

MINUTES



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

MINUTES of the FINANCE & PERFORMANCE Committee

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Wednesday 14 September 2022 at 10:00AM.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines David Wilson, Director Internal Partnerships James Baty, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Programme Manager Waingake Transformation Amy England, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

Secretarial Note: The meeting commenced at 10am and adjourned at 10.01 to enable Councillors to take part in an activity for Maori Language Week.

Secretarial Note: The meeting recommenced at 10.12am with a karakia.

Secretarial Note: Councillors stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who passed away on 8 September 2022. It was noted that there is a condolence book in the foyer at Council for members of the public to sign.

Her Worship the Mayor also thanked the Councillors and staff who took part in the activity for Maori Language week.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 3 August 2022

MOVED by Cr Burdett, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Minutes of 3 August 2022 be accepted.

CARRIED

3.2 Action Sheet

An updated Action Sheet was tabled.

3.3 Governance Work Plan

The report on Income and Expenses Relating to the Operation of the District Licensing Committee will be on the next Finance & Performance Agenda.

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

There were no public input or petitions.

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 Finance

10.1.1 22-202 Rates and Sundry Invoice Debt Management Report to 30 June 2022

Questions included:

- The 69 unused Maori freehold land blocks made non-rateable and \$336k in rates removed, were not under the powers of the Chief Executive to write off and were done so under the Local Government Rating Act 2002. Should the blocks be used in the future, they will be reassessed. They are in addition to the ones on the Whenua Rahui Register.

- All processes are investigated when it comes to collection of Maori freehold land rates debts and multiple ownerships.
- The graphs showing collection methods for general land rates debt are indications of collection methods Council uses. The previous report showed that the collectability of general rates was increasing.
- The section in the report referring to Sundry Aged Debt is all debt apart from rates. The general land aged rates debt for 2021/2022 will not impact Council in future years as it is current debt and as it rolls over into the next year it will decrease.
- The removal of the UAGC on contiguous land had a significant impact on rates.
- The government rebates for low-income earners has not, in the past, applied to Maori freehold land but looking to implement in the future.
- Debt associated with general land rates is deducted when the property is sold however this is not the case for Maori Freehold Land. A review is underway, and a report will be submitted to the Committee early 2023.
- Charging penalties on overdue rates did not improve the collectability of these rates and was seen as a barrier. Relationship building and payment plans have improved the situation.

MOVED by Cr Akuhata-Brown, seconded by Cr Hughes

That the Finance & Performance Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

10.1.2 22-220 DRAFT Financial Report - 30 June 2022

Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman updated the Committee on the Annual Report process.

Questions included:

- Development contributions are only showing to 30 June.
- Budget for Arts in Public Places can be carried over to the next year if unspent. The Art in Public Places Trust is in the process of wrapping up and any decisions relating to this will be made by the Operations Committee.
- Interest on external funding has no impact on the ratepayer. Need to continually look realistically at what can be achieved to avoid carry-overs.

The Chief Executive advised that she is proud of the work that has been achieved by staff despite the issues of COVID-19 and extreme weather events. Staff have looked closely at the capital expenditure programme.

- By 30 June 2024 it is expected that approximately \$60m of debt will be taken off the books due to the 3 Waters Reform. Central Government have indicated that should Council have reserves relating to the activities, they will need to be netted off. This amounts to approximately \$18m.

MOVED by Cr Burdett, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Finance & Performance Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

10.2 INFORMATION Reports Performance

10.1 22-215 Waingake Pamoia Revenue Update

Discussions included:

- Council does have insurance for the risks eg fire, ETS obligations and liability.
- One of the issues is around the longevity of the pines on the faces of the hills around the pipeline. When it comes to slope stability, it is important that we replant and natives is the preference. The setbacks are quite significant when looking at slope failure. All the slopes above Rabbit Road need to be planted as soon as possible to ensure stability as the water pipeline is buried in the slopes. Natives are important on these slopes as they need to be there for a significant length of time.
- Replanting has to occur exactly four years from the harvest date. The Puninga Block was harvested in August/September 2019 so needs to be replanted by August/September 2023.
- Council is close to signing an agreement with a partner.
- Replanting in pines only is \$1,500 per hectare.

MOVED by Cr Robinson, seconded by Cr Hughes

That the Finance & Performance Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

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 Burdett, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Finance & Performance Committee:

1. Re-admits the public.

CARRIED

13. Close of Meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.11am.

Nedine Thatcher-Swann

CHIEF EXECUTIVE