

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL**Held in Council Chambers, 105 Tainui Street, Greymouth****on Monday 12 September 2022 commencing at 4.00 pm**

PRESENT: Her Worship the Mayor Tania Gibson (Chair), Councillor Allan Gibson (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Anton Becker, Councillor Rosemary Green, Councillor Peter Haddock, Councillor Murray Hay, Councillor Rex MacDonald, Councillor Tim Mora

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Morris (Chief Executive), Trish Jellyman (Democracy Advisor), Aaron Haymes (Group Manager Operations), Dinesh Budhathoki (Transport & Infrastructure Manager), (Megan Bourke (Communications Officer)

Her Worship opened the meeting. A minute's silence was observed to acknowledge the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 APOLOGIES

Moved: Her Worship

Seconded: Cr Becker

That the apology received from Cr McBride be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Carried Unanimously

1.2 UPDATES TO THE INTERESTS REGISTER

There were no updates to the Interest Register.

1.3 IDENTIFY ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS IN THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

2 AGENDA ITEMS

3.1 COASTAL INUNDATION COBDEN - GREYMOUTH JOINT FLOODWALL

The CE spoke to this report and took it as read. He advised this paper was prepared by the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) following storm event on 13 June which caused overtopping to private property. The CE advised that this report is to allow the representatives from Grey District Council (GDC) on the Joint Floodwall Committee to have input into this matter.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Receive this report.

Moved: Her Worship

Seconded: Cr Haddock

Carried Unanimously

Cr Haddock stated this is a very old problem which he remembers well from his childhood. He said that a lot of rock protection work has been put in place around this area under urgency over the years. Cr Haddock stated that the bund in this area has never been maintained. He suggested there may be a need to retreat back towards Jellyman Park. Cr Haddock feels that Council needs to indicate to WCRC that urgent work is required. Her Worship commented that the recent site visit was very valuable.

It was noted that years ago the maintenance was the responsibility of the Catchment Board but this now sits with WCRC. The CE advised that if GDC wanted to accept responsibility for coastal flood protection then GDC would need to undertake a special consultative procedure as outlined in the Local Government Act.

Cr Hay spoke of further erosion issues further north of Jellyman Park and the section of rock protection that was removed years ago in order to gain access to a shipwreck.

Cr Hay spoke of the meetings of the Joint Committee over the years where reports have been missing or unavailable and this has been going on for years. Cr Mora drew attention to the map contained in the report which shows what is likely to happen in years to come. He feels Council needs to act now as the whole river terrace in Cobden and around the Domett Esplanade also needs to be repaired. Her Worship agreed that gaps in the seawall need to be repaired.

Cr MacDonald asked what can be done now to expedite this work. The CE acknowledged that Covid has contributed to delays in bringing it before the Joint Committee for resolution. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed that this is not just about the five properties in the Jellyman Park area that have been affected.

The CE suggested that work needs to be done on funding options with regard to rates. Rating options were discussed. The CE asked the meeting if Council sees the need to be involved in the maintenance of this area.

Cr Haddock stated that this is a long term problem which requires a long term solution. He feels that a long seawall would be unaffordable for ratepayers. He suggested that the WCRC approach the government to seek government funding. Cr Haddock stated that there is a resource consent in place for dig out waste to be placed in this area. He noted that there is also a rock source in close proximity to this area.

The CE confirmed that maintenance of the Greymouth Floodwall is the responsibility of the WCRC. He is concerned that WCRC could be shifting the burden onto the ratepayers of the Grey District.

Cr MacDonald asked what can GDC do to get this underway. The CE advised that we hold a consent to maintain the protection and that we can authorise anyone to act under the current resource consent. The CE suggested that a voice is formed with the residents of Cobden.

Cr Mora suggested that Council could consult on the possibility of a floodwall at Jellyman Park. He also suggested that the GDC representatives on the Joint Floodwall committee push hard to get some progress underway. Extensive discussion took place and it was agreed that topping up of wall on Domett Esplanade needs to be done now. Discussion also took place on the possibility of expanding the current rating district.

Cr Hay agreed with Cr Mora and is in favour of endorsing a firm recommendation that WCRC has to take responsibility for this. He feels the wider rating district should be rated for this problem and not just the Cobden area. Cr Hay spoke of the setbacks contained in the new One District Plan. He advised that this problem is faced by lots of coastal towns in NZ. He acknowledged the problems faced by property owners in lower Cobden. Her Worship spoke of the issues faced in all coastal areas on the West Coast.

Cr Becker stated that the road in this area also needs to be protected. Cr Mora spoke of managed retreat options and stated it is more economical to build a seawall. The CE spoke of the potential impacts on insurance options for property owners and he feels there is an obligation to protect these areas. Cr Becker stated that a master plan is required.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council

Moved: Cr Haddock

Seconded: Cr Hay

2. Approve consultation to occur at the next Annual Plan process for the future use of Jellyman Park for flood protection works.
3. Reconfirm that coastal flood protection affecting private property is the responsibility of the Regional Council and that Council will continue to advocate on behalf of its ratepayers but does not accept any responsibility to remediate those coastal flooding issues.
4. Encourage the West Coast Regional Council to affect immediate temporary works and replenishment under the existing resource consent.

Carried Unanimously

Cr Haddock spoke of the amount of rating districts around the West Coast and money needs to be put in continually to maintain these assets.

The CE spoke of the possibility of extending the Greymouth Rating District to include the entire district as these are the people who all use the CBD. Cr Haddock spoke of the country folk already paying into rating districts.

The meeting concluded at 4.35 pm.

Confirmed

T Gibson**Chairperson**

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Date