

Minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee of the Waikato District Council held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **MONDAY, 29 MAY 2023** commencing at **9.30am**.

Present:

Cr CA Eyre (Chairperson)
Cr C Beavis
Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church
Cr JM Gibb
Cr M Keir
Cr K Ngataki
Cr EM Patterson
Cr M Raumati
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Mr G Ion (Chief Executive)
Mr T Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)
Ms S O’Gorman (Customer Support General Manager)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer)
Ms N Hubbard (Corporate Planning Team Leader)
Mr T McIntyre (Policy Advisor)
Ms E Saunders (Democracy Advisor)

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Ngataki/P Thomson)

That the apologies for:

- a. non-attendance as absent on Council business from Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church and Cr L Thomson be accepted; and
- b. non-attendance from Cr V Reeve & Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu be accepted.

CARRIED

P&R2305/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Eyre/Gibb)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Monday, 29 May 2023 be confirmed; and
- b. all items therein being considered in open meeting; and
- c. all reports be received.

CARRIED

P&R2305/02

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Agenda Item 4

Resolved: (Cr Beavis/Whyte)

- a. **THAT** the minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 7 March 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record; and

CARRIED

P&R2305/03

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Beavis)

- b. **THAT** the minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee (Public Places and Traffic Bylaws Hearing and Deliberations) meeting held on Tuesday, 11 April 2023 and Wednesday, 12 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record; and

CARRIED

P&R2305/04

Resolved: (Crs Beavis/Whyte)

- c. **THAT** the minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee (Trade Waste and Wastewater Hearing and Deliberations) meeting held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 and Monday, 1 May 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record; and

CARRIED

P&R2305/05

Resolved: (Crs Ngataki/Patterson)

- d. **THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Policy & Regulatory Committee (Cemeteries Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations) meeting held on Monday, 1 May 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

CARRIED

P&R2305/06

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

ACTIONS REGISTER

Agenda Item 5

The report was received [P&R2303/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

Traffic Management Plan Discussion:

A robust discussion with all Councillors took place around the Traffic Management Plan legislation and the impact these requirements have on Community Groups with the following points noted:

- It was noted that a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is not required under the District Plan but the costs are still excessive in this area, particularly for a consultant. Councillors would like to have another discussion about this.

ACTION: General Manager, Customer Support would discuss with Service Delivery options available for small community events that require traffic management plans.

- It was noted due to legislation and regulations and it was not something that could not be ignored or disregarded. It was noted that Community Events in particular (like Anzac Parades and Christmas Parades) were becoming too expensive to the point that communities are reluctant to do these events.
- There also appears to be inconsistency with different events with an example of the Cherry Blossom Festival event in Tamahere used – this event did not require a Traffic Management Plan – what constitutes the requirement? Should our communities get smarter about how they word applications?
- The Community of Huntly would like to have flags flying through the main street but the costs of the Traffic Management Plan to hang these flags is \$5,000 which is a ridiculous amount of money. The flags would be going up at 5.30am and it was questioned whether traffic management was necessary at this time of the day.
- A potential solution is that there are open traffic management plans for Huntly Main Street for gardening and it turns out that the flags might be able to piggy-back onto this.

- It was noted that this was a national issue which had been raised with Regional Transport Committee for a couple of years now. Waka Kotahi were looking at this also but at a slow pace as the issue is not high on their agenda.
- Local Government NZ conference is coming up – is this issue something that can be raised in that forum? It would be good to potentially partner with other councils who see Traffic Management as an issue in their communities and see what Local Government can do.

ACTION: Traffic Management Plan discussion with the Executive Leadership Team to take place prior to the next Policy & Regulatory Committee Meeting with an update to be given to the Committee on potential solutions moving forward.

REPORTS

Policy and Bylaw Review Update Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received *[P&R2303/02 refers]* and the following discussion was held:

- It was highlighted under the Executive Summary that there had been a lot of progress with the policies being reviewed and updated.
- Concern was raised around the policies being so out of date.
- It was noted that there are a few reviews that are under progress at this stage. There are a number of others that are under review but the projects are quite large and we want to make sure we get this right.
- Policies that are required to be reviewed by legislation are a high priority and sometimes are actioned quicker than others. Council do not have any policies that are overdue under legislation.
- It was noted that Council could try and provide very high-level indicative timeframe as to when this would be done but staff also rely heavily on subject matter experts in the business. An update from relevant staff comes to the Executive Leadership Team every month and the onus is taken to ensure business owners are reviewing policies in their areas. The Executive Leadership Team get confirmation on dates for the business owners to have the review completed.
- The Reserves & Beaches bylaw that was quashed by the high court in 2022 was discussed extensively by Councillors. The bylaw Council adopted was not sent to the Minister for review, therefore it was quashed once objected to.
- It was noted that Council were under-resourced and did not have anyone to look at the bylaw at this time. We need to ascertain whether there are any issues now that we have not had a bylaw for some time and determine what those issues are before any further action.
- The Local Alcohol Policy was well underway with feedback being received which then goes to the Licensing Committee for review.

Te Reo Maaori Policy
Agenda Item 6.2

The Chief Operating Officer spoke to the report which was taken as read [P&R2303/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- The Chief Operating Officer thanked the Maaori Councillors for their assistance with this policy and noted that what Councillors have in front of them today is Councils commitment.
- This policy was initially brought to and adopted by Council but is underpinned by the work Council continue to do in Our Plan; Maaori Strategy and the practices we now have in place within council like karakia and powhiri. This document is a reinforcement of our policy.
- Point: 11.1.2 - if someone wanted to speak in Te Reo in a council meeting do we have translators available to make that happen? It should not be councillors in the Chambers that do the translation so do we have this provision with both meetings and hearings. Legislation advises that it must be advised prior to the meeting if Te Reo is going to be used so a translator can be arranged.
- It was noted overall by Councillors that this policy is a very good one which is supported.
- Cr Raumati provided some feedback on the policy which noted:
 - i. do we have translators that can be of service for Te Reo? Section 81 of the Local Government Act ensures that maaori can contribute and participate in meetings so it would be good to know that this can happen.
 - ii. every iwi has their own dialect and Waikato District Council might want to ensure that we are speaking specifically to the Waikato with our dialect – something to consider.
 - iii. Section 8 – Implementation: This is more of an operational thing but it would be good to see this align to a kaupapa maaori framework and Cr Raumati would be happy to support that if this happens.
 - iv. Strategic Goal 1 – Point 8.2 – ensuring consultation with iwi and haapu – who within Council determines what is appropriate? Is it appropriate to have this point in there?
 - v. Strategic Goal 2 – Point 9.1 – Could this also apply to councillors as well and not just staff to broaden their skills? As councillors I think we should lead out on this, and it particularly relates to point 9.1.4 – bilingual competency. This speaks to the accredited translators in the country.
 - vi. Point 10.1.3 – remove the word preference and replace with word dialect.

- The Chief Operating Officer confirmed happy to take any feedback on board for this policy and it was all in the spirit of what we are trying to achieve so if there are better ways of reflecting things in this policy than that would be good. The key issue for this policy is the macron vs double vowel.
- It was noted by Councillor Whyte that the Huntly Community Board in the last triennium had the issue on the naming of the Huntly Train Station. There were very strong views held by some people about the name of the train station (Huntly or Raahui Pookeka) and given the strong views held by individuals does this policy help guide in this space? Or do issues like this need to be resolved on a case-by-case basis with local iwi providing guidance? It was confirmed that these issues would be looked at on a case by case basis.
- It was good to see the double vowel filtering through and being adopted.
- It was noted that some thought might be required around publications and how we translate these to meet auditing requirements. Do we have anyone that can do this at speed particularly when reports need to be adopted by Council quite quickly? This is something to think about.

Resolved: (Crs Ngataki/Raumati)

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee agrees to adopt the revised Te Reo Maaori Policy with minor amendments to be made by the Chief Operating Officer and circulated to the Committee for approval.

CARRIED

P&R2303/07

ACTION: COO to update policy as per the meeting recommendations and circulate to Councillors for feedback to enable adoption at the next Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.42am

Minutes approved and confirmed this _____ day of _____ 2023.

CA Eyre
CHAIRPERSON