



Minutes of the twenty-fourth meeting of the seventh triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 10.06am on Tuesday, 22 September 2009, in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey (from 10.19am), L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, E B Gordon, A K Main (to 3.04pm), D B Meads, M W Plowman, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker JP, and J J White.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney
Group Manager	Mr C Grant
Corporate and Governance	
Committee Secretaries	Ms K Booth (to 10.38am)
	Mrs J Kennedy (from 10.38am)

ALSO PRESENT Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory), and Mr E Duggan (Acting Chief Financial Officer) at various times throughout the meeting, Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management to 12.10pm), Ms K Booth (Governance Coordinator (from 10.50am to 11.30am), Mrs C Atkinson (Manager Communications from 10.31am to 11.15am from 1.00pm to 1.43pm), Ms E Collins (Media Liaison Officer from 1.00pm to 1.43pm), Mayor B Duffy, Mr D ward, Mr D Clapperton (Horowhenua District Council) and Mr B Vanderkolk (Chairman, Project Steering Group) from 1.05pm to 2.00pm, Mr and Mrs Paton (members of the public to 2.08pm), and various other interested groups (from 1.05pm to 2.00pm).

APOLOGIES

09-449 *Moved* **Murfitt/Main**

that an apology be received from Cr Guy (Leave of Absence), and Cr Bailey (for lateness).

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

LATE ITEMS

The Chairman advised that a statement would be made by Cr Plowman at Item 6A.

09-450 *Moved* **Murfitt/Meads**

that the Council receive Item 6A (statement by Cr Plowman).

CARRIED

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no Conflicts of Interest advised.

Cr Guy was unable to attend the Council meeting. The Chairman read out an email in which Cr Guy expressed a strong preference as to why he believed the present policy of identifying any conflicts of interest was preferable to that of maintaining a Members' Asset Register.

There was discussion and questions of clarification regarding the general criteria required to be declared on the Register, whether the Sustainable Land Use Initiative would be considered a conflict of interest, whether the Register would be available for access by staff and members of the public, and the responsibility of Members to decide what interests they wished to declare on the Register.

The GMCG clarified to members that the \$25,000 limit was in place for arrangements whereby members were contracted to provide services to Council, rather than a funding arrangement from one of Council's non-regulatory initiatives, eg. the Sustainable Land Use Initiative. He encouraged Councillors to read the guidelines and rules surrounding the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968, and said the onus was on the individual Councillor to decide whether there was potential for a conflict of interest, and therefore make a decision as to whether it should be included on the Register. He undertook to make available to councillors a guide on the criteria around what should be included on the Register.

In regard to the file note from Audit New Zealand advising that a review of the minutes outlined only one instance where a Councillor had withdrawn from discussing an agenda item, Cr White pointed out there had been more than one instance where a Councillor had withdrawn from discussions during items of non-pecuniary interest.

There was discussion around the need to identify both non-pecuniary and pecuniary interests. It was agreed that a Register be compiled to include relevant pecuniary interests, and that members would continue to identify any pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interests at the beginning of each meeting.

Resolution b (i) and b (ii) were altered to reflect the discussion.

09-454

Moved

Main/Bailey

that the Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 09-143;
- b. **agrees that:**
 - i. *the Council will compile and hold a formal Interest Register relating to members' relevant pecuniary Interests which will be updated on a regular basis;*
 - ii. *that Members will continue to be responsible for identifying any conflicts of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests at the beginning of each meeting.*
- c. **notes** that the Council requires the support of 75% or more of the members of the Council present in order to adopt (b)(i), after which a corresponding change to the Code of Conduct will be made.

CARRIED
Unanimously

BUDGET CARRY FORWARDS FROM 2008-09 TO 2009-10

Report No. 09-142

This report was to request Council to formally carry forward unspent budget items from the 2008-09 financial year into the new 2009-10 financial year.

Cr Meads offered congratulations to Mr Duggan (Acting Chief Financial Officer) on a well written explanation for unspent budget carry forwards.

09-455 **Moved** **Rieger/Burnell**

that the Council:

- a. **receives** this report;
- b. **confirms** the following Opex carry forwards into the 2009-10 financial year:
 - (i) \$11,000 related to the Wanganui City Urban River project;
 - (ii) \$286,000 related to the One Plan;
 - (iii) \$97,000 related to contracted services for rural fire and emergency management;
- c. **reconfirms** the following Opex carry forwards into the 2010-11 financial year:
 - (i) \$25,000 related to the coastal erosion hazards;
- d. **acknowledges** the negative variance against the annual plan budget of \$394,000 that will occur in the 2009-10 financial year as a result of (b) above, which results from timing differences rather than true deficits; and
- e. **instructs** the Acting Chief Financial Officer to include the carry forwards in (b) above in the revised budget column of the monthly reports.

CARRIED
Unanimously

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Report No. 09-141

This report was to respond to a question raised at a recent Council strategy workshop regarding the administration and criteria for the distribution of Environmental Grants (E-Grants).

The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) spoke to the report and outlined the background and criteria for E-Grants. He said some worthwhile community projects did not meet that criteria, and therefore could not be supported. There was discussion on the criteria required to meet E-Grant funds, and several Members indicated they were happy with the role of Council to continue distributing funds to those groups that met the criteria, as part of the Council's core business. Cr Chettleburgh mentioned his concern around the use of ratepayer money, and suggested a review of the E-Grant policy going forward. In regard to the land component of E-Grants, outside of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative, Cr Meads questioned whether that portion of the fund could be redistributed for use in the biodiversity and/or water quality component. Cr White commented that E-Grant issues had been worked through adequately throughout the year, and believed that if Councillors saw a need to review the policy, it should be a matter for the next Long-term Council Community Plan. She noted how important E-Grant funds were to those members of the community outside of the priority area of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative, and believed that as a regional council the work in relation to the E-Grants was for the collective benefit of the whole Region.

Cr White spoke of the difficulty for members of the public to adequately hear speakers in the Tararua Room, and asked for a costing to install microphones.

Cr Walker attended the usual Council and Committee meetings, received four phonecalls in regard to rates in Wanganui, and represented Council at a function for disabled people.

Cr Rieger attended the usual Council and Committee meetings, including the Regional Transport Committee meeting as an observer.

Cr Plowman attended the Council meeting on 25 August, two Councillor workshops, a District Council meeting, commented on a local meeting he attended in regard to Tutsan, and the Council meeting on 22 September.

Cr Meads attended a couple of meetings with constituents, the Makerua Rating Review Submissions Hearing, attended a Mayoral breakfast at Manawatu District Council, a site visit at Foxton, and commented positively on the walkway along the Manawatu River.

Cr Main attended a meeting held at the Wanganui Regional Museum, commented on Commissioner training held in Wellington, and attended two meetings about Upokongaro. As a representative for Council on the Bushy Park Trust, she felt that there was no longer any mutual benefit for Council to be represented, and wished to stand down. Cr Walker indicated an interest in representing Council on the Trust. He was to liaise with Cr Main, and update the Chairman of the outcome.

Cr Gordon attended the normal Council and Committee meetings, and received telephone calls from ratepayers in regard to various issues.

Cr Chettleburgh advised Members he had spent a week in hospital, commented on Conservation week, advised of his recent resignation from the Te Aroha Walkways Trust, and commented on a meeting to be held on 28 September with the Ministry of Environment.

Cr Burnell attended the Horowhenua District Council (HDC) meeting, the usual Council and Committee meetings, a meeting with a number of ratepayers, had discussions with the HDC in regard to the Shannon Wastewater Treatment, and attended deliberations on the One Plan.

Cr Bailey attended a Councillor workshop on 26 August and 2 September, the Audit, Risk and Investment Financial Briefing, the Regional Transport Committee meeting, reported to the Foxton Community Board meeting on 7 September, attended the Makerua Drainage Scheme Review Hearing on 14 September, and the Council meeting on 22 September. The main issues from constituents had been; rates queries, and Horizons role in the **T**e **A**wahou project, the river loop, and farmer concerns in regard to the project.

09-462

Moved

Murfitt/Meads

that the public is to be excluded from this portion of the Council meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Grounds under section 48 (1) for passing this resolution
PX1 Confirmation of Minutes of 25 August 2009	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX2 Opportunity to Sell Port of Napier Shares <i>Report No. 09-140</i>	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX3 Council to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain, and define the extent of the release.		

CARRIED

Cr Main left the meeting at 3.04pm.

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 3.04pm and resumed at 3.27pm.

The meeting closed at 3.28pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN