Rangitīkei District Council



Erewhon Rural Water Supply Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday, 8 March 2021 – 4:00 pm

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Present: Mr J Gilbert, Chairperson

Mr P Batley Mr G Duncan Mr P McLaren Mr B Thomas Mr J Stratton

His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson

Cr T Hiroa

In Attendance: Mr A van Bussel, Operations Manager

Mr G Meher, Financial Services Team Leader

Ms R Baird, Administration

1 Welcome

Mr Gilbert welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated this would be his last meeting and he would be retiring as chairperson.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number

21/ERWS/001

That the apologies from Mr D Smith, Mr J Bird, Mr S Stoney, Mr A Benadie and Mr D Tombs for absence be received.

Mr Gilbert/Mr Thomas. Carried

3 Members' conflict of interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

4 Confirmation of order of business

There was no change in the order of business.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Mr Stratton stated that there were questions asked at the previous meeting that had not been minuted. Mr Gilbert said after the previous meeting there was a members only meeting held and he had written down questions and sent them to council to be answered.

Mr McLaren asked if there was a constitution or charter on how this committee should run. His Worship the Mayor said there is a document on how all the schemes should be run on the website, Mr Mclaren said he had looked at the website but there was more information on the Hunterville Scheme and not the Erewhon Scheme. Mr McLaren asked if all members could have a copy as he would like to know the purpose of the committee and what kind of governance is there. His Worship the Mayor explained all of the rural schemes were started at the same time and that the funding was split between Government and farmers and that governance of the scheme was council. Mr McLaren questioned the accounts and said he was confused as to what the committee does and what was the role of council. His Worship the Mayor said because the Government had given the grant they invested their interest back to council and he would approach the Chief Executive to get the relevant documents.

Cr Hiroa asked the question what would happen if the farmers withdrew from the scheme. His Worship the Mayor explained they would still be legally liable for the water allocated unless they sold it to a neighbouring property owner. Cr Hiroa asked what would happen if all the members withdrew. His Worship the Mayor said they would loose all their rights. Cr Hiroa asked what would

be the circumstances if the members ran the scheme. His Worship the Mayor said he would not recommend it and explained what other schemes down south were currently going through with Government and stated that all liabilities would be held by the members.

His Worship the Mayor said he would try to have staff provide all the reports on the scheme.

Resolved minute number

21/ERWS/002

That the following questions be answered and in a timely manner.

- 1. Why is public good being charged and does the scheme get the benefit of it?
- 2. Does the scheme get depreciation back or does it go into Councils consolidated account?
- 3. What is Councils role?
- 4. What cash reserve sits within the scheme?

Mr Stratton/Mr McLaren. Carried

Resolved minute number

21/ERWS/003

The Minutes from the meeting held on 11 November 2020 be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

Mr Gilbert/Mr Batley. Carried

6 Erewhon Rural Water Supply Financial Statements and Commentary

Mr Duncan pointed out that there was charges for the Hunterville water scheme on their accounts, Mr van Bussel would let the accounts department know and said it had been coded wrong.

Mr Meher explained the options and said the current reports they were receiving were extremely repetitive and would be happy to speak on the phone or via email with members if they had questions.

His Worship the Mayor explained that there is no rating on the depreciation content and that the committee had decided not to fund depreciation.

Mr Meher spoke on the depreciation guide lines and said the last valuation on assets was done in 2018 and he would need to find out how the assets figure had come about.

Mr Meher asked why the rates had stayed the same for the past 5 years, His Worship the Mayor said the committee chose not to increase the rate.

Mr Duncan asked for a glossary of terms.

Mr Meher explained the variation in rates and that it is collected every 6 months but accumulates every month and that the January payment is not shown yet.

Mr Gilbert suggested that no decision be made on the 3 options presented and would like the members to look through the 3 options thoroughly and decide at the next meeting.

Resolved minute number

21/ERWS/004

That the 'Erewhon Rural Water Supply Financial Statements and Commentary' to the 31 January 2021 Erewhon Rural Water Supply Committee be received.

Mr Thomas/Mr Batley. Carried

7 Operations Report – March 2021

Mr van Bussel said he had spoken with Mr Smith and the scheme was running well and that he was currently working on the Mangaohane project and 50% of the work had been done.

Mr van Bussel had asked Alf Downs for a breakdown of the repairs carried out on the telemetry as he thinks Horizons may be liable for the charges.

Mr van Bussel would speak with Mr Benadie and would report back to the committee at the next meeting regarding the Rhino side by side needing to be replaced and the tender for the operational maintenance of the scheme.

Mr Batley said there is significant monthly checks done and could this be reduced, Mr van Bussel to look into it.

Mr Thomas stated there was no communication regarding the tender considering the issues there was with the tender process. Any other tenders the committee would like to be notified in writing. His Worship the Mayor apologised and said he had chaired the meeting and thought staff would relay the decision made back to the relevant parties. Cr Hiroa said it is evident that there is a communication breakdown and the system needs to be revised.

Resolved minute number

21/ERWS/005

That the 'Operations Report – March 2021 to the Erewhon Rural Water Supply Committee be received.

Mr McLaren/Mr Batley. Carried

8 Members questions/reports

His Worship the Mayor and Mr Batley thanked Mr Gilbert for his long service on the committee.

His Worship the Mayor suggested the committee meet in a months time.

9 Next Meeting

Tuesday, 1 June 2021 - 4.00 pm

10 Meeting Closed

5:21 pm