

**WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Wairoa District Council Chambers, Coronation Square, Wairoa on Tuesday 07 February 2006 at 10.00 am.

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**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor Mr L Probert (Chair)

**COUNCILLORS**

S Birrell, D Eaglesome, G McIntyre, B McKinnon, B Shortt, D Caves

**IN ATTENDANCE:** P J Freeman (Chief Executive Officer)  
T Cook (Administration Manager)  
R Snow (Finance Manager)  
N Cook (Engineering Manager)

**CIVIC PRAYER**

Councillor Eaglesome gave the Civic Prayer.

**APOLOGIES**

Nil

**CALLS FOR ITEMS OF URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA AND NOTICES**

1. Panasta Pines (Councillor Shortt)
2. Freedom Camping (Councillor Caves)
3. Wairoa Cemetery (Councillor McKinnon)
4. Disposal Council Property - Confidential (Finance Manager)

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2005**

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The Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 13 December 2005 were presented.

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| <b><u>Resolved:</u></b> | <i>That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 13 December 2005, be confirmed as correct.</i> | <b><i>McIntyre/McKinnon</i></b> |
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**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER 2005**

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| <b><u>Resolved:</u></b> | <i>That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 12 December 2005, be confirmed as correct.</i> | <b><i>Birrell/Shortt</i></b> |
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**DISCUSSION**

**Blue Bay Subdivision – Streetlights**

*The Engineering Manager informed Councillors that he had had a meeting with the developers and an independent Traffic Safety Engineer to discuss options relating to the streetlights at the Blue Bay Subdivision. The developers were adamant that they wished to retain the timber poles, but need to satisfy Council on all safety aspects before they could do so.*

*Options being considered were the implementation of a low two-rail safety barrier and speed calming devices along the length of the main access road. The fence would be designed to deflect any potential impacts away from the timber poles, and barriers would reduce the overall speed. The developers had also given an assurance that a footpath would be installed along the main access road from the Reserve at Blue Bay into the sub-division.*

Councillor Caves sought information as to what ongoing maintenance costs associated with the installation of a rail fence would be incurred. The Engineering Manager was unable to give firm figures at this stage as it was only a proposal. However, if the fence were to become a Council asset, then there would be maintenance and repair costs.

Councillor Birrell reminded fellow Councillors that the Engineering Manager was engaged in discussions with the developers and an independent engineer, at Councillors request and that the time for in-depth discussion and/or debate should be held over until the Engineering Manager came back to Council with a report and his recommendations.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### **NORFOLK PINES**

**G.02.07.01**

The Engineering Manager informed Councillors that there had been further attacks on the Norfolk Pines in Marine Parade. As a result, one of the trees would need to be removed as it posed a hazard to pedestrians. A quote of \$3,100 had been received from Eastland Tree Care to fell and remove the tree.

**Resolved:** That the report be received.

**McIntyre/Birrell**

Councillors' Birrell and Shortt sought clarification on the number of trees affected, as it was their understanding that three trees had been targeted. The Engineering Manager advised that while a number of trees had been targeted, only one seemed to be adversely affected at this stage. Eastland Tree Care would monitor the remaining trees and advise Council of any necessary action if required.

**Resolved:** That Council approve additional funding of \$3,100 to be used should it be found necessary to remove the Norfolk Pine.

**Birrell/McIntyre**

Councillors held the view that the public needed to be assured that they were actively seeking the perpetrators and committed towards resolving the ongoing problem of attacks on the Norfolk Pines. Councillor Birrell stated that he had previously suggested a reward be offered to assist in identifying the perpetrator, and that as there had been little public interest in coming forward with information to date, perhaps the offer of a reward would provide an incentive to do so.

**Resolved:** That a reward of \$10,000 be offered for the successful apprehension and prosecution of the person/persons responsible for the poisoning of Norfolk Pines on Marine Parade.

**Birrell/Shortt**

### **PANASTA PINES – MAHIA**

**G02.09**

Councillor Shortt spoke of the invasive explosion of Panasta Pines between Blue Bay and Mahia Township. The Chief Executive Officer stated that he had taken a series of digital photographs of the pines and was in discussion with the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Social Development to set up a scheme to have them removed. The Ministry of Social Development, if supportive of the scheme, could provide a subsidy towards labour costs.

### **FREEDOM CAMPING**

**A06.14.04**

Councillor Caves spoke of the on-going issue of freedom camping in the Mahia area, particularly where there was no signage advising of 'No Freedom Camping' on Reserve Parking Areas.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that there were sufficient signs throughout the Mahia area, and that the real problem was one of people blatantly ignoring them. Councillor Shortt supported this statement, circulating a series of digital photographs he had taken of illegal campers using the signs as washing line posts at the Mokotahi Reserve.

It was envisaged that the issue could be dealt with through the completion of the District Wide Reserves Management Plan, which would allow the enforcement of Bylaws and the instant imposing of fines upon infringers.

**WAIROA CEMETERY**

**G01.01**

Councillor McKinnon raised the issue of the increase of grave ornamentation at the Wairoa Cemetery and circulated a paper with suggestions for Councillors to consider. Councillor McKinnon acknowledged that the Engineering Manager was to come to Council with a report of options and recommendations, at which stage the matter could be debated, and that he had raised the issue so the public were aware that Councillor's were considering the matter.

**APPROACHES TO WAIROA**

**G01.02**

Councillors were concerned at the first impression of visitors to Wairoa where approaches and picnic areas were poorly mowed, particularly leading up to and through the holiday period. Councillors were informed that there was provision within the budget to tidy up the approaches into Wairoa in addition to Transits requirements and that a contractor had been requested to do so. The Engineering Manager advised that he would follow the matter up with the Operations Manager as it should have been done. The Chief Executive Officer also informed Councillor's that a harder line would be taken in respect to the number of illegal signs that proliferated the district's roads, and their removal, including the signs at Mahia at the end of Moana Drive.

**RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**G01.01**

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillor's that he had completed a Draft Reserves Management Plan that he would release for their comment and input prior to the next meeting of Council. The Plan followed the format of Rotorua and Southlands Reserve Management Plan covering issues such as future development, classification, policy statements, consultation, access, signage, camping, fires, and pest control.

There was a requirement to identify all pieces of land within the district that were classified as Reserves under the Reserves Act 1977, an in addition the need to identify pieces of land that had become reserves by default, such as Road Reserve and land vested in Council, but not necessarily gazetted as Reserve.

**Resolved:** *That pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded on the following grounds:*

*That the exclusion of the public from the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in:*

*S7 (2)(b) Protect information where the making available of the information-*

*(i) Would disclose a trade secret; or*

*(ii) Would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;*

**Caves/Birrell**

**EXCLUDED FROM:** 11:58 am

**READMITTED FROM:** 12:25 pm

**ADJOURNED:** 12:26 pm

**RECONVENED:** 12:54 pm

**PLAN CHANGE – NATIVE VEGETATION**

**D.01.08**

The District Planner introduced, and the Mayor welcomed, Mr Stephen Fuller and Mr Robert Schofield of Boffa Miskell Limited who were in attendance at the meeting to present their report 'Plan Change: Native Vegetation.'

Mr Fuller thanked Council for the opportunity to make their presentation and informed Councillors that Boffa Miskell Limited have been providing Council with advice on proposed plan changes for the past three years. The purpose of the presentation was to re-visit earlier material and issues relating to the Plan, and to inform Councillors of the Plan Change process, taking questions and providing advice where able.

Mr Fuller informed Councillors of issues pertaining to 'Significant Natural Areas', 'Protected Natural Areas', 'Recommended Areas for Protection' and the mechanisms applied. Mr Fuller pointed out that 'Protected Natural Areas' were based upon 'Ecological Boundaries', not regional or district boundaries.

Concern was raised by Councillors of the impact of 'Recommended Areas for Protection' on farmers selling and/or purchasing land within the district. There was a requirement for farmers to go through the resource consent process to obtain approval prior to any clearance of land, which inadvertently or otherwise restricted long established land management practices. Farmers were being penalised, and their livelihood impacted upon by legislative requirements.

Mr Schofield informed Councillors of the Plan Change Process and the requirement to complete a Section 32 Report that justified why a plan change was required, as well as the costs, benefits, efficiencies, and effectiveness. Mr Schofield also explained the submission process associated with notifying a plan change.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Councillors discussed the proposed plan change in depth, highlighting a number of areas requiring deletion, addition and/or amendment.

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| <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b>      <i>That:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>1. The report be received.</i></li><li><i>2. Consultation be undertaken with stakeholders regarding a mediated agreement.</i></li><li><i>3. An amended Plan Change document be presented to Council in April/May for consideration of statutory notification.</i></li></ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><i>Probertt/Eaglesome</i></b></p> |
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**RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**A06.09**

No confidential items were brought forward for release.

**CLOSED:**              The meeting closed at 1:53 pm

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Chair