

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 13 May 2008 at 10:00 am.

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

COUNCILLORS

D Eaglesome, D Caves, C Cairns, B McKinnon, J Heron and J Petersen.

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.

APOLOGIES

NIL

CALLS FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

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

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| 1. Advertising/Communications | (Councillor Caves) |
| 2. Certification – S Staley | (Councillor Heron) |
| 3. Local Government New Zealand Elections | (Chief Executive Officer) |
| 4. Cat Policy | (Chief Executive Officer) |
| 5. Road Deviation – Opoutama | (Chief Executive Officer) |
| 6. Mahia Dump – Update | (Engineering Manager) |

PUBLIC FORUM

NIL

GENERAL BUSINESS

WAIROA MAORI FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY INC

F.07.02

<u>Resolved:</u> <i>That the report be received.</i>	<i>Caves/Petersen</i>
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His Worship the Mayor invited Mrs Huia Koziel forward to speak to the funding request.

Mrs Koziel thanked Council for considering the funding proposal put forward by the Wairoa Maori Film Festival Society. She expressed that all parties involved in organising and managing the annual event were volunteers who received no recompense for their work or efforts. The only people who could be defined as receiving 'profit' were those people who came to the festival in that they were provided an opportunity to participate in an event and view films that were unlikely to be shown in Wairoa under any other forum. The festival brought many indigenous directors and films to the Wairoa District, and in turn ensured that the district received international exposure. Mrs Koziel then informed Council of the format of this year's Wairoa Maori Film Festival and dignitaries who were likely to be in attendance.

Councillor Cairns was of the opinion that the Wairoa Maori Film Festival was a great initiative for Wairoa, in that it promoted Wairoa on a national and international scope, and as such, was a worthy project to consider.

Councillor McKinnon, while acknowledging the benefits of the film festival, expressed concern in that this was the third year the festival was being conducted, with many of the original sponsors having disappeared. Councillor McKinnon also expressed concern that while audited accounts had been presented, a 'clean' audit had not been achieved by the Society. In referring to funding being allocated from the District Development Fund, Councillor McKinnon was of the opinion that funds should only be used for Capital Works, not for continual running expenses. He further believed that the requested sum of \$25,000 was excessive, and that a sum similar to that approved in previous years should be considered.

Councillor Eaglesome endorsed Councillor McKinnon's concerns, however while the annual festival was not financially successful, it was a success for the community. Annual events such as the Wairoa Maori Film Festival were beneficial to the development of Wairoa. The reality was that sponsors come and go, and are often not easy to retain because of economic swings and as such she supported any financial assistance that could be given.

Councillor Petersen, while acknowledging the value of the festival to people interested in such things, said he did not want to see Council put money towards events that visibly ran at a loss. He evidenced this in referring to financial statements provided by the Society in that income fell exceedingly short of expenses.

Councillor Caves stated that as commendable as the initiative was, the process of application was remiss in that the Society had failed to make a submission to Council's Annual Plan process, despite being requested to do so. Councillor Caves then recounted the history of Council's approval of funding toward the inaugural film festival and was yet to be convinced that the seeding grant provided at that time provided a firm standing for the event to continue, as had been the intent. Councillor Caves also believed that the film festival was not supported by the local community, as attendance by locals was not evident at screenings of films.

Councillor Heron believed that the film festival was good for Wairoa, however he was also concerned at the cost of the event in that expenditure was far greater than income. The Society was highly dependent on obtaining funds from organisations such as Council, which at times could not be guaranteed.

His Worship the Mayor expressed his support of the event regardless of funding issues they may have faced in the past. His Worship then emphasised that if the desire of Council was for Wairoa to move ahead, then they needed to pick and choose events that would take Wairoa ahead. How do you promote a place like Wairoa in a positive light when it is continually being negatively reported by media? We have an opportunity to promote Wairoa in a positive sense in supporting a festival that brings things to Wairoa that one wouldn't otherwise experience, putting Wairoa on the map, and taking Wairoa out to other communities. His Worship stated that the Maori Film Festival was unique to Wairoa and as such it would be a great shame to lose such an opportunity. If Council were to turn down the application for funding and the event was unable to proceed, then it is likely that the festival would be lost to Wairoa forever.

His Worship the Mayor asked that Council consider providing one-off funding for the current project prior to addressing the request for the festival to be included in the Long Term Council Community Plan as an annually funded event and called for a recommendation to be put forward to the same effect.

<p><u>Resolved:</u> <i>That Council approve the level of funding, being a one-off contribution of \$25,000 towards the 2008 Wairoa Maori Film Festival.</i></p>	<p><i>Eaglesome/Cairns</i></p>
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MOTION DEFEATED - AMENDED BY RESOLUTION

Councillor Petersen expressed concern that in providing funding, Council would become inundated with similar requests from other worthwhile organisations. The Wairoa District Development Trust had been created with a view of diverting such requests away from Council, yet despite the existence of the Trust, requests for funding were still being received.

Councillor Cairns did not believe that the existence of the Wairoa District Development Trust provided a legitimate avenue for Council to 'shirk' its responsibilities when considering requests for funding that may be received. All projects needed to be evaluated against their merits.

Councillor McKinnon wished to move an amendment to the resolution being debated, in that Council fund the film festival to the level it had previously, being \$10,000. Councillors Eaglesome and Cairns were against the funding being reduced.

Resolved:	<i>That Council approve the level of funding, being a one-off contribution of \$10,000 towards the 2008 Wairoa Maori Film Festival.</i>	McKinnon/Petersen
		AGAINST: Councillors Heron/Caves
		MOTION CARRIED

INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

F.02.10.01

Resolved:	<i>That the report be received.</i>	McKinnon/Caves
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Councillor Heron queried Council's investment in Merrill Lynch Unsecured Notes. Councillors were informed that pursuant to Council's Investment Policy, investments were placed with companies that had an A+ rating or better. There was an element of risk in any investment made, with unsecured notes providing a slightly greater risk in that if the finance company were to be liquidated, Council was an unsecured creditor. If Council wished to change its Investment Policy, then this could be done prior to the adoption of the Annual Plan, or during the review of all Financial Policies for the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009/19.

WAIROA YOUTH SERVICES TRUST – ACCOMODATION

A.06.03

Resolved:	<i>That the report be received.</i>	McKinnon/Heron
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His Worship the Mayor welcomed Francey Whale to the meeting and invited her to speak to the report before Council.

Ms Whale thanked Council for providing her the opportunity to address them on matters relating to the Wairoa Youth Services Trust. Ms Whale recounted the historical development of the Trust, and her involvement as a volunteer and Chairperson of the Trust for the past six years. During that period, the Trust had outgrown three premises, and as their current lease with Ti Aho School expired at the end of June, they were seeking alternative land and/or premises to relocate to. The Trust was currently in negotiation with the Wairoa Cadet Unit as there was a possibility of sharing the Cadet Unit facilities. The Trust had also identified land and buildings owned by Council in Glengarry Place, which the Trust was prepared to renovate and demolish as required, at their own cost. Ms Whale also advised that a submission had been put forward to the Annual Plan seeking Council's permission to take ownership of, and remove, the former cricket pavilion at Clyde Domain. The removal and relocation of the pavilion would be dependent on the Trust securing land on which to place the facility.

The Chief Executive Officer clarified for Councillors the land and buildings in question, being the section between the former Kimiora Trust Building, and Periodic Detention Building at Glengarry Place. The Chief Executive Office further informed Council that whomever took ownership of the section, would require a detailed plan from Council as to what was required to bring the buildings up to an acceptable standard, and that a significant portion needed to be demolished. To this end, it would not be a cheap option, or a quick fix.

Given that the Trust were still in negotiation with the Wairoa Cadet Unit, and that there was a submission to be heard as part of the Annual Plan, it was suggested that any Council decision be deferred, to allow the Chief Executive Officer and Ms Whale to develop a Business Plan for Council's consideration. This would ensure that the outcome of discussions in hand, and the Annual Plan Hearings, could be incorporated into the Business Plan.

Resolved: *That the Wairoa Youth Services Trust continue in their discussions with the Wairoa Cadet Unit, and that a Business Plan be developed and brought before Council for consideration.*
Heron/Caves

DRAFT- REMOVAL OF ABANDONED VEHICLES POLICY

B.03.02.07

Resolved: *That the report be received.*
Petersen/Caves

Council's Policy Analyst spoke to the report informing Councillors that the policy was required to enable Council to remove abandoned vehicles from Council controlled roads, and to ensure that Council were not accused of theft when doing so.

Resolved: *That Council adopt the Wairoa District Council Removal of Abandoned Vehicles Policy.*
Cairns/Eaglesome

DRAFT -COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

A.15.04

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

Council's Policy Analyst spoke to the report informing Councillors that minor amendments had been made to the Communications Strategy as instructed by Councillors following their workshop on the policy in April.

Resolved: *That Council adopt the Wairoa District Council Communications Strategy.*
Eaglesome/Cairns

DRAFT - SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

A.15.04

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

Council's Policy Analyst spoke to the report informing Councillors that the policy had come about as a result of Council deliberations during the hearing of submissions to the 2007/2008 Annual Plan. Work had been conducted with a number of organisations in the past four months to finalise the details of the policy prior to bringing it to Council for adoption. Councillors were shown an example of signage that would be provided at no cost to Council, by the Hawke's Bay Chatham Island Smoke-free Coalition. The signs were graffiti proof, and durable. Locations for the possible erection of signs had been determined in consultation with Council's Engineering Department. The cost to erect signage would be borne by Council from existing budgets.

Councillors were informed that the policy was a non-enforcement policy, and as such placed the onus of 'not smoking' in signed areas, upon individuals. If a smoker ignored the signage, there was no penalty for doing so, although it was suggested that such individuals may be made to feel unwelcome in environments where the majority of people present took exception to people ignoring the signage. Councillor Eaglesome endorsed this statement, adding that it was a matter of educating the public, and self policing by the public to deter people from smoking in front of youth.

Mrs Sara Rangi, Sport Hawke's Bay, and Mrs Sue Thompson, Wairoa Primary Health Organisation, commended Council in setting what was groundbreaking policy for the district and in being leaders in discouraging smoking.

Resolved: *That Council adopt the Wairoa District Council Smoke-free Environments Policy.*
Heron/Eaglesome

DOCUMENTS SEALED FOR THE PERIOD 22nd APRIL TO 23rd APRIL 2008

Resolved: *That the report be received.*

Cairns/McKinnon

Receipt/Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Council Meetings

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD 8 APRIL 2008

The Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Council held 8 April 2008 were presented.

Resolved: *That the Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 8 April 2008 be confirmed as correct.*

Cairns/McKinnon

Governance Policies

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that it was his intention to bring the Governance Policy before Council as requested.

Ormond Memorial Property – Mahia

Councillor Petersen informed Council that there had been significant developments at the Ormond Memorial Property where a proper tennis court net had been erected, and lines had been painted to clearly define the long debated 'tennis court'.

GENERAL BUSINESS

ADVERTISING/COMMUNICATION

A01.01

Councillor Caves conveyed on behalf of business people complaints as related to their receipt of unsolicited e-mails from Council.

The Chief Executive Officer informed Council that as no complaints had been received directly by Council, it was not possible to address the concerns that had been raised by Councillor Caves. All persons who had supplied their names and e-mail addresses to Council to enable them to receive Council newsletters, by default, would receive other information and notices from Council. If people no longer wished to receive this information, then they could unsubscribe from the mailing list if they wished to.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

C19.01.02

Councillor Heron informed Councillors of his attendance at a Chartered Accountant's function where Council's Financial Planning Manager, Sharyn Staley, received her qualification as a Chartered Accountant. Councillor Heron asked that a letter be forthcoming from the Mayor's office to recognise Sharyn's achievement.

Resolved: *That a letter be written to Ms Staley acknowledging her achievement in having attained the qualification as a 'Chartered Accountant'.*

Heron/Caves

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND – PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

A13.04

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that the call for nominations had been received on Monday 12th May 2008, and closed at the end of the month.

CAT POLICY

I10.02

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that wild and abandoned cats were becoming a problem for a number of individuals in Mahia and Nuhaka. An increasing number of complaints were being received by Council, and as such, there was a need to develop a Cat Policy to clearly define Council's preferred approach to mitigating the problem. Discussions had been entered into with the SPCA, who were willing, and able, to assist Council, at cost. Councillors recognised that wild and abandoned cats created both a public health, and animal health problem, and that a policy should be developed.

ROAD DEVIATION - OPOUTAMA

B03.01.01

The Chief Executive Officer informed Councillors that the process to start developing the preferred road deviation at Opoutama was about to commence. As a starting point, Council would meet with the Trustees on Monday 26th at 10:00am in the Council Chambers to seek endorsement for the process they wished to undertake.

MAHIA DUMP

B06.09.01

The Engineering Manager informed Councillors of work that was being undertaken at the former Mahia Dump site. The site had been capped and fenced, with planting of the site to commence on Friday 16th May 2008.

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;*

RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

A06.09

NIL

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

MEETING CLOSED: 1:08 PM

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Chair