

MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Colin Alder, Andy Cranston, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhonda Tibble and Nick Tupara

MINUTES of the GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL/TE KAUNIHERA

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 9:00AM.

PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Colin Alder, Andy Cranston, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Daniel Thompson, Rhonda Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines David Wilson, Director Internal Partnerships James Baty, Director Liveable Communities Michele Frey, Director Engagement & Maori Responsiveness Anita Reedy-Holthausen, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Chief of Strategy & Science Jo Noble, Solid Waste Manager Phil Nickerson, Waste Minimisation Lead Charlotte Phelps, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

Secretarial Note: Crs Pahuru-Huriwai and Parata attended the meeting via audio visual link.

Secretarial Note: Adam Hopkinson, Partner Cooney Lees Morgan attended via audio visual link in relation to the deputation from Mana Taiao Tairāwhiti.

The meeting commenced with a karakia.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cr Parata declared an interest in Report 23-11 as a Trustee of Whakarua Park.

3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 26 January 2023

MOVED by Cr Tibble, seconded by Cr Robinson

That the Minutes of 26 January 2023 be accepted.

CARRIED

3.2 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 26 January 2023

MOVED by Cr Tibble, seconded by Cr Robinson

That the Minutes of 26 January 2023 be accepted.

CARRIED

3.3 Confirmation of Extraordinary Council Minutes 2 March 2023

MOVED by Cr Tibble, seconded by Cr Robinson

That the Minutes of 2 March 2023 be accepted.

CARRIED

3.4 Action Sheet

Noted.

4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

5. Acknowledgements and Tributes

Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged that the pipeline has been repaired and the water supply is now restored. Rehette thanked David and his team, Nedine, contractors and engineers who have been working non-stop for the last 6 weeks to restore the water supply. Rehette also acknowledged the Civil Defence teams, the people in our district who still need our help and all our partners who worked alongside us during the event.

6. Public Input and Petitions

6.1 Forest & Bird NZ - Managing the Impact of Climate Change

Tom Kay Freshwater Advocate, Geoff Keey Strategic Policy Advisor and Chantal Pagel Regional Conservation Manager, Forest & Bird New Zealand attended and presented on 'Managing the Impact of Climate Change - Nature Based Solutions'.

Response to questions included:

- Land should be restored back to permanent native forest where possible. Some timber will come down the valleys in large weather events however not to the extent we are seeing with slash. The permanent cover reduces the risk of erosion. The Cyclone Bola report indicated that areas of native forest had a lot less damage. The catchments with native forest had lower flows and less likely to cause harm downstream.
- Willows have been the traditional way of managing rivers as they protect the banks from scour, however if you give the corridors more space than the rivers have less energy hence less need for the willows. Greater Wellington Council are starting to use native understory so that the willows can be cut out once the natives grow.

6.2 Manu Caddie & Bridgett Parker attended representing Mana Taiao Tairāwhiti

Response to questions included:

- Homes not affected during Cyclone Bola were damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle.

6.3 Rena Kohere Manager Tairāwhiti Environment Centre

Response to questions included:

- The Environment Centre does not support municipal waste to energy in Tairāwhiti.
- Looking at the organization's aspirations of Oranga Taiao and Oranga Tangata, there is very much a connection between nature and people. Reducing and refusing our waste should always be the first option when looking at how to manage waste across our region. Municipal waste to energy relies on the sustained and future production of waste to fuel those energy plants which goes directly against Maturanga Maori and a community approach to managing waste in the region.

7. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

8. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

9. Adjourned Business

There was no adjourned business.

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

10.1 23-69 Resource Recovery Centre Study Outcomes

Director Lifelines David Wilson, Solid Waste Manager Phil Nickerson and Waste Minimisation Lead Charlotte Phelps attended. Director Lifelines David Wilson acknowledged Phil and his team for the work involved to get to this stage.

Questions of clarification included:

- The anaerobic digester has been delayed because of shipping challenges as well as site preparation because of Cyclone Gabrielle. Siteworx Civil have the contract for the waste that will come off the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Working with Waste Management regarding the bailer.
- The proposal for the number of sites will be community led.
- Greenwaste separation is a must. There is a need to work with manufacturers regarding packaging. A further report on wheelie bins and waste contracts will be bought to Council later.
- Staff are going through the process of updating the Waste Management & Minimisation Plan 2018-2024.
- Following Cyclone Gabrielle waste sites will be checked to ascertain if they have been impacted. There are no measures in place regarding COVID-19 waste to landfill.
- In the far north, isolated communities have utilised Marae carparks for whanau to drop off recycling. It would involve partnering with the local Marae and arranging for whanau to drop off recycling.
- Part of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan will be about which initiatives to support within the community. This will be community led which will enable best outcomes.
- Education around littering will be addressed through the Waste Management & Minimisation Plan.

- Looking for Maturanga approach in relation to the education components and using location-based resources is the only effective way when it comes to knowledge sharing with our communities.

MOVED by Cr Gregory, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Approves proceeding with Option 2, the development stages of a region-wide resource recovery centre, which includes applying to MfE for funding and revisiting the suggested locations as per Civil Assists Study and their three staged approach.

CARRIED

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 10.07am for morning team and reconvened at 10.25am.

10.3 23-47 Draft Submission on Three Waters Bills

Yvette Kinsella Special Projects Manager attended.

- Some points raised in Council's submission are also supported in other submissions. Council's submission is about what is best for our community and our region.
- The Bill is not finalised so we are unsure of what functions will remain with Council. A full picture of the impact is not yet known.

MOVED by Cr Ria, seconded by Cr Tupara

1. Endorses the submission to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Water Services Legislation Bill and Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill (as attached in Attachment 1).
2. Instructs the Chief Executive to confirm the submission with the Select Committee as final.

CARRIED

11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION

11.2 23-62 Report on Recommendations made by Mana Taiao Tairāwhiti

Jo Noble Chief of Strategy & Science attended.

Questions included:

- A strong part of the Mission Statement for Strategy & Science is to make data accessible. How this is done often comes down to resourcing however it is work in progress.

MOVED by Cr Gregory, seconded by Cr Ria

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

11.3 23-11 Chief Executive Activity Report March 2023

Central Government Updates

- The emergency management review is about ensuring that it is nationally supported and locally led and it is enabling in terms of iwi participation at the governance level. The Trifecta Review is positive as it strengthens and enforces the local delivery. A review of the regional response will be undertaken.
- Special legislation following Cyclone Gabrielle will enable timeframes to be extended to no later than September for the Annual Plan to be adopted. Council has been pushing hard to have the Long Term Plan to be a 3 year recovery plan and this will enable activities to be aligned and address the issues and opportunities that have arisen from response debriefs.
- The Waste Strategy announced is looking at standardising the recycling services.
- In relation to the Three Waters Reforms the Prime Minister has signalled a reset and review and an announcement should be coming soon on what that may mean in terms of extensions and timeframes.

Civil Defence Updates

- In relation to The Rural Economy Impact Data, Council is waiting for Trust Tairāwhiti to complete the collation of the survey that was distributed to the business and rural community. A dashboard will also be available showing key metrics around what is happening in the region and what is happening in the recovery space. Staff will follow up with Trust Tairāwhiti to find out the expected date of the survey results.

Relationships

- In relation to Te Kahui Patu Kaikiri all the information has been provided for the audit and a response is expected in May.
- A report will be bought to Council and will provide more information and background around the Joint Management Agreement and the Waiapu Koka Huhua Partnership.

General Management

- TechOne is part of the Enterprise Solutions Project and relates to the People & Capabilities team. It is about creating efficiencies in the way that we do things. Some of the manual processes that are in place now will be automated for example the way we onboard staff. This system should be up and running in July.
- A three-year recovery plan will enable Council to address capacity gaps. In terms of the current situation, the volume of resource consents coming in is not huge and this is because of the emergency situation. We have the ability to reach out to other Councils for support.
- A lot of work around comparing staff numbers and salary budgets was presented to the Audit & Risk Committee when looking at retention strategies and this information can be provided. It would be difficult to compare what happened in 2020 compared to our current budget by just taking into account the line number relating to Employee Benefit Expenses without also looking at the grants and revenue that are coming in which offset some of the costs. In addition to this we have transferred Consultants into our Employee Benefit Expenses. The Freshwater Plan and the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan require significant resources.

Council Plans and Policy Updates

- Te Whanau a Kai made an application to the Court of Appeal to have their appeal against the High Court decision heard. The Court of Appeal declined the application.

Focus Projects

- Staff are currently going through the assessment process and the Tender Evaluation Team are meeting shortly with regard to the RFP process for Kiwa Pools aquatic education/learn to swim provider.
- A review has been undertaken of the Waipaoa Flood Protection Scheme following Cyclone Gabrielle and most of the bank held together. The parts that were overtopped were on the old part of the scheme. A whole range of catchments across the district have been flown with LiDAR to ascertain sediment build up and what the effects will be on the river control schemes along with the work that may need to be undertaken moving forward.

Grant Funding

- The Te Arai is a tributary to the Waipaoa River. A decision was made approximately 5 years ago to protect the city side first. Flood control for the Te Arai and other areas across the district will need to be bought back to Council. There are no further works on the Te Arai River as part of the Waipaoa Scheme. It is to be continued on the western side.
- A report regarding reprioritising projects relating to the Better Off Funding will be bought to a future meeting of Council.

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Robinson

That the Council/Te Kaunihera:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

12. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11:15 am.

Rehette Stoltz

MAYOR