

**WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

*(Adoption of Draft Annual Plan and Statement of Proposal for the Year Ended 30 June 2008)*

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council to Adopt the Draft Annual Plan and Statement of Proposal for the Year Ended 30 June 2008 held in the Wairoa District Council Chambers, Coronation Square, Queen Street, Wairoa on Wednesday 28 March at 1:30 pm.

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

**COUNCILLORS**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** T Cook (Administration Manager)  
N Cook (Engineering Manager)  
R Snow (Finance Manager)

**CIVIC PRAYER**

Councillor Eaglesome gave the Civic Prayer.

**APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Councillor Caves and the Chief Executive Officer.

<b><u>Resolved:</u></b> <i>That the apologies received from Councillor Caves, and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Freeman, be accepted.</i>	<b><i>Probert/McIntyre</i></b>
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**CALLS FOR ITEMS OF URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA AND NOTICES**

1. Late Item – Amendment to LTCCP (Finance Manager)

**General Items**

**2007/2008 INDICATIVE POOL SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES A.06.06.01**

<b><u>Resolved:</u></b> <i>That the report be received.</i>	<b><i>McIntyre/Birrell</i></b>
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The Finance Manager spoke to the report informing Councillors that the recalculated Indicative Pool for payment of salaries and allowances had been received from the Remuneration Authority. The purpose of the report was for Council to recommend how they wished the net pool to be distributed by either applying the increase equally amongst all members, or in keeping with Council's resolution for distribution at its Inaugural Meeting. Council needed to advise the Authority of their recommendation for distribution by 01<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

<b><u>Resolved:</u></b> <i>That the Indicative Pool for payment of salaries and allowances be paid in line with Council's resolution of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2004 where the Deputy Mayor is to receive 1.5 times the payment of a Councillor. (Deputy Mayor to receive an increase to annual salary of \$903 and Councillors \$601.)</i>	<b><i>Probert/McIntyre</i></b>
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**ANNUAL PLAN 2007/2008**

**F.01.23**

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

**McKinnon/Shortt**

The Finance Manager spoke to the report, stating that the primary purpose was for Council to adopt the Draft Annual Plan for the Year Ended 30 June 2008 for public consultation.

The Finance Manager informed Councillors that there had been a slight amendment to the plan in that headings had been changed to reflect statements made in Council's Long Term Council Community Plan, ensuring that there was consistency between the two Plans.

Councillor Shortt questioned the consistency of the figure of \$70,000 Petrol Tax, which had remained the same for as long as he could remember. Given the increase in petrol costs, Councillor Shortt queried why the figure had not shifted over the years. The Finance Manager explained that the figure was based on Petrol Tax distribution across the whole region, not just Wairoa, and the figure of \$70,000 had remained constant as a result.

His Worship the Mayor sought Councillors comments on the Draft Annual Plan.

Councillor Shortt stated that as the Draft document was going out for public consultation, if ratepayers were not happy with it, then it was in their interest to let Councillors know by way of submissions. The fact that the LTCCP had projected a 9.4% increase for the 2007/08 Financial Year, and this had been reduced to 6.2% was a positive outcome for Council.

Councillor McIntyre expressed his satisfaction with the document in that it was going out for public consultation, allowing ratepayers to participate in the decision making process, while also ensuring people were fully informed.

Councillor McKinnon stated that public submissions would inform Councillors of the need to consider projects not already addressed within the document, or perhaps suggest alternative approaches not yet considered.

Councillor Birrell was of the opinion that the Draft Annual Plan accurately presented decisions made by Council in good faith over the past year, and allowed ratepayers to either endorse, or disagree with those decisions by way of consultation.

Councillor Eaglesome hoped that the public would participate in the consultation process by attendance at public meetings, and emphasised the need for ratepayers to be aware that if they wanted additional projects included within the Annual Plan, then as ratepayers, they would have to pay for them. If people did not want to pay, then services would need to be reduced accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor pointed out to Councillors that of the projects approved for the 2007/2008 Financial Year, funds came from existing reserves and as such did not affect the rate.

Councillors then discussed the need to send out a detailed pamphlet with the first rates instalment to ratepayers clearly showing what portion of their rates went to each of Council's activities. The Finance Manager informed Councillors that he would look at examples from other Councils and would develop a pamphlet to be sent out to ratepayers.

Councillors then questioned their ability to include within the Annual Plan a broad statement that identified 'cost of compliance' as being the main driver behind the increase in rates. The continued increase in audit fees, which were beyond the control of Council, was highlighted as an example, as was the production of Council's Long Term Council Community Plan. Councillors felt that there was a need to express that they were concerned that the increasing cost of compliance over time, due to central government legislated requirements, ultimately led to an increase in rates. Councillors accepted that it was not possible to include a broad statement within the Annual Plan, as compliance could be defined in many contexts.

**Resolved:** *That Council adopt the Draft Annual Plan for the Year Ended 30 June 2008 for submission to the Special Consultative Procedure, as required under Sections 85 and 95 of the Local Government Act 2002.*  
**Birrell/McKinnon**

The Finance Manager asked Councillors to review the proposed timeframes for consultation and hearing of submissions, and to determine dates and venues for the holding of public meetings. The Finance Manager then presented the proposed timeframe.

28 March 2007	Council Adopts Draft Annual Plan and Statement of Proposal
04 April 2007	Consultation period for Special Consultative procedure begins
09 May 2007	Submissions from the public close
30 May 2007	Council hear submissions
29 June 2007	Council Adopts Annual Plan and Statement of Proposal

Councillors then discussed and settled on preferred venues, dates, and times, for the holding of public meetings.

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2007	Mokotahi Hall, Mahia,	7:00 PM
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2007	Community Centre, Wairoa,	7:00 PM
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2007	Ardkeen Community Hall, Ardkeen,	7:00 PM
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2007	Te Huki Marae, Raupunga,	7:00 PM

**Resolved:** *That Council adopt the draft timetable, and confirms dates, times and venues for meetings to be held in the District to discuss the Draft Annual Plan for the Year Ended 30 June 2008.*  
**Eaglesome/Shortt**

#### **LATE ITEM – AMENDMENT TO LTCCP**

**F.01.24**

**Resolved:** *That in accordance with Section 46A (7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, the item LATE ITEM – AMENDMENT TO LTCCP be considered given the item had not come to hand at the time of Agenda compilation and consideration of this item is required now in order to respond within the timeframe allowed.*  
**McKinnon/McIntyre**

The Finance Manager informed Councillors that an Opinion had been received from the Office of the Auditor General as related to Council's Statement of Proposal, and the proposed amendment to the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), in that the proposal and amendment met requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

Having received Audits Opinion, Council were now in a position to send the proposal and amendment to the LTCCP, out for public consultation. Council were effectively consulting on the financial implications of the decision of Council to fund \$500,000 of the project cost for Mahia Beach Stormwater, from the District Development Fund.

As Council had already adopted the Annual Plan, draft timetable, and venues, dates and times for public meetings, it was proposed that the same apply for consultation on the Statement of Proposal and amendment to the LTCCP.

**Resolved:** *That Council adopt the Draft Amendment to the Long Term Council Community Plan and Statement of Proposal for submission to the Special Consultative Procedure, as required under Sections 84 and 93 of the Local Government Act 2002.*  
**Birrell/Shortt**

*Minutes – Special Meeting of Council  
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<b><u>Resolved:</u></b>	<i>That Council adopt the draft timetable, and confirms dates, times and venues for meetings to be held in the District to discuss the Draft Amendment to the Long term Council Community Plan and Statement of Proposal</i>	<b>Shortt/McIntyre</b>
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There being no further General Business, the His Worship the Mayor, declared the meeting closed:

**MEETING CLOSED:**                      **2:15 PM**