

Minutes for a meeting of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, 15 Gallileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2023** commencing at **9.03am**.

**Present:**

Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church (Chairperson)  
Cr C Beavis  
Cr CA Eyre (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu (*arrived 9:39am*)  
Cr K Ngataki  
Cr EM Patterson  
Cr M Raumati  
Cr P Thomson  
Cr T Turner  
Cr D Whyte

**Attending:**

Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive)  
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)  
Mr R MacCulloch (General Manager Service Delivery)  
Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)  
Mr K Abbott (Executive Manager Projects & Innovation)  
Ms V Jenkins (People and Capability Manager)  
Mr V Ramduny (Strategic Projects Manager)  
Mr A Averill (Community Connections & Strategic Property Manager)  
Mr J Brown (Senior Communications Advisor)  
Ms K Rhind (Senior Engagement Advisor)  
Mrs S Flay (Senior Communications Advisor)  
Mr T McIntyre (Policy Advisor)  
Ms N Hubbard (Corporate Planning Team Leader)  
Ms K Ridling (Senior Solicitor)  
Ms A Mcphee (Business Resilience Advisor)  
Mr R Turner (Customer Experience Manager)  
Ms E Saunders (Democracy Advisor)  
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)  
Ms R Leahy (Democracy Advisor)

Cr Ngataki opened with a karakia.

## **APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Resolved: (Crs Eyre /Ngataki )

That the apologies for non-attendance from Cr Gibb; Cr Keir; Cr L Thomson and Cr Reeve be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/01**

## **CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS**

Agenda Item 2

Resolved: (Crs Patterson/P Thomson)

**THAT** the agenda and supplementary agenda for a meeting of the Waikato District Council held on Friday, 24 December be confirmed:

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda items 6, which shall be considered with the public excluded;
- b. in accordance with Standing Order 9.4 the order of business be changed with supplementary agenda item 5.6 [*Water Services Legislation Bill Submission*] being considered after agenda item 5.4; and
- c. all reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/02**

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Agenda Item 4

The report was received [*WDC2302/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- It was noted that Cr Gibb left the 21 December meeting until 1:25pm.

**ACTION:** Democracy team to update the minutes with the amendment.

**Resolved: (Crs Raumati /Ngataki)**

**THAT the Waikato District Council confirms:**

- a. the minutes for a meeting held on **Wednesday, 21 December 2022** as a true and correct record with the following amendment:
  - i. *Cr Gibb left the meeting at 1:25pm.*

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/03**

## **REPORTS**

Zero Harm Update  
Agenda Item 5.1

The report was received [*WDC2302/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Chief Executive provided an update on Zero Harm and 'Work Safe, Home Safe' month.
- A concern was raised about the graph indicating the number of incidents in each business unit. It was suggested that the reports should be normalised by the number of people in each business unit as some units look better than others due to there being less people in the unit itself.

**ACTION:** Future reports to expand on data visualisation of the dashboards and increase their size for readability.

*Cr Matatahi-Potapu arrived at 9:39am*

- Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged the Waka Kotahi worker who died on State Highway 23 and asked Council to observe a moment of silence.
- *Are the number of people leader vacancies at Council having an affect on the health and safety?* Council always have a number of vacancies, and ensure there is coverage for teams wherever possible. It was noted that the consents team is under pressure, however, they are supported by external contractors.

Hitchens Road Water Main Relay Budget Allocation  
Agenda Item 5.2

The report was received [*WDC2302/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- *What did we learn from this so this doesn't occur again?* Two main learnings have come from this. First, the organisation needs to better understand the complex concept of 'limited as to parcels' titles. Second, when staff leave, the organisation needs to improve on the capture and handover of critical information.

- *Was there any value in negotiating with the developer to contribute some cost towards it?* It was a council issue rather than a development issue. Council negotiated a fixed price with the developer as this was the best approach at the time.
- *How is structure plan for funded?* The non-growth structure plan is one way of funding. The actual way the growth happens on the ground is different. An amount from rates is taken each year to pay for this.
- *Were easements considered?* Easements were considered for this project, but the risk of private property owners damaging the pipe with future works on their properties resulted in staff recommending this option. . The issue was that there were three to four (3-4) private properties and those properties could ignore that easement in the future, therefore the recommendation is not to use easements.

**ACTION:** Staff to schedule a workshop for the work being carried out for public places.

**Resolved: (Crs Patterson /Raumati)**

**THAT the Waikato District Council:**

- \$214,776.09 (plus GST) be allocated from the Structure Plan Non-Growth Reserve to a new budget item for the relaying of the Hitchen Road Water Main.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/04**

Submission from Waikato District Council on the Local Government Reform Discussion Document  
Agenda Item 5.3

The report was received [WDC2302/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- There have been a number of workshops on this submission.
- The submission has been shared with key stakeholders, community boards/committees and mana whenua.
- JMA agreement started with health and wellbeing of the river but has now expanded to property and the agendas appear to be more of a joint partnership approach rather than remaining within the river issues.
- Amendment to include marae and hapu committee representation would be made subject governance structures.
- Concern that Council were mainly working with lwi rather than at the hapu, marae level.

**ACTION:** Staff to continue to work to support Cr Matatahi-Poutapu and Cr Turner with establishment of mana whenua forums.

**Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Patterson)**

**That the Waikato District Council:**

- a. approves the submission on *He mata whāriki, he matawhānui* (the local government reform discussion document)
- b. delegates the Mayor to sign off the submission.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/05**

Proposed Public Places and Traffic Bylaws Approval to Consult Report  
Agenda Item 5.4

The report was received [WDC2302/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- Council currently have a public places bylaw that is due to be revoked in April. The proposed Traffic Bylaw was a new bylaw.
- Council provided staff with feedback and recommended changes to the proposed bylaws and recommended that wording within bylaws remains consistent and did not create any further confusion/ambiguity when being applied.

**ACTION:** Staff to incorporate necessary changes to the Statement of Proposals.

- An email would be sent to community boards advising of the bylaws being consulted on and would be encouraged to submit on behalf of their communities.
- Council queried which mana whenua groups were going to be informed.

**ACTION:** Corporate Planning to send a list of the mana whenua groups Council currently engages with for feedback and additions.

**Resolved: (Crs Beavis /Patterson)**

**THAT the Waikato District Council:**

- a. confirms that:
  - i. bylaws are the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problems;
  - ii. the proposed Bylaws are the most appropriate form of bylaws; and
  - iii. the proposed Bylaws do not give rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 2002.

- b. **adopts the Statements of Proposal (attachments 1 and 5) with the following amendments and additions:**
  - i. **the Statement of Proposal for the Traffic Bylaw removes the sentence under Key Changes in relation to Light Motor Vehicles noting that the provision would not apply to cars travelling as part of activities such as car club drives; and**
- c. **approves consultation to commence in accordance with s83 of the Local Government Act 2002 on the Proposed Public Places Bylaw and Proposed Traffic Bylaw with the following amendments and additions:**
  - i. **the content of the Offences and Penalties section of the Traffic Bylaw be replaced to refer to legislation rather than list specific sections of Acts;**
  - ii. **the maps as presented to Council be included in the schedules of the Traffic Bylaw;**
  - iii. **Great South Road be updated to State Highway 1 on page 7 of the Public Places Bylaw.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/06**

Water Services Legislation Bill Submission  
Agenda Item 5.6

The report was received [*WDC2302/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- Council acknowledged the work carried out by staff to incorporate changes to the submission since their last workshop.

**Resolved: (Crs Patterson/Matatahi-Poutapu)**

**THAT the Waikato District Council:**

- a. **accepts Option I;**
- b. **notes that the events of the past month have significantly constrained waters resources;**
- c. **notes that the cost to prepare this submission will be recovered from the Three Waters Reform Transition Support Package; and**
- d. **delegates to the Mayor, authority to sign off on the draft submission.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/07**

## Chief Executive Issues

### Agenda Item 5.5

The report was received [WDC2302/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

#### Civil Defence Update

- The Chief Executive noted that staff would continue to be pulled out of BAU roles to assist with the recovery effort, which would have an impact on the business. There was concern about the potential for more rain and additional flooding, slips.
- Council had been doing welfare checks on those homeowners who had red and yellow stickered properties. There had been specific communications for the Port Waikato area.
- Recovery phase – The mayoral relief fund had been established. The government had also put some money towards recovery, however this amount was still to be divided between Waikato, Matamata-Piako and Thames Coromandel Districts.
- There was more infrastructure damage in Thames-Coromandel, but more property and people were impacted in Waikato District.
- Recovery for Council was about building resilience and by doing so building on social connections to build a more resilient community. Noting that more work was required with Maaori communities as there was definitely a disconnect.
- Concern raised that service requests for trees down were not addressed during the emergency, it was noted that these requests had been mapped and the most urgent cases where there were road blockages or damages to homes had been responded to.
- Council acknowledged the work that had been carried out by staff throughout the cyclones and recovery process to date.

#### Letters Ultime Lane and Telephone road

- There are multiple letters coming through. Disputes between neighbours.
- Issues with Telephone Road being closed.
- Some of these customers will be deemed as vexatious customers.

#### Affordable Housing Forum

- Council may be asked if land is available for affordable housing to be built.
- The model is similar to a retirement home.

#### Water Services Entity

- Water services Entity would be meeting with to discuss water reform.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Agenda Item 6.1

**Resolved: (Crs Patterson/Eyre )**

- a. **THAT** the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
<b>Item PEX 2 Confirmation of Minutes – 21 December 2022</b>	<b>Good reason to withhold exists under Section 6 or Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987</b>	<b>Section 48(1)(a)</b>
<b>Item PEX 3 – Actions Register</b>		

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Interest</b>
<b>Item PEX 2 Confirmation of Minutes – 21 December 2022  Item PEX 3 – Actions Register</b>		<b>Refer previous agenda for clauses of each item.</b>

**CARRIED**

**WDC2302/08**



*Resolutions WDC2302/09 & WDC2302/10 are contained in the public excluded section of these minutes.*

Cr Matatahi-Poutapu closed with a Karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 1:01pm

Minutes approved and confirmed this                      day                      2023.

JA Church  
**CHAIRPERSON**

Unconfirmed