

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 8 May 2007 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, L Probert (Chair)

COUNCILLORS

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

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

CIVIC PRAYER

Councillor Eaglesome gave the Civic Prayer.

His Worship the Mayor recounted the passing of former Mayor and County Chairman, Mr Clifford (Cliff) Owen and asked that Councillors and those in attendance take a few moments silence prior to commencing with the days meeting.

Councillor Birrell spoke briefly re-iterating comments that he made whilst giving the eulogy, in that Wairoa had lost a great leader and friend, who would be missed by many.

PRESENTATION – SANDRA HUGHES – 25 YEARS SERVICE

His Worship the Mayor welcomed Ms Sandra Hughes stating that it was his pleasure to acknowledge her twenty-five years of service in the employ of Council. His Worship the Mayor recounted a history of Ms Hughes' employment with Council and presented a gift on behalf of Council in recognition of twenty-five years continuous service.

Ms Hughes thanked the Mayor for his comments, recounting highlights over the years as Library Manager.

The Administration Manager endorsed the Mayors comments, acknowledging the achievements of Ms Hughes. Ms Hughes had played a pivotal role in the development of the library over a number of years, having implemented reading programmes and a number of other initiatives that benefited the Wairoa Community.

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor McIntyre

<u>Resolved:</u> <i>That the apology received from Councillor McIntyre be accepted.</i> <p style="text-align:right">McKinnon/Birrell</p>

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

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| 1. Late Item – Accreditation of Building Consent Authorities | (Administration Manager) |
| 2. Cenotaph – Frasertown | (Councillor Birrell) |
| 3. Public Notices | (Councillor Caves) |
| 4. Wairoa Development Trust | (Councillor Caves) |
| 5. Resealing Programmes | (Councillor Caves) |
| 6. Confidential Agenda Items | (Councillor Caves) |
| 7. Asset Sales | (Councillor Caves) |
| 8. Mokotahi – Rubbish Bins | (Councillor Shortt) |
| 9. Pinasta Pines | (Councillor Shortt) |

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| 10. Wandering Stock | (Councillor Shortt) |
| 11. Rates Differentials | (Councillor McKinnon) |
| 12. Electoral Boundaries | (His Worship the Mayor) |
| 13. Wairoa Riverbank Walkway | (His Worship the Mayor) |
| 14. Climate Change | (His Worship the Mayor) |

RECEIPT/CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 29 MARCH 2007

The Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held on 29 March 2007 were presented.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shortt asked that the words attributed to him in relation to reversing parking facilities in the concept plan *...and that the Fishing Club tractors could be parked under the Pohutukawa trees.* be struck from the minutes, as this is not what he had said.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held on 29 March 2007 be confirmed as correct.</i>	Birrell/Caves
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ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2006

The Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 10 April 2007 were presented.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 10 April 2007 be confirmed as correct.</i>	Caves/Shortt
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DISCUSSION

Suspension Bridge - Kotare

The Engineering Manager informed Councillors that the owner of Kotare Station had been agreeable to contributing \$20,000 towards the repair of the Kotare swing bridge. Administrative matters needed to be addressed by the landowner, prior to the Engineering Manager progressing the matter.

Illegal Earthworks – Mahanga

Councillor Caves queried what requirements had been placed on the landowners to restore the land to its original state. The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that the respective landowners had indicated their intention to return the land to its former contour, however a resource consent was required, prior to their being able to do so.

Ruawharawhara Cemetery

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that he was awaiting the receipt of a valuation on the land in question, prior to proceeding with Council's instructions.

GENERAL BUSINESS

DOG REGISTRATION FEES 2007/2008

I.09.03

The above report was presented to Councillors.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the report be received.</i>	Birrell/Eaglesome
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Councillors discussed issues relating to 'menacing, and 'dangerous' dogs, and whether the proposed fees were acceptable. Recent publicity on dangerous and menacing dogs suggested that there was a need for Council to take a firmer line in dealing with irresponsible dog owners. Councillors acknowledged that any significant increase in fees may result in fewer people registering their dogs, presenting Council with a greater problem than already existed.

Councillor Eaglesome believed that Council had a robust Dog Control Policy, which they enforced, and was of the opinion that aspects of the Policy should be conveyed to people, such as the requirement to have dogs contained within a fenced area, and for dogs to be under the control of their owners at all times. Councillor Eaglesome asked that the Dog Control Policy be reinforced through newspapers in conjunction with advertising of registration fees.

Resolved: *That the Dog Control Policy is publicised in a manner that ensures people are advised of their responsibilities as dog owners.* **Eaglesome/Birrell**

Resolved: *That pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996, Wairoa District Council set the following fees for the 2007/2008 registration year:*

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| (1) Registration Fees | |
| Class D – Dogs classified ‘Dangerous’ | \$70.00 |
| Class M – Dogs classified ‘Menacing’ | \$70.00 |
| Class S – being all other Dogs | \$45.00 |
| Class W – being Working Dogs | \$45.00 |
| (2) Impounding Fees | |
| (i) First impounding | \$35.00 |
| (ii) Second impounding | \$45.00 |
| (iii) Third and subsequent impounding | \$65.00 |
| (iv) Dogs impounded after 6:00pm and before 6:00am | \$65.00 |
| (v) Dog sustenance charge | \$5.00 |
| (3) Replacement Tag | \$3.00 |

McKinnon/Shortt

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW – FIRE SERVICES

I.05.06

Resolved: *That the report be received.* **Shott/McKinnon**

The Administration Manager spoke to the report informing Councillors of, the content of the latest document released for consultation and service options for their consideration. Direction was sought from Councillors as to whether they wished to make a submission, and the view to be expressed in that submission.

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors of the existing situation, where four rural fire authorities, the Department of Conservation, Bay Forest Rural Fire District, Eastland Rural Fire District, and Council, all had responsibility for the management of vegetation fires in the Wairoa District. With the demise of the Forest Service, Council had picked up all the pieces of land that no one else wanted to be responsible for. As it had previously been expressed by Council not to be involved in the activity of rural fire, as it was not considered a core function, or the business of Council, the document presented an opportunity for Council to restate their position as related to the future management of fire services.

Councillors were in favour of endorsing the proposal in that the system as it currently existed had become so ‘PC’ orientated, it had resulted in the dissolution of two rural fire forces, and placed increased pressure to meet national standards on remaining volunteers. The funding of the activity through Central Government, as against funds being levied against the ratepayer, was also supported.

Resolved: *That a submission be prepared by the Administration Manager advising of Council’s preference to withdraw from the delivery of rural fire activities, emphasising that Community Resilience be maintained, and that any funding model implemented not impact upon ratepayers.* **Caves/Shortt**

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN – POHUTUKAWA RESERVE

G.01.01

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That report be received.</i>	McKinnon/Shortt
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The Engineering Manager spoke to the above report. While Council had addressed a majority of issues pertaining to the Draft Pohutukawa Reserves Management Plan, the parking of large fishing vessels, and the future use of the Mokotahi landing Reserve remained unresolved.

The Engineering Manager emphasised that the key issue for Council was to determine whether they were favourable to twenty-four hour parking being permitted on the Mokotahi Reserve, as there was no point in discussing the remainder of the report if they were opposed to overnight parking. The Engineering Manager asked that an amendment be made to his report in that the figure 190, as related to the petition received, should read, 174.

Mr John Dickson, in attendance at the meeting, spoke briefly, re-emphasising statements he had conveyed to Councillors at the hearing of the Draft Pohutukawa Reserve Management Plan.

Councillor McKinnon supported the retaining of the Mokotahi Landing reserve as a Green Area. There was a need to ensure that Council did not allow the whole area to become dominated by parking for boats. Councillor McKinnon was of the opinion that the reserve should be visually improved and used as a passive recreation area.

Councillor Caves stressed that the 'concept plan' was a plan for the future, and as such, Council should give some thought to defining an area for long duration parking. Councillor Caves emphasised that it was not merely a matter of creating parking facilities for Commercial Fishing Boats, but also those of recreational fisherman, whose boats were also increasing in size, particularly those interested in Big Game Fishing. It was important that the needs of all users, current and future, be taken into account. Councillor Caves favoured the use of Mokotahi Reserve, as the view of residents would not be impeded.

Councillor Shortt stated that at present, R34 (Mokotahi Reserve) on the concept plan was under-utilised. While it was formally gazetted as a landing area, Councillor Shortt preferred that further consultation be undertaken with those who would be impacted upon by any decision of Council. Councillor Shortt reminded fellow Councillors that there were thirty-four reserves in the Mahia area alone, and as such, surely one of these could be set aside for required parking purposes.

His Worship the Mayor encouraged Councillors to determine whether overnight parking would be permitted, as the matter could be discussed indefinitely with no resolution forthcoming. At the end of the day, Council needed to come up with a solution that met everyone's needs.

Councillors advised that they were in favour of allowing twenty-four hour parking as long as any resolution to do so was not specific to any one area as Councillors wished to consult further on the matter with affected parties.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the twenty-four hour parking of large fishing vessels at Mahia be permitted in designated areas.</i>	Caves/Eaglesome
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At the request of Councillors the Engineering Manager drew a diagram, detailing the proposed use of Mokotahi Reserve as a parking facility. The Chief Executive Officer emphasised that in making any further decisions, Councillors needed to take account of two issues, the intended use of the reserve (public or private), and the impact of that use on the site. Whatever Council's decision, the public of Mahia deserved further consultation on the issue.

Councillor Shortt supported the Chief Executive Officers statement, further adding that consultation specifically take place with stakeholders who were directly impacted upon by Council's decision, and not members of organisations and clubs who had club facilities in the area, but did not live there.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the people of Mahia be consulted on the proposed use of Mokotahi Reserve as a twenty-four hour parking facility for large fishing boats.</i>	Shortt/Birrell
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WAIROA DEVELOPMENT TRUST

A24.01

His Worship the Mayor informed Councillors that a Wairoa Development Trust was being set up to look at potential funding availability for the future development of the Wairoa District. The intention was for projects requiring funding to be directed to this Trust, as against organisations seeking funds directly from Council.

RESEALING PROGRAMME

B03.01.01.06.07

Councillor Caves sought information as related to the over spending of \$200,000 in the resealing programme, and the inference made that it would be off set by other budgets. The Engineering Manager explained the use of resealing funds with particular reference to funds expended on maintenance, as against funds spent on 'heavy' works.

RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Councillor Caves asked that Councillors keep in mind the need to release Council resolutions from the confidential agenda.

ASSET SALES

H01.09

The Finance Manager informed Councillors that he would include a report in the next Councillor Information Pack detailing asset sales to date, and the progress on other properties available for sale.

LITTER BINS - MOKOTAHU RESERVE

I13.01

Councillor Shortt expressed concern at the removal of the rubbish bin from the Mokotahi Reserve. Youth who congregated in the area had left bottles, paua shells, and rubbish in general strewn across the area. As the rubbish bins had been removed, Councillor Shortt questioned who was responsible for cleaning the mess up, as it did not present a good image to tourists and locals alike.

Councillors were reminded that they had adopted a Litter Bin Placement Policy, had reviewed the Policy, and in turn the Policy had been implemented, resulting in the removal of Litter Bins from identified areas. While a Litter Bin could be reinstated at Mokotahi, this would be contrary to Council's adopted Policy.

Councillor Birrell believed that until people were educated on how to manage litter, there was no point in having bins, as he had observed people throwing rubbish on to the ground despite being in close proximity to a rubbish bin.

The Engineering Manager was instructed to place a Litter Bin by the Mokotahi Reserve Boat Ramp on a trial basis to determine whether a bin was required.

PINASTA PINE REMOVAL

G01.01

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that he had put a report to the Annual Plan, requesting further funding to enable the removal of wildling pines along the beachfront between Opoutama and Mahia Beach.

WANDERING STOCK

I10.02

Councillors expressed concern at the increase in reports and complaints of wandering stock in the District.

Councillors were reminded that Council Staff could only respond to complaints if they are notified of the problem in the first place. People needed to ring Council on the twenty-four hour number (06) 838 7309, to enable a complaint to be registered, and someone tasked to respond and deal with the matter. It was also emphasised that Council should not be deemed as being responsible for the actions or inactions of irresponsible owners who failed to ensure that livestock were securely contained in paddocks.

INDICATIVE RATES

F01.23

Councillors had received a number of complaints from ratepayers as related to the indicative rates.

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that an urgent Management Team Meeting had taken place earlier in the morning, and it was hoped that a workshop could be had with Councillors to address and resolve the issues that had been brought to Council's attention. A workshop was set for 11:00 AM Friday 11th May 2007 in the Council Chambers.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

A10.03

His Worship the Mayor informed Councillors of the proposed change to electoral boundaries and sought Councillors direction as to whether a submission was required. As the proposal was open for receipt of submissions from the public at large, Councillors were not in favour of making a submission.

WAIROA RIVERBANK WALKWAY

B03.02.02.01

His Worship the Mayor updated Councillors on funding that had been obtained to progress the Wairoa Riverbank Walkway.

CLIMATE CHANGE

D01.23

Councillors were asked to give some thought to the impact of climate change in relation to the District Plan and future development of the District. The Government would be releasing a statement later in the day that was likely to result in Council having to look at their own operations, as well as that of others, when addressing issues under the Resource Management Act.

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;*

Birrell/Caves

EXCLUDED FROM: 12:11 PM

READMITTED FROM: 12:36 PM

RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

A06.09

NIL

There being no further General Business, the His Worship the Mayor, declared the meeting closed:

MEETING CLOSED: 12:37 PM