

Minutes for a meeting of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, 15 Gallileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023** commencing at **2.00pm**.

**Present:**

Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church (Chairperson)  
Cr C Beavis  
Cr C Eyre  
Cr J Gibb  
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu [*Arrived at 2.15pm, Part Item 6.3*]  
Cr K Ngataki  
Cr M Raumati  
Cr V Reeve  
Cr L Thomson  
Cr P Thomson  
Cr T Turner  
Cr D Whyte

**Attending:**

Mr TG Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)  
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)  
Ms M May (General Manager Service Delivery)  
Mr C Morgan (General Manager Community Growth)  
Mrs E Edgar (Executive Manager Communications & Engagement)  
Mr K Abbot (Executive Manager Projects & Innovation)  
Mr C Bailey (Finance Manager)  
Ms N Hubbard (Corporate Planning Team Leader)  
Mrs GJ Kanawa (Democracy Manager)  
Mr A Averill (Deputy General Manager, Service Delivery)

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Resolved: (Crs Lisa Thomson/Reeve)**

**That the apologies for:**

- a. non-attendance from Cr Keir and Cr Patterson be accepted.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/01**

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

Agenda Item 2

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

**THAT** the agenda for a meeting of the **Waikato District Council** held on **Wednesday, 4 April 2023** 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; and
- b. all reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/02**

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Agenda Item 4

The report was received [*WDC2304/02 refers*] with no further discussion held.

**Resolved: (Crs Whyte/Reeve)**

**THAT** the **Waikato District Council** confirms:

- a. the open minutes for a meeting held on **Monday, 13 March 2023** as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/03**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Sustainability & Wellbeing Committee – 5 April 2023*

Agenda Item 5.1

The report was received [*WDC2304/02 refers*] and no further discussion was held.

*Updates to the FPIC Agreement and Terms of Reference (S&W2304/04)*

**Resolved: (Crs L Thomson/Eyre)**

**THAT** the **Waikato District Council**:

- a. notes the **FPIC Terms of Reference**; and
- b. approves and executes, the amended **Future Proof Implementation Committee Agreement** and its associated **Terms of Reference**.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/04**

Amendment to Council's Governance Structure Delegations to reflect the agreed name of the Future Proof sub-committee to oversee public transport in the sub-region (S&W2304/05)

**Resolved: (Crs L Thomson/Reeve)**

**THAT the Waikato District Council:**

- a. amend its **Governance Structure Delegations** by changing the name of the **Metropolitan Public Transport Sub-Committee** to the **Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee**, and by consequence,
- b. confirms the appointment of **Cr Eugene Patterson** as the **Council member** and **Cr David Whyte** as the **alternative Council member** on the **Future Proof Public Transport Sub-committee**.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/05**

## **REPORTS**

Local Governance Statement 2022-2025

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [WDC2304/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- It was noted that the main updates were in the section of “How we work with Maaori” due to the introduction of Maaori Ward Councillors and the development of Mana Whenua Forums.
- Changes had also been made to the appendices section to reflect changes to bylaws and legislation that had either updated or rescinded.

**Resolved: (Crs Beavis/L Thomson)**

**That the Waikato District Council:**

- a. approves the **2022-2025 Local Governance Statement**, subject to:
  - i. a final review of the document by **Legal Counsel**; and
  - ii. any minor alterations from this review being signed off by the **Chief Executive** before loading to the **Council website**.

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/06**

Hamilton City Council Southern Links Working Group  
Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [WDC2304/02 refers] and no further discussion was held.

**Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Whyte)**

**THAT the Waikato District Council:**

- a. **confirms the appointment of Cr Patterson (with an alternate as Cr Keir) as the Council member to join the Hamilton City Council Southern Links Working Group.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/07**

Adoption of Draft Annual Plan 2023/24 and Approval to Consult  
Agenda Item 6.3

*Cr Matatahi-Poutapu entered the meeting at 2.15pm during this item.*

The report was received [WDC2304/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- The Finance Manager noted two workshops were held in January/March with regard to the annual plan and direction sought, which was reflected in the recommendations of the report.
- It was noted that more in depth analysis of rates comparisons would occur during the Long-Term Plan (LTP) with benchmarking against other Councils.
- *Concern raised regarding ratepayer affordability and the mechanisms can we put in place around our communities to ensure no further hardship?* Rates remissions are available, however this is for the ratepayer not tenants, therefore Council can put them in touch with MSD and other agencies that can assist.
- Sustainability and wellbeing are at the forefront of our decision making along with building up the resilience of our communities.
- It was noted that WDC have unique difficulties being a growth council and being in the middle of two urban centres as we had larger roading structures than urban Councils and were an important part of national agriculture providers.

- Apart from the Thames-Coromandel District our other neighbouring Councils have not had the recovery issues we have, nor have they had a District Plan review or the growth challenges which requires significant investment. Many Councils have one wastewater plant per 90,000 population, yet WDC have nine per 90,000 population.
- Council acknowledged the challenge of a higher rates increase than indicated in year three of the LTP but was concerned about how a lower increase now would 'kick the can down the road' and lead to heavy increases in the next LTP.
- Noted how Council must continue to advocate for different funding mechanisms for local government in the future. The current funding framework is ineffective which has been acknowledged by the Future of Local Government panel.

**ACTION:** Staff to benchmark rates against other Councils as part of next LTP process.

**ACTION:** Council to continue to advocate to Central Government for other avenues of funding to enable WDC to balance looking after the wellbeing of our communities whilst maintaining our significant infrastructure assets.

**ACTION:** Staff to provide some FAQs in regard to other agencies that can assist in the event of hardship and upload to the Council website.

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

**That the Waikato District Council:**

- a. **approves the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 financials and related annual plan disclosure statement.**
- b. **approves the engagement content for:**
  - i. **reapportionment of the existing Huntly Community Facilities targeted rate to support operating costs of the Huntly Memorial Hall; and**
  - ii. **confirming the targeted rate for the Whatawhata Community Centre; and**
  - iii. **a proposed new targeted rate for Tamahere Mangaone Restoration works.**
- c. **notes that the general rate increases for both the capital value-based charge and uniform annual general charge will be set at 7% (a 3.5% increase over that contained within year three of the 2021-2031 LTP); and**
- d. **notes that with the exception of proposed targeted rate changes under (b) that all other targeted rates remain as per year three of the 2021-2031 LTP.**

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/08**

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Agenda Item 7

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

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 Minutes from meeting held on Monday, 13 March 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 3.1 Waters Governance Board Recommendations – 29 March 2023</b>		
<b>Item PEX 4 Chief Executive Issues</b>		
<b>Item PEX 5 Mayoral Issues</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 Minutes from meeting held on Monday, 13 March 2022</b>	<b>Refer previous minutes for reasons for exclusion.</b>	
<b>Item PEX 3.1 Waters Governance Board Recommendations – 29 March 2023</b>	<b>Refer Waters Governance Board Agenda for reasons for exclusion.</b>	
<b>Item PEX 4 Chief Executive Issues</b>	<b>7(2)(c)(i)</b>	<b>To protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and to ensure the information avenue remains open, when it is in the public interest for it to do so.</b>
<b>Item PEX 5 Mayoral Issues</b>		

**CARRIED**

**WDC2304/09**

Resolution WDC2304/10-WDC2304/14 is contained in the public excluded section of these minutes.

It was resolved [Resolution No. WDC2304/12] during the public excluded section of the meeting that the following resolution be released into open meeting but the report remain confidential and unavailable to the public:

Reallocation of Funding for Water Filling Station (WGB2303/15)  
PEX Agenda Item 3.1

The report was received [WDC2304/02 refers] and no further discussion was held.

Resolved: (Crs Reeve/Whyte)

*THAT* the Waikato District Council:

- a. *approves the reallocation of a portion of the funding (under AMP code IWA12551) to install a new permanent filling station in Te Kauwhata and remaining funding to be used for a feasibility study to assess the Swan Road and Waerenga Road low pressures.*
- b. *resolves to release the resolution into open but the report remains confidential.*

CARRIED

The Councillors closed the meeting with a joint karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 3.44pm

Minutes approved and confirmed this                      day                      2023.

JA Church  
**CHAIRPERSON**