

# MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Larry Foster (Chair), Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake, Josh Wharehinga, Kerry Worsnop and Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz

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## MINUTES of the OPERATIONS Committee

**Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Thursday 4 August 2022 at 9:00AM.**

### PRESENT:

Larry Foster (Chair), Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake, Kerry Worsnop and Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines David Wilson, Director Internal Partnerships James Baty, Director Liveable Communities Michele Frey, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Strategic Planning Manager Charlotte Knight, Liveable Spaces Manager De-Arne Sutherland, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

The meeting commenced with a karakia.

**Secretarial Note:** Cr Wharehinga and Director Environmental Services & Protection Helen Montgomery attended via Audio visual link.

**Secretarial Note:** Items were heard out of order as described in the Agenda. For ease of reference the Minutes have been recorded in Agenda order.

### 1. Apologies

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Robinson  
That the apology from Cr Dowsing be sustained.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Cr Stoltz declared an interest in report 22-178 Peel Street Toilets Updates as her sister is the Architect working on the project.

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### **3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes**

#### **3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 9 June 2022**

MOVED by Cr Burdett, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Minutes of 9 June 2022 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### **3.2 Action Sheet**

**Item 10.2.2 - Ruatoria Drinking Water Supply:** Testing is underway on the Ngata College and Whakarua Park bores. A condition assessment will also be carried out. A meeting has been held regarding moving forward with Whakarua Park and the intention is to have facility open by summer 2022.

#### **3.3 Governance Work Plan**

Noted.

### **4. Leave of Absence**

There were no leaves of absence.

### **5. Acknowledgements and Tributes**

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

### **6. Public Input and Petitions**

#### **6.1 Hemara Donnelly - Traffic Calming**

Hemara Donnelly did not attend the meeting to speak on traffic calming.

### **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**

### **10.1 INFORMATION Reports Infrastructure Services**

#### **10.1.1 22-150 March 2022 Emergency Roothing Fund Application and Plan for Delivery**

Director Lifelines David Wilson presented on Journey's Network Update.

Questions of clarification included:

- Council is 100% on track with spend on roading. Outputs have been increased for August with a higher spend across the whole of the network.
- Council is 4 weeks into the new contracts.
- Contractors are currently running at 80/20 for July. Prior to that they were running at 50/50 around reactive work versus programme maintenance.

- Waka Kotahi have been upfront in terms of their funding constraints.
- Still minor works to carry out in terms of the 20108/19 emergency work programme.
- There is funding available for the dropouts on East Cape Road which will get to the 18km mark. Long term options will need to be looked at for the Bluffs around to the lighthouse. Council will work with the Kohere whanau around options that are available and keeping in mind the importance of the lighthouse to the region.
- For the last month staff have been focusing on culverts and drainage.
- Staff are working with the regional arm of Council around the types of consents that will be needed and making the consent process as simple as possible.
- Council have had initial conversations with Wood Council around options for prioritising funding and have initially indicated that not all roads will be repaired. The forestry industry have been helpful in indicating they will work with Council on repair work.
- In a number of areas it is the hillside that has come down onto the roads and causing damage. Where it is possible hillsides are stabilised and the most resilient fixes are carried out, however the underlying geology and climate change are the big issues.
- The Inline team have carried out incredible emergency response work across the network.
- Money can only be spent to open the road for people to get through safely eg if a tree has fallen across the road and one lane is still open, as long as it is marked up the road is open.
- Inline do have a backlog of work which was inherited; however, this has now been prioritised. Some of the work is emergency work and waiting on approval from Waka Kotahi so the work can commence.
- There is a programme for Inline across the region which is based on budget. Inline would be 90% programmed and 10% reactive. There is a prioritised programme which is reviewed monthly.
- A lot of damage within the city is potholes and maintenance which will be looked at as part of the sealing programme. Drainage is taken care of by Fulton Hogan under their contracts. The potholes will be repaired in September and the subsidence sites in the urban area are waiting for consents or engineering assessments.
- Acknowledging that many businesses are under pressure from the inability to get traffic to move and this is yet to flow through our regional economy.
- The funding application to the Waka Kotahi Board was very explicit regarding the community's inability to pay. The Finance Team went through the Long Term Plan on affordability for our community around our demographics etc and this has all fed into the application. If funding is not approved, Council would look at its available funding and commence to reprioritise over multiple years.

- Should Waka Kotahi only approve 67% that would mean an increase of 25% in rates.
- Referring to the 80/20 ratio, the 20% is maintenance work.
- When the Asset Condition Assessment was carried out Council was \$161m short of what could be afforded. It was flagged in the Long Term Plan that funding would need to be found for this or hard decisions would have to be made on the condition of the network in order for our community to be able to pay.
- A Comms programme will be made available to the public.

Mayor Stoltz thanked the community for being patient in these are unprecedented times. We are dealing with a perfect storm. Council is actively working beside Waka Kotahi who are also dealing nationally with these weather events.

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Seymour

That the Operations Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

**Secretarial Note:** The meeting adjourned at 10.10am for morning tea and reconvened at 10.25am.

**Secretarial Note:** Cr Wharehinga left the meeting at 10.10 to catch a flight back to Gisborne.

**Secretarial Note:** Cr Robinson left the meeting at 9.38am and returned at 10.15am.

## **10.2 INFORMATION Reports Communities**

### **10.2.1 22-190 Ministry for the Environment Freshwater Farm Environment Plan Pilot with Gisborne District Council**

Integrated Catchments Manager Kerry Hudson attended and advised the Committee that being involved in the Pilot programme is an opportunity for Council to outline the uniqueness of our district. Council has been proactive in sending MfE an outline of how Council would like to proceed.

Questions of clarification included:

- An opportunity to draw together existing farm plans.
- Council holds a lot of valuable information on our land. Council has an advantage regarding Land Overlay 3A as not many Councils have been down this track.
- The information is very useful as it allows Council to see if there is an improvement in water quality etc.
- It is a matter of working alongside MfE and indicating that Council would like one approach tying all the information together.

- It will play a key role in highlighting that the way we farm our land is very different to a large area of New Zealand. This will be helpful in the long run as to how the information is held, especially if the integrated plan eventually ends up as a business plan and is accessible via LGOIMA.
- Council does not have the resources for this pilot programme and is looking at funding through the hill country erosion fund. Equity is critical and there are also confidentiality issues that Council needs to maintain. Council is pushing to look at it from a catchment approach so that the good of the whole catchment is captured.
- Council is given the opportunity to nominate several properties within our district.
- Clarification is still needed on the size of the property. Gisborne has large properties with land in various stages of soil erosion and stability.
- A key point with Council's submission process was around forestry. Recent updates from the forestry industry indicate that they want to be part of this.

The Chair acknowledged Kerry Hudson for the work that he is doing for our region.

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Robinson

That the Operations Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

### **10.2.2 22-189 Gisborne District Council's Internal Biodiversity Work Plan**

Team Leader Biodiversity and Catchments Don McLean attended and answered the following questions of clarification:

- Monitoring of particular species, particularly the ones under threat is challenging as it crosses over to the Department of Conservation.
- Tangata Whenua are increasing their work around biodiversity.
- Landowners should be recognised as a 'Strength' to the overall project. The Plan is also silent on QEII Covenant which has been around for many years and is a private initiative, along with Whenua Rahui and they both should also be noted as a 'Strength'.
- The Plan is a stocktake of where certain things fit together. It is about strategising on where the work should be focused, where the work will make a difference and where sustained control of pest/plants fits in.
- The Plan should be easier to negotiate in terms of what are the guiding outcomes and who are we trying to mobilise along with mention of catchment groups or existing biodiversity work streams that are in the community.

Director Liveable Communities Michele Frey advised the meeting that the Plan is an internal work plan and very much focusing on the mahi that Council are carrying out here and now as we lead up to the Regional Biodiversity Strategy in 2026. The purpose is to help inform the Biodiversity Team by working in a connected way with biosecurity and land management teams. In terms of objectives and the way the Plan is laid out, it is for the internal team purposes and very much action focused. With respect to external engagement, staff have outlined what they are doing currently, however it has not been widely consulted on given it is an internal work programme. The real focus is to give clarity and transparency about where we are heading while the Regional Biodiversity Strategy for 2026 is being developed.

Objective 4 talks about engagement with landowners, the community and key stakeholders and identifying protecting and enhancing biodiversity so this is a core part of the team's focus.

The document is intended to be a live working document and all feedback can be included in Version 2. The intention was to have a plan in place that was at an appropriate level to guide direction.

The Chief Executive explained that Te Roopu Taiao are a group of officials that have the responsibility of funding investment. It is about coordination and visibility over the different investments going into the biodiversity area. It has been set up as a coordinating collaborative body because of the investment that has come into the region for these types of projects. In terms of Objective 1 around the Mana Whenua relationship this is giving effect to our responsible relationship as Te Tiriti partners.

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Cranston

That the Operations Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

### **10.2.3 22-100 Update Report on Projects Funded by the 2020-21 Natural Heritage Fund**

Following a question of clarification Melanie Cheetham, Senior Land Management Officer told the meeting that applications for the 2023 funding round have opened, and four applications have been received with the value being \$44k.

Regarding the Waihuka Wetland Project, this has been a long-term ongoing project and is a QEII Block. The particular funding applied for was just for that work, however it is part of a longer term project. Regarding Maikaika Station Kahikatea Fencing Project the landowners still intend to do the work in the future, however, have fallen outside of the funding timeframes. It was considered to be a very worthwhile project and could be considered again in the future.

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Operations Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

#### 10.2.4 22-178 Peel Street Public Toilets Update

Liveable Spaces Manager De-Arne Sutherland attended. Key points include staff are on track to progress to June 2023, Architects 44 have been engaged, the design has been refined and is now less fussy and quantity surveyor costs support that it can be delivered within the existing budget. The Exeloo will not be included within this project's budget and nor is it required. The Project budget is strictly for the restrengthening. There is a small amount of finishing work that will need to be undertaken to enable the building to be reopened as a public convenience. Over the next year while the restrengthening work is being carried out there will be an opportunity for Council staff to work with interested parties to look at potential funding to refurbish the facility. There is keen interest from Historic Places Tairāwhiti and others to see the facility refurbished. Also, internally as part of the public convenience rationalisation process under the Community Facilities Strategy, staff will be assessing the needs within the central business district, and this will help inform any future potential funding for refurbishing.

Councillors questions of clarification included:

- The refined design being steel beams within the existing building will enable refurbishment.
- The Bright Street toilets and Port toilets can be used while the Peel Streets toilets are being strengthened.
- Important to seek funding in a timely fashion and not wait until June 2023.

Cr Burdett thanked De-Arne for the mahi carried out.

MOVED by Cr Robinson, seconded by Cr Worsnop

That the Operations Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

#### 10.2.5 22-184 Tairāwhiti Museum Annual Plan 2022 - 2023

Kaiwhakahaere of Tairāwhiti Museum Elloise Wallace attended and responded to questions as follows:

- National Touring Exhibitions are managed carefully and are well planned when moving around the country. It needs to be ensured they are cost effective in terms of transport as transport insurance would be the biggest cost incurred when there is an incoming touring exhibition. In terms of budget, Tairāwhiti Museum can afford to do one or two a year, so proposals are looked at that are a good fit and interest to the Tairāwhiti community. The programme is then built up with locally generated exhibitions. Affordability can be an issue with some of the larger exhibitions generated by the Metropolitan Museums, however special arrangements can be made, and funding sought to support them.

- The gap between income and expenses is widening, however the budget is a baseline operational budget based on confirmed funding sources. As an organisation we work hard to find grants and sponsorship to fill the gaps.
- The roof has not leaked for a while and working closely with Council to renew the lease and the Contract for Services between Tairāwhiti Museum and the Council. A key aspect is working in partnership to ensure that we have an asset fit for purpose with an active maintenance plan.
- The funding from the Ministry of Education has not changed since 2010, however costs have increased. At a national level there are discussions with the Ministry of Education and Manatū Taonga and, in particular, in relation to the New Zealand's History Curriculum and the changing demand from educators in our region.

MOVED by Cr Akuhata-Brown, seconded by Cr Worsnop

That the Operations Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

### **10.3 INFORMATION Reports Planning and Development/Support Services**

#### **10.3.1 22-89 Uawa-Hikuwai Catchment Scientific Bore Drilling Project - Completion**

Environmental Monitoring and Science Manager Tom Porter attended and introduced Anne McGuire and Mere Tamanui to the Committee and they presented on Te Aitanga a Hauiti Mana Kaitieki. Tom extended a mihi to Josh Hovell and Kaaterina Kerikeri. Councillors stood for a moment's silence to remember Gerald Puhipuhi who recently passed away. Gerald was a great help in getting the project underway.

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Akuhata-Brown

That the Operations Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

**CARRIED**

**Secretarial Note:** The meeting adjourned at 12.05pm and reconvened at 12.30pm.



## **11. Public Excluded Business**

**Secretarial Note:** These Minutes include a public excluded section. They have been separated for receipt in Section 11 Public Excluded Business of Council.

## **12. READMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Burdett

That the Operations Committee:

1. Re-admits the public.

**CARRIED**

## **13. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 2.11pm.

Larry Foster

**CHAIR**