiho River by government:

## **Rebranding of Glacier Country.**

This forms part of priority one, two and three and will fall under the development of a destination management plan with DWC.

- Pounamu Pathway Haast, Hokitika, Greymouth and Westport, ensure any rebranding in Glacier Country captures the marketing advantage for the coast that this project brings.
- World Heritage area
- Glaciers that cascade into Native forests as seen from Fox.
- Glaciers that you can fly to and land on.
- International centre of excellence for conservation.
- Wellness destination
- Environment
- South Westland Predator free

So here we are in 2021 and the next 10 years looks very exciting.

The town of Hokitika will be different from what we have today

- Seddon House will have been restored.
- The Carnegie building restored.
- The library will be relocated to a Council-owned building.
- Council's main building will have been strengthened.
- A civil defence headquarters will be built and up and running at the airport.
- Infrastructure will be in excellent condition.
- House prices will continue to out perform other areas

As it always has been Westland will continue to be a brilliant place to live, work and play.

And as I said at the start we must thrive to survive.

I commend this plan to you.

**Bruce Smith**  
**Mayor**