

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Item PEX 2 Minutes from meeting held on Monday, 13 March 2022	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 6 or Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
Item PEX 3.1 Waters Governance Board Recommendations – 29 March 2023		
Item PEX 4 Chief Executive Issues		
Item PEX 5 Mayoral Issues		

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:

Item No.	Section	Interest
Item PEX 2 Minutes from meeting held on Monday, 13 March 2022	Refer previous minutes for reasons for exclusion.	Refer Waters Governance Board Agenda for reasons for exclusion.
Item PEX 3.1 Waters Governance Board Recommendations – 29 March 2023		
Item PEX 4 Chief Executive Issues	7(2)(c)(i)	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.
Item PEX 5 Mayoral Issues		

CARRIED

WDC2304/09

