

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL**Held in Council Chambers, 105 Tainui Street, Greymouth****on Friday 19 July 2024 commencing at 1.02pm**

PRESENT: Mayor Tania Gibson (Chair)
Councillor Allan Gibson (Deputy Mayor), Councillor John Canning, Councillor Peter Davy, Councillor Rex MacDonald, Councillor Robert Mallinson, Councillor Tim Mora

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Pretorius (Acting Chief Executive), Neil Engelbrecht (Finance Manager), Shannon Beynon (Communication & Engagement Manager), Sarah Hawkins (Senior People & Capability Advisor), Catriona Bayliss (Minutes Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**1.1 APOLOGIES****RESOLUTION** SCM 24/07/017**Moved:** Cr John Canning**Seconded:** Cr Tim Mora

That the apologies received from Crs Kennedy and O'Connor 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 LIST OF ACRONYMS USED**3 AGENDA ITEMS****3.1 RATES FOR 2024/5: RE-SETTING OF**

Refer page 7 of the agenda.

Her Worship advised that the extraordinary meeting had been called because an error had been found in the setting of the rates. Staff had been faced with resourcing issues and she noted her appreciation to the team for their efforts in not only getting the work done but also in detecting the error.

Her Worship handed over to the Acting Chief Executive (ACE) asking him to provide a more detailed explanation of the issue.

The ACE acknowledged the error and expressed to the Mayor and Councillors an apology from himself and also on behalf of the administration team. He made the point that this is not something that Council or individual Council members can be held responsible for. The situation is difficult but, importantly, the issue has been discovered before the rates were set. He also acknowledged Cr Mallinson's assistance in this matter. He noted that secondly, the administration team has undergone a major upheaval in recent years but this is now returning to where it should be and there is passion, energy and a desire to do well for the community. He has confidence that the Annual Report and Long Term Process are in hand, both massive amounts of work and he believes the Annual Report will be completed on time. As to the error made, the community and Council have every right to expect better.

Her Worship advised the ACE that there was no need to apologise. She acknowledged that the team have been under-resourced, they have worked very hard to get to this stage and errors do happen. The actual rates rise figure is not going to change and it is more about following correct process.

Cr Gibson supported Her Worship in saying there was no need to apologise. The problem has been found, and sorted before accounts were issued, the rate rise is still the lowest on the Coast and one of the lowest in the country.

Cr Mora expressed his appreciation for the apology, noting everyone can make mistakes and he understood the mitigating circumstances and pressure the team has been under.

In response to a query from Cr Mora it was confirmed that the only change resulting from setting the rates later will be a proposed later date for payment of the first instalment but the amount due at each quarterly instalment would not change.

Cr Mallinson agreed with the above response, adding that in accordance with the process outlined in the recommendation, today's decision was the start of the process and this would be finalised by Council at a meeting in August.

RESOLUTION SCM 24/07/018

Moved: Mayor Tania Gibson

Seconded: Cr Allan Gibson

That:

1. Council notes:

- a. That the setting of rates on 27 July 2024 was based on an error and, as such is not sustainable
- b. The reasons for such error.
- c. That legal advice taken suggests that Council follows the provisions of S. 119 of the Local Government Act 2002 to re-set the general rate at a Council meeting in August 2024 after having given 14 days notice of its intention to do so and rescinding the relevant part of its 27 June 2024 decision.
- d. That the notice period as outlined will mean that the re-setting of the rate will only be done in August 2024 which may make it difficult to send rates invoices out within the minimum 14 day time limit provided for in terms of S. 48 and 49 of the Local Government Act 2002 and that it will be prudent to adjust this first rate instalment date to 20 September 2024.

2. Against the background of the above, Council notes the contents of the public notice attached to the agenda.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting concluded at 1.11 pm.

Confirmed

____/____/____

T Gibson

Date

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED