
Minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, 15 Gallileo Street, Ngaaruawaahia on **TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2024** commencing at **9.34am**.

Present:

Cr C Eyre (Chairperson)
Cr C Beavis (Deputy Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church (Chairperson)
Cr J Gibb
Cr M Keir
Cr V Reeve
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Mr R MacCulloch (General Manager Customer Support)
Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr W Gauntlett (General Manager, Community Growth)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning & Policy Manager)
Ms R Goddard (Climate Action & Sustainability Manager)
Ms N Hubbord (Corporate Planning Team Leader)
Mr T McIntyre (Policy Advisor)
Mr A Pipe (Environmental Health Team Leader)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/P Thomson)

THAT the Policy & Regulatory Committee accepts the apologies from:

- a. Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu, Cr K Ngataki, Cr M Raumati, Cr E Patterson & Cr L Thomson for non-attendance**

CARRIED

P&R2402/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item 2

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Turner)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Tuesday, 27 February 2024 be confirmed:

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting; and**
- b. all reports be received.**

CARRIED

P&R2402/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 3

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Agenda Item 4

Resolved: (Crs Beavis/Keir)

THAT the Policy & Regulatory Committee confirms:

- a. the minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Tuesday, 14 November 2023 as a true and correct record; and**
- b. the minutes for a hearing of the Policy & Regulatory Committee (Water Supply Bylaw) held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023 as a true and correct record.**

CARRIED

P&R2402/03

It was noted by Cr Keir that it was good to see the amendments included in the Waters Bylaw Hearing minutes.

ACTIONS REGISTER

Agenda Item 5

The report was received [P&R2402/02] refers and the following discussion was held.

- The Policy Advisor spoke to the Action item relating to the Speed Management Plan and the extent to which council is able to amend this following formal consultation.
- It was noted that the Speed Management Plan is one of the tools that could be used in regards to speed racing
- A query was raised in relation to prohibitions on roads within the district (boy-racing) and what tools Council have to address this issue? It was noted by the Policy Advisor that this sits within the current Council Traffic Bylaw.
- It was noted by her Worship the Mayor that she is meeting with the Police Commander tomorrow and the issue she is referring to was an item previously on the Actions register but appears to have dropped off. The Policy Advisor will send the Traffic Bylaw to her Worship in preparation for her meeting tomorrow.
- It was noted that it appears that the Police are not aware of what Council have regards to traffic laws and tools that Council can use to address any traffic concerns. It was noted that the wording in our Traffic Bylaw mirrors that of Hamilton City Council.
- A query was raised in regards to police response timeframes and how aligned our response timeframes are with our partners further north of the district? It was noted by the Policy Advisor that response timeframes can be a resourcing issue but conversations have taken place with New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) and will continue.

- It was queried whether Council have received any requests from the public that would meet the threshold for a speed change? It was noted that most of the feedback received was largely in support of the changes Council proposed.

REPORTS

Revocation of the Psychoactive Substances Policy 2019

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*P&R2402/02 refers*], taken as read and the Policy Advisor spoke to the report and provided an overview of the legislation and the reason for revocation.

Resolved: (Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church/Cr Keir)

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee recommends to Council to revoke the Psychoactive Substances Policy 2019 (Attachment 1).

CARRIED

P&R2402/04

Climate Response & Resilience Policy – Recommendation for Adoption

Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [*P&R2402/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- The Climate Action & Sustainability Manager spoke to the report and provided an overview of the Climate Response and Resilience Policy 2024.
- It was noted that it would be good to ensure that all the track changes have been captured and worked through thoroughly.
- Cr Beavis noted her support for the Policy with a slight amendment to the wording on Page 57; Point 4.2 g) to read “Apply a climate change lens to decision making, planning and processes”. Cr Beavis noted she would be happy to move the motion with the amendment made and Her Worship the Mayor advised she would second the motion.
- It was noted by the Chairperson that it would be worth stating the impact that Climate events have had on our rural communities.
- It was noted that local government is mandated to prepare their communities for the impacts of climate change – is there any avenues for funding to assist? It was noted that the new government has indicated that they would continue to meet the targets and obligations as currently set.
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- A query was raised in relation to the Council policies and strategies that guide our responsibilities and decisions on Page 57 and the omission of two strategies that have been noted in the report but are not listed here – is there a reason for this? It was noted that the two strategies can easily be listed on Page 57.
- Cr Keir noted that he had some misgivings the last time this strategy was debated in the Chamber and he still has some misgivings about this strategy. Cr Keir noted that for this reason he does not support this strategy as this will come at a huge cost for Council and the policy is unaffordable.
- It was noted that there is an expectation from Central Government that Councils have a strategy in place however it was further noted that there are quite a few mandates from Central Government but that does not mean we have to follow suit.
- Cr Beavis voiced her support of the policy and discussions of a financial matter or funding that may be required could be discussed separately or as issues arise and she further noted that she is happy that Council can take some sensible decisions around this strategy.
- Cr Whyte supported the views of Cr Keir and reiterated his view of Central Government mandating policies. Cr Whyte noted that he also does not support the strategy.
- Cr Gibb spoke to the process of having the motion on the floor and the need for open dialogue to be had prior to the motion being put forward. It was noted that if elected members were against the motion it would be good to know this in advance so each person could have their say and put their point across. Cr Gibb noted her support for the policy but reiterated that the process needs to be followed rather than comments back and forth and objections being made after the motion has been put to the floor.
- Her Worship the Mayor queried whether some clarification could be given as to why some Councillors were opposed to the policy to gain an understanding of what the issues are? Is it the policy as a whole or just some wording changes that could be done?
- It was noted that this Policy is reviewed every three years.
- The Chief Executive Officer wanted to clarify for the elected members that if the decision is not to support the recommendation, then where does that leave staff and what direction should they be going in? What is the plan for climate change moving forward? It was noted that these points need to be clear when making decisions.
- It was noted that there is a need to clarify the motion to make it clear for those elected members who are absent from the committee meeting today what discussion took place. It was further noted that if elected members do not adopt the 2024 policy today then we fall back on the existing policy.
- Had a lot of discussions as elected members this week particularly in regards to rates and emergency funds – what would these funds be for if not for climate weather events?

