

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the eleventh triennium of the Environment Committee held at 9.30am on Wednesday 10 March 2021, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs NJ Patrick (Chair), AL Benbow, EM Clarke (via audio visual link), DB Cotton, EB Gordon, FJT Gordon, RJ Keedwell, WM Kirton, JM Naylor, WK Te Awe Awe, and GJ Turkington.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney
Committee Secretary Mrs KA Tong

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr R Smillie (Biodiversity, Biosecurity & Partnerships Manager), Mr G Bevin (Regulatory Manager), Ms S Carswell (Coordinator District Advice), Ms A Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager), Ms M Patterson (Senior Environmental Scientist Water Quality), Ms C Morrison (Media & Communications Manager), Members of the public - Mr C Rudd, Ms V Bold, Ms A Hunt and Ms B Nicholls, Mayor Grant Smith, Ms M Voss, Ms S Sinclair and various other Palmerston North City Council staff and Councillors, and a member of the Press.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr Te Awe Awe to say a Karakia.

APOLOGIES

ENV 21-31 *Moved* **Te Awe Awe/Turkington**

That an apology be received from Cr Ferguson (attending official Council business).

CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

Ms B Nicholls and Mr C Rudd were both granted public speaking rights.

Ms Nicholls spoke on behalf of her role as Trustee for the Awahuri Forest/Kitchener Park Trust about the risks of an invasive weed, Phragmites Karka. She asked Horizons to help make the public aware of the weed, and whether Horizons would support an application to the National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA).

Mr Rudd mentioned his concern with the language used in various Horizons documents, the consenting process to discharge stormwater from Levin Township into Lake Horowhenua, and the proposed establishing of a Governance Group under the Covid-19 recovery programme 'Jobs for Nature'.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS’ CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Turkington noted a conflict of interest in the agenda.

Later in the meeting, Cr Naylor noted a conflict of interest in Report No. 21-19 Update of Progress for the new Wastewater Treatment Discharge Consents for Palmerston North.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ENV 21-32 Moved Naylor/Kirton

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 11 November 2020 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 24 November 2020.

CARRIED

DISTRICT ADVICE UPDATE

Report No 21-17

Ms Carswell (Coordinator District Advice) spoke to the report which informed Members of the District Advice land development information requests carried out year to date (from 1 July 2020 to 23 February 2021), and other activities for the reporting period October 2020 to February 2021.

ENV 21-33 Moved Keedwell/B Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-17.

CARRIED

REGULATORY MANAGEMENT REPORT - NOVEMBER 2020 TO JANUARY 2021

Report No 21-18

Mr Bevin (Regulatory Manager) introduced this report which updated Members on regulatory activity for the period November 2020 to January 2021. It also provided a summary of the compliance monitoring programme associated with the Te Ahu A Turanga and Mercury Windfarm projects and work undertaken in relation to the implementation of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Regulations 2020.

ENV 21-34 Moved Keedwell/F Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-18 and Annex.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

Report No 21-20

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) and Ms A Matthews (Science & Innovation Manager) spoke to the report which updated Members on the progress made in the Natural Resources & Partnership Group’s activity over the period 1 October to 31 December 2020 with some additional updates up to the date of the meeting. The item provided updates on progress against the Annual Plan targets.

ENV 21-35 Moved Keedwell/F Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 21-20 and Annexes.*

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 10.58am.

Meeting resumed at 11.12am.

Cr Naylor noted a conflict of interest in Report no. 21-19 Update of Progress for the new Wastewater Treatment Discharge Consents for Palmerston North.

UPDATE OF PROGRESS FOR THE NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT DISCHARGE CONSENTS FOR PALMERSTON NORTH

Report No 21-19

Mayor Grant Smith introduced the attending staff and Councillors from Palmerston North City Council, and Ms M Voss from Palmerston North City Council made a presentation to the Environment Committee on the progress towards new wastewater treatment discharge consents for Palmerston North City.

ENV 21-36 Moved Turkington/Te Awe Awe

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the presentation from Melaina Voss of Palmerston North City Council.*

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 12.04pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

GROUP MANAGER STRATEGY & REGULATION

GROUP MANAGER NATURAL RESOURCES
& PARTNERSHIPS