



Minutes of the twelfth meeting, seventh triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.02am on Tuesday, 14 April 2009.

PRESENT

Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED, M C Guy, D B Meads, M W Plowman, P W Rieger QSO, (to 12.31pm), R G Walker JP, and J J White.

IN ATTENDANCE

Acting Chief Executive
Committee Secretary

Mr G Shirley (from 10.12am)
Mrs J A Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Policy and Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mrs K Arnott (Corporate Information Manager, from 10.55am to 11.53am), Ms L Collings (Media Liaison Advisor, from 10.09am to 1.38pm), Dr J Roygard (Manager Science), Ms M Clark (Environmental Scientist Water), Ms K McArthur (Environmental Scientist Water Quality), Mr C Veale (Project Coordinator, from 11.40am to 12.31pm), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist-Ecology from 11.15am to 11.19am), Mr R Hapi, Mr T Murdoch, Mr D Stella, Mr J Manks and supporters (Foxton Save our River Trust Inc. to 12.08pm).

APOLOGIES:

An apology was received from Crs Gordon **and Main**. An apology was noted from the Chief Executive and an apology for lateness from Mr G Shirley (Acting Chief Executive). ~~A message was received during the lunch break for an apology from Cr A Main.~~

SP 09-95

Moved

Chettleburgh/Bailey

*that an apology be accepted from Crs Gordon **and Main**.*

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

The Chairman advised that the Foxton Save our River Trust Inc. would be making a presentation at approximately 10.30am.

LATE ITEMS:

The Chairman noted two late items for discussion – the possibility of holding bi-monthly Strategy & Policy meetings, followed by a briefing on Instalment Rating.

SP 09-96

Moved

Murfitt/Guy

that the two late items be accepted for discussion – the possibility of holding bi-monthly Strategy & Policy meetings, and a briefing on Instalment Rating.

CARRIED

The Chairman advised Members there would be a Public Excluded Extraordinary Council meeting held at the conclusion of the Strategy & Policy Committee meeting.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE 2009

Report No. 09-49

This report was to determine Members' attendance at the 2009 Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference.

Cr Walker outlined he was against the motion and was in favour of only two representatives from Council to attend the Conference.

There was discussion on the content of the upcoming Conference and the relevance of the workshops to be held.

SP 09-97

Moved

Rieger/Chettleburgh

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **approves** the attendance of the Chairman of Council, Councillors Gordon, Main and Meads, (with leave of absence granted and expenses paid), and the Chief Executive, at the 2009 Local Government New Zealand Conference at Christchurch from 26-29 July 2009, and includes any Pre-tour.

Against: Cr Walker

CARRIED

SUBMISSION TO PHASE 1 AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT (1991)

Report No. 09-55

This report was to inform Members of the submission made on behalf of Horizons Regional Council to the Select Committee considering amendments to the Resource Management Act (1991).

Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory introduced the item and noted that the submission attempted to highlight to government the role of the regional council, and how it responded to matters on a regular basis.

Members fully discussed the submission and asked questions of clarification around the National Environmental Standards for Water Measuring Devices and the One Plan, cost recovery for local councils, community involvement, the development of combined plans (Clause 57), the

introduction of “property rights”, and the management of and timeframes for resource consent processing within Horizons.

Cr Plowman expressed his support for the submission with the exception of: Requests for Plan Changes, the National Environmental Standards, and Appeals to the Environment Court.

It was suggested that recommendation (a) have the word **notes** replaced with **endorses**, and a further recommendation (b) included to congratulate the efforts of the staff involved in the development of the Submission.

SP 09-98

Moved

Chettleburgh/Bailey

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **endorses** the attached submission and retains their support for further representation of the Horizons submission through the hearing committee process to come;
- b. **congratulates** Pen Tucker (Consents Planner) and Richard Munneke (Manager Policy) for their efforts in the development of the Submission.

Against: Cr Plowman

(Requests for Plan Changes, the National Environmental Standards, and Appeals to the Environment Court).

CARRIED

PRESENTATION: SAVE OUR RIVER TRUST INC. – FOXTON RIVER LOOP RESTORATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr R Hapi and Mr T Murdoch from Save Our River Trust Inc (the Trust) to the meeting.

Mr Murdoch briefly outlined to Members the objectives of the Trust to restore the Foxton River Loop for the benefit of the local community, and the public in general.

Mr Hapi gave a presentation outlining the history of the river, the deterioration of the river channel and water quality, the goals and objectives of the Trust, and detailed the work undertaken by the Trust to date. The Trust asked for Horizons support with the project through participation in planning and discussion, the use of Horizons expertise and resources, and assistance with securing funding to undertake the work required.

Members fully discussed the presentation and asked questions of clarification. The Trust was thanked for their excellent and informative presentation.

SP 09-99

Moved

Chettleburgh/Burnell

that the Chief Executive reports to Council on potential staff assistance for the Foxton River Loop Restoration project.

CARRIED

CALL CENTRE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Report No. 09-46

This report was to inform Members on customer enquiries made to Horizons Regional Council through the call centres at Horizons and Palmerston North City Council (PNCC). This also considered how well enquiries were dealt with from the customer's point of view.

Mrs Arnott, Corporate Information Manager introduced the report and answered Members questions of clarification in regard to the overall decrease in total calls received, the review of the Rates contract with the Palmerston North City Council, and the introduction of an Electronic Knowledge Base. In regard to the Rates contract Mrs Arnott advised there were discussions underway with the Palmerston North City Council to negotiate an early exit.

Members outlined they would like to be receive regular updates on the Call Center Customer Service and Customer Satisfaction, and recommendation (c) was added to reflect that discussion.

SP 09-100

Moved

Chettleburgh/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 09-46;
- b. **acknowledges** that with the volume of calls taken, gauging customer satisfaction on call outcomes will be difficult to achieve without sufficient resources to undertake properly constructed surveys; and
- c. **receives** regular updates on the Call Centre Customer Service and Customer Satisfaction.

CARRIED

WATERQUALITYMATTERS WEBSITE

Report No. 09-51

This report was to inform Members of the new WaterQualityMatters website.

Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory (GMRPR) introduced to Council the team involved with the WaterQualityMatters website, Dr J Roygard, Ms M Clark, Ms K. McArthur and Mr C Veale. The GMRPR advised that the WaterQualityMatters website would be introduced to the community over the next 12 months and was developed to enable Horizons and stakeholders, along with existing support, to significantly better manage water quality.

Dr Roygard presented the WaterQualityMatters website and demonstrated the various functions to Members.

Members were impressed with the website presentation and recommendation (b) was added to congratulate staff for their contribution.

SP 09-101

Moved

Murfitt/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-51;

- b. **congratulates** Dr Roygard, Ms Clark, Ms McArthur and Mr C Veale for their excellent efforts in the development of the WaterQualityMatters website.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.31pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.15pm

FURTHER APOLOGIES

SP 09-102

Moved

Murfitt/Meads

that an apology be accepted from Cr Rieger for the afternoon session of the meeting, and an apology (received during the lunch break) be accepted from Cr Main.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

CHANGE TO TIMETABLE FOR STRATEGY & POLICY MEETINGS

The Chairman suggested to Members that the Strategy & Policy meetings currently set down as a monthly meeting be held bi-monthly commencing from June 2009.

SP 09-103

Moved

Murfitt/Plowman

that the Strategy & Policy meeting be held bi-monthly, commencing from June 2009.

CARRIED

INSTALMENT RATING

The Chairman raised the subject of Instalment Rating and after a full discussion by Members it was agreed that a workshop be held to discuss the matter as soon as possible.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Walker raised a query received from a farmer in regard to recycling of possum bait stations. The Group Manager Environmental Management undertook to follow up on the matter.

SP 09-104

Moved

Murfitt/Bailey

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 Totara Reserve Regional Park – Future Management <i>Report No. 09-57</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. |
| PX2 Investigations Committee (to be notified on the day) (This item was discussed at the Public Excluded Extraordinary Council meeting held at the conclusion of the Strategy & Policy Committee meeting). | As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the 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 1.38pm and resumed at 2.17pm.

The meeting closed at 2.18pm.

Confirmed

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN