



Minutes of the eleventh meeting, seventh triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Council Chambers, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North at 10.01am on Tuesday, 9 December 2008.

PRESENT

Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell, E B Gordon, M C Guy, A K Main, D B Meads, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker JP, and J J White.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Corporate & Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Policy and Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management, from 3.30pm), Mr A Beveridge (Manager Biosecurity, until 2.57pm), Ms A Russell (Manager Compliance, from 3.15pm), Ms C Webb (Media and Publications Advisor, from 2.09pm to 2.55pm), and Messrs J Scotland and G Cowie from Port of Napier to 1.38pm.

APOLOGIES:

SP 08-87 **Moved** **Murfitt/Bailey**

*that apologies be accepted from Crs Plowman and Chettleburgh **(Leave of Absence)**.*

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

There were no requests received.

LATE ITEMS:

There were no Late Items.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted. The Chairman advised Cr Plowman had expressed to him a conflict of interest with the Green RIG.

SP 08-88 **Moved** **Murfitt/White**

that the public is to be excluded from this portion of the Committee 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 11 November 2008.	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to protect the privacy of natural persons.	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 Presentation – Mr Garth Cowie and Mr Jim Scotland – Port of Napier.	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to protect the privacy of natural persons.	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.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 1.08pm and resumed at 1.40pm.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cr White referred to her question in “Members’ Questions” second sentence, and asked that the sentence be amended to provide the information that while the Horizons’ Rates bill originally contained four Uniform Annual General Charges (UAGC) this was reduced to two UAGC after the ratepayers queried the matter.

The Group Manager Corporate and Governance (GMCG) advised that the deletion of Cr Plowman’s name as seconder of Apologies (Resolution Sp 08-83) and insertion of Cr Gordon’s name, (which had been noted at the November Council meeting), had now been made and apologised that the minutes did not show that amendment.

SP 08-89

Moved

Rieger/Meads

that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2008, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record with the following amendments:

- § *Members’ Questions – Cr White’s question, second sentence be amended to read, “**Their recent rates bill contained four Uniform Annual General Charges (UAGC) which was reduced to two UAGC after they queried this. They said their rates invoices, in the past, had never included that level of UAGC. Nor did...**”*
- § *Resolution SP 08-83. **Delete “Plowman” as seconder, and insert “Gordon” as seconder.***

CARRIED

HE TINI AWA CHARITABLE TRUST UPDATE – 2007-08

Report No. 08-218

The purpose of this report was to respond to Members’ questions regarding the He Tini Awa Trust (the Trust). Mr Beveridge (Manager Biodiversity) presented the report and clarified who the trustees were. He explained that the Trust met annually, as well as when the Chairman (Cr Murfitt, also the Chair of Council) called a meeting. Members asked questions of clarification around funding of the Trust, and the projects it had completed and was currently undertaking. Mr Beveridge provided clarification on the ‘unaudited’ financial statements in regard to the

auditors' administration costs, gravel levies, bad debts, and the project allocations to be made out of the current balance. He advised that Wickhams QEII 'Convent' Wanganui, should read 'covenant'.

The Chief Executive (CE) explained the background to the establishment of the He Tini Awa Trust, for the benefit of the newer Councillors. He noted that the current and future funding by Horizons to the He Tini Awa Trust would be discussed by Members in their Long-term Council Community Plan funding discussions. The CE said those discussions would also include the future funding for biodiversity. Concern was expressed by several Members about the infrequency of Trust meetings and it was suggested that the Trustees should meet to review the Trust's future direction at the earliest opportunity.

SP 08-90

Moved

Main/Meads

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the He Tini Awa Trust update in Report No. 08-218;
- b. **notes** the responses to Members' questions about the He Tini Awa Trust; and
- c. **notes** that Horizons will consider its funding arrangements going forward as part of its Long-term Council Community Plan deliberations.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION / GREEN RIG REVIEW

Report No. 08-216

The report presented Members with the results of, and management recommendations stemming from, the recent Environmental Education (Green RIG) review. The CE introduced the report which highlighted the key messages from the review process.

Members discussed the findings, and in particular that the exhibits and activities were geared for a younger audience (years 1-8). They discussed whether there was a need to modify the material to suit adult audiences as suggested in the review, and noted this could require additional funding which the CE clarified had not been budgeted. It had been observed that children tended to bring their parents to visit the RIG and Members had differing views on whether the material captured adult attention.

The CE noted that the RIG's primary purpose was for child education, and the review demonstrated its success. He did not believe it was necessary to undertake the same level of analysis and review that the annexed report had included, but suggested an internal analysis looking at the content of the RIG, whether any structural changes were required, and whether any changes needed to be made to the Operational Plan.

The recommendations were amended. Cr Gordon requested, and Members agreed, that the recommendations be separated.

SP 08-91

Moved

White/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the Environmental Education / Green RIG review document at Annex A to Report No. 08-216;

- b. **notes** the key findings and recommendations from the review; and
- c. **endorses** the actions proposed to address the review's recommendations.

CARRIED Unanimously

Members discussed whether it was necessary to have a resolution requesting management to report back to Council in 12 months. The CE advised the officers would undertake an annual review as part of their normal activities.

SP 08-92

Moved

White/Bailey

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **requests** management to report back to Council in December 2009 on the operation and performance of the Green Rig during the 12 months to that date.

CARRIED Unanimously

CONTIGUOUS PROPERTIES

Report No. 08-219

The report updated Members about contiguous properties remissions, related law, and the way the law (Local Government Rating Act 2002, part 1 section 20) was applied by Horizons and the territorial authorities in the Region. The GMCG spoke to the report and drew Members' attention to the legal definition of a 'contiguous property', and the number of contiguous properties in the Horizons' region.

Cr White said that Mrs Adams (letter attached at annex A to the report) had asked whether the Uniform Annual Charge was based on the property, on the household, or the ratepayer. Members discussed this, and also the different approaches taken by Manawatu District Council and Palmerston North City Council as mentioned in the report. Members fully discussed other possibilities for the GMCG to research in regard to the possible consideration of the four properties of the Adams' as a contiguous property. These included the definition of 'shared property' under the Matrimonial Property Act, and whether a statutory declaration that all four properties were owned by the same people would suffice. Members also sought clarification on whether the rates invoice went to the landowner, or a lessee (if the land were leased) and discussed the issue where rates were not being received from lessees of Maori land where that land was providing an income. The GMCG undertook to investigate the matters raised and bring another report to a future meeting.

SP 08-93

Moved

Gordon/Meads

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **requests** a further report to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on contiguous properties.

CARRIED

PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT

Report No. 08-221

The purpose of the item was to inform Council about a Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (proposed NPS) prepared by the Ministry for the Environment, and sought agreement to a strategy for development of a submission on behalf of Horizons Regional Council. The Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory (GMRPR) said the proposed NPS as currently drafted was very general in nature, and he referred Members to the comments in paragraphs 10 to 13 of the report. He noted that Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) was preparing a submission to the proposed NPS and it was suggested that Horizons write a submission in support, provided the LGNZ submission addressed Horizons' needs. He advised he would email the proposed submission to those Members who requested it, and include their feedback.

SP 08-94

Moved

Main/Walker

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **notes** that a Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management has been produced by the Ministry for the Environment;
- b. **notes** that the local government sector is making a submission through Local Government New Zealand;
- c. **notes** that Horizons has input to the Local Government New Zealand submission through representation on the Regional Affairs Committee Water Management Subcommittee; and
- d. **agrees** that Horizons make a submission in support of the Local Government New Zealand submission once it is confirmed it addresses our needs.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Bailey asked about the formality of the Manawatu Estuary Management Plan (MEMP). Mr Beveridge advised the MEMP was not a formal document but was a list of tasks to be undertaken (mostly research orientated), and these were consistent with other statutory documents that Horowhenua District Council, Department of Conservation, and Horizons Regional Council had in place. As far as Horizons was concerned, the tasks were mainly a continuation of the work currently being carried out. The MEMP was required to be written when the Estuary Trust underwent Ramsar accreditation, and would be revised in two to three years' time.

In response to Cr Bailey's reference to a Business Programme on the television that morning on the future of local government now there was a new Government, the Chief Executive advised Members of meetings that had taken place between the President of LGNZ (Lawrence Yule) with the Prime Minister, and with the Minister of Local Government, and he provided his personal viewpoint of what might lie ahead. The Chairman referred to possible reforms to the Resource Management Act (RMA), and the Chief Executive clarified that the Minister of the Environment had written to all councils and invited comments in terms of potential improvements to the RMA, to be received by 20 December. He invited Members to provide him with their thoughts.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN