

MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: 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.

MINUTES of the GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 9:15AM.

PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Isaac Hughes, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, 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, Acting Director Liveable Communities De-Arne Sutherland, Director Environmental Services & Protection Helen Montgomery, Director Engagement & Maori Responsiveness Anita Reedy-Holthausen, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Acting Chief of Strategy & Science Joanna Noble, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Coral Dunn.

The meeting commenced with a prayer.

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Any conflicts of Interest were noted in body of each report where applicable.

3. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

4. 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 for DECISION

10.1 21-72 2021-2031 Long Term Plan Deliberations - Overview Report

Secretarial Note:

MOVED by Mayor Stoltz, seconded by Cr Burdett

That the Council:

1. Accepts Late Item Attachment 5 – Strategy and Science (Report 21-80).

CARRIED

Debate included:

- Not doing enough in the biodiversity space.
- Doing more pest control with available money.
- Heavy reliance on pastoral farming income.
- Cannot keep charging for undelivered services.
- Not treating reserves equally.
- Opossum risk.
- Budget not capturing need for more biodiversity.
- Land management not reflected in budget.
- Getting best bang for buck.
- Bush degrading not regenerating due to lack of protection.
- Encouraging biodiversity partnerships.
- Doing more with existing budget from Year Four onwards.
- Criticality of Council's core functions.
- \$100 resource consent administration fee should not be a blanket average cost.

- Biodiversity should be on the same scale as community facilities.
- Community support for Taruheru Cycleway.
- Doing more with current budget.
- Some core functions not being delivered.
- Rescheduling cost of Waingake into the later years of the Long Term Plan to allow funding for biodiversity.

Response to questions:

- Waingake Transformation Project:
 - \$5m external grants would be at risk if used some to increase Natural Heritage fund.
 - Reducing deer numbers was part of the animal ground-based work programme.
 - The reduction of pests was a managed approach.
 - A true assessment of costs would be known following two years of replanting after forest harvest. Rates would not be impacted until the following year.
 - 30% contribution came from Council input, from forestry returns and grant funding.
 - Council's contribution worked towards outcomes outside of external funding and was required to secure the \$5m external grants.
- Earlier biosecurity vacancies were now filled and staff were working with landowners.
- Council rated for what could be achieved and made adjustments where necessary.
- Eligibility rules may need to be reviewed given the low uptake of the Natural Heritage Fund.
- Still waiting confirmation of the Waiapu Catchment Plan grant funding as funders were concerned about lack of capacity and expertise.
- Biosecurity staff, now at full complement, were catching up on pest control in the Waiapu Catchment.
- Dolloes at Ruatoria:
 - Were part of Council's contribution towards a wider funding bid to Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to assist with their strategic placement in the river.
 - Cost of transportation and installation was being sought from the funders.
- Council had provided the Netball Centre with a letter of support to secure funding from Trust Tairāwhiti.
- Elgin Playground:
 - Council land in Blackpool Street had play equipment for older children.
 - The area E Tu Elgin spoke about was around the airport area.
 - Council had spent a lot of time looking for an open space that applied itself well in Elgin and were exploring other areas in partnership with Sports Tairāwhiti.

Secretarial Note: Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.48 and reconvened at 1.30pm.

- New money was needed for biodiversity projects as there was not a lot of wriggle room to shift between budgets.
- Rate payer funded Natural Heritage Fund was spent on private land.
- \$100 resource consent administration fee charged from 2020 onwards would accrue income in the order of \$16k.
- Contractors undertaking effluent disposal reported to Council.

MOVED by Cr Stoltz, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

1. Instructs staff to prepare a 2021-2031 Long Term Plan for approval at Council's meeting on 30 June 2021, incorporating any amendments resulting from resolutions made during the Council deliberations process.

CARRIED

10.2 21-75 2021-2031 Long Term Plan Deliberations - Finance & Affordability

Secretarial Note: Meeting adjourned at 3.35pm and reconvened at 3.50pm

Debate included:

- Three year economic development remission.
- Debt funding.
- General rates and fixed charges.
- Walkways/Cycleways.
- Forestry differentiation unfair and exacerbated the trend.
- Pan charges.
- 10% general charges for wastewater, water supply and stormwater infrastructure.
- Inequality and inconsistency of affordability between rural townships and some city properties.
- The choices had not reflected what Council wanted to achieve.
- Fairness of rates distribution eg water charges.
- Horticulture rates remission to allow for establishment of crop ie remission available for first three years.

Response to questions:

- Equity was underpinned by two key principles - affordability (ability to pay) and benefits (willingness to pay).
- A crude measure used was that rates should not be more than 5% of household income.
- Requirement to provide reticulation services did not allow for discount due to reduced use.
- Non-rateable properties such as schools and hospitals were only charged rates for wastewater, water supply and rubbish collection.
- Analysis of the horticulture roading component would look at options for rating during the next three years. It may be decided that the sector be rated on land value not capital value and would then look at horticulture's impact on roading.
- Land value rates would not include the gold licence.

- Kiwifruit rates were driven by capital value and if unintended hardship occurred ratepayers could apply for remission.
- The remission threshold \$100-\$7k created the need for its annual application.

Secretarial Note: Meeting adjourned at 3.55pm and reconvened at 4.00pm.

- The rise in regional leadership and support across the LTP reflected the freshwater plan and the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan.
- Smoothing occurred by phasing higher costs, prefunding, etc, eg. Olympic Pool Project.
- Two weeks were needed to provide an analysis of the impact on each group of ratepayers.
- Taruheru Cycleway had minimum rates impact and had to remain in roads because of FAR rate funding.
- The annual resource consent administration fee could be incorporated in the application fee and spread out over the three years.

It was agreed that the recommendations be amended as outlined below.

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

1. Approves the Revenue and Finance Policy with no changes, including:
 - a) Wastewater rate for connected users (properties within the reticulated areas).

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Cranston, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

1. Approves the Revenue and Finance Policy with no changes, including:
 - b) Three water rates, where 10% of the activity costs will be 10% general rates. This option aligns with the consistency of other infrastructure rates (flood control), and it reflects wider benefits of the infrastructure network to the region as a whole.

CARRIED

Crs Burdett, Dowsing, Hughes, Faulkner, Seymour and Worsnop asked that their votes against be recorded.

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

1. Approves the Revenue and Finance Policy with no changes, including:
 - c) Forestry differentials to 12 and to change the definition of forestry for rating purposes to include areas of exotic forestry in mixed use land, which are 20 hectares in size or larger.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

2. Approves the Financial Strategy, including:
 - a) Rate thresholds (Year 1 to 3 less than 6.5%) and Year 4 onwards, less than 5%. Debt threshold to be less than 130% of revenue.

CARRIED

Cr Seymour asked that her vote against be recorded.

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

3. Approves the draft Rate Remission Policy, with an amendment to:
 - a) The Horticulture Permanent Crop remission to remove clause 10.4.2 "where in each successive year, the maximum remission will decrease by 30% over the previous year".

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

4. Approves the draft Fees and Charges report [12-12] but removing Consent Administration Maintenance Annual Fee.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

5. Approves the review of the Dog Registration fees in 2021/22 allowing for more time to review, analyse and compare different pricing models.

CARRIED

10.3 21-76 2021-2031 Long Term Plan Deliberations - Environmental Services & Protection

Response to questions

- Potential for highest cost commercial activities paying for extra staff.
- Monitoring could be increased by freshwater changes.
- Burden of monitoring air quality could be recovered from specific service charges.
- Council had no control where the 5G towers were situated.
- Applying to the freshwater improvement fund for integrated catchments, etc.
- Three extra monitoring FTEs would be focused on the highest priorities.
- Revenue and Finance Policy allowed fees and charges between 20-40%.
- Current charge of 20% was based on the team currently engaged in these activities.
- Reality of monitoring air quality in townships depended on affordability.

- Council's control of bores on private land depended on consents.
- Bore consents were of short duration as still building the science around catchments.
- Council was able to measure and monitor water taken out of bores.
- The air quality monitoring device was fixed and if moved it would lose continuity of data from a particular site.
- Council would be provided with details about FTE numbers in the Monitoring and Compliance and Resource Consent teams.
- Currently one vacancy existed in the Monitoring and compliance team.
- Modelling would ascertain quantum of commercial activities and whether income would be greater than \$570k.
- The Act provided charging for reasonable and actual costs for commercial activities and not for other tasks where there was no-one to recover the costs from.
- As National Freshwater Policy required waterways be monitored for compliance and environmental (science programme), the science team monitored the science programme and the Compliance and Monitoring team monitored the operational programme.
- The LTP contained a substantial compliance and monitoring debt funded operational budget for freshwater which included science and planning.
- Unable to recover 100% from consent holders.
- There were 8 staff in the compliance team (plus one vacancy) and more resources were needed to deal with the workload. It was easier to fill these roles than consent roles.

It was agreed that the recommendations be amended as outlined below.

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

1. Considers the submissions in relation to compliance monitoring, and
 - b. Increase the level of service and proposed budget to provide an additional 3FTE (\$285k) for Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement activities.

CARRIED

That the Council:

2. Considers the submission in relation to air quality and retain the current level of service and budget to allow additional monitoring of air quality.

CARRIED

That the Council:

3. Notes the following:

- a. Council's Operations Committee will address vehicles accessing beaches at its meeting on 26 May 2021 (Decision Report 21-74).
- b. Submissions on water tanks, water security and the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan are addressed in Deliberations Report 21-80 from Strategy and Science.
- c. Compliance and enforcement monitoring may increase post Fees and Charges review.

CARRIED

10.4 21-77 2021-2031 Long Term Plan - Engagement and Māori Responsiveness

Secretarial Note: Cr Seymour declared a conflict of interest as the Chair of the Camera Trust.

Debate included:

- Doing more to provide services being paid for.
- Needing to improve delivery to townships.
- Reviewing the Camera Trust budget.
- Responsibility for crime prevention.
- Flexibility to move away from 10-year model.
- Townships themselves working with the funding so money went further.
- Improving delivery model.
- Concern about blanket grant without regard to population or rating base.
- Important townships had their own hubs.
- Working with partners eg Trust Tairāwhiti to increase township funding.

Secretarial Note:

MOVED by Mayor Stoltz, seconded by Cr Burdett

That the Council:

1. Agrees to extend the meeting beyond six hours.

CARRIED

Response to questions:

- Staff worked with communities to seek external funding to achieve their aspirations.
- There was no money in the budget to assist the Motor Caravan Association. When Council was approached in the previous LTP to pay for a dump station, Council offered to help them identify a site but no funding commitment was ever made.

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Council:

1. a. Approves the preferred 2021–2031 LTP consultation option to continue as planned by working with communities resulting in a \$5.1m spend over ten years on the option presented in the Consultation Document: Ō tatou whakapainga tāone/Our township upgrades.
b. Given the strength of requests from submitter groups, in particular our iwi partners, approves the “other option” of adding \$1.9m to the township upgrade programme, resulting in a \$3.8m impact on debt and an additional rates increase of 0.3% p.a.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Council:

2. Approves that staff initiate a governance-level meeting with mana whenua to discuss how we can work together in partnership to deliver on the desired outcomes expressed by iwi in their submissions.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Sheldrake

That the Council:

3. Considers a funding increase from \$32,500 to \$45,000 for the Camera Trust, subject to the provision of financial reports on proposed spend and the identification of future costs to Council should the network be extended.

CARRIED

Cr Seymour abstained from voting.

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Shelldrake

That the Council:

4. Notes the following:

- a. The Māori Responsiveness team will assist Water Safety New Zealand to expand awareness of water safety issues in the Tairāwhiti district.
- b. That Council is continuing to enhance its engagement and consultation practices to ensure that it is responsive to what and how our community wishes to engage, including engagement and consultation with Māori.
- c. No additional funding has been allocated in the Long Term Plan for the initiatives proposed by the following submitters: NZ Memorial Trust and the NZ Motor Caravan Association.
- d. Council will work with the following organisations to support external funding proposals and/or to progress initiatives that are within Council's existing work programmes: Tourism Industry Aotearoa; E Tu Elgin; Midway Surf Lifesaving Club and Ngāi Tāmanuhiri.

CARRIED

10.5 21-78 2021-2031 Long Term Plan - Community Lifelines - Utilities

Debate included:

- Wastewater:
 - Finishing the facility, alternative use disposal and then wetlands.
 - Bringing wetlands forward.
 - Planning and promoting wetlands should already be happening.
 - Wetlands needing a commercial lead to package disposal and for it to be commercially viable.
 - Timing seemed right to bring in needed commercial expertise.
- Cycleways
 - Supported by the community.
 - Benefits included cyclist safety, tourism, mitigation towards climate change, etc.
 - Using existing roads versus creation of new cycleways.
 - Option of a \$10 targetted rate across entire rating base.
 - Cyclists pay road rates.
 - Scope reversion would need to be planned and communicated.
 - \$2.7m was a substantial amount of money.
- DrainWise
 - Fix pipes and keep sewage out of rivers.
 - Health issues arising from sewage in rivers.

- Spend on riverbanks not cycleways.
- Coastal roads reverting to metal.
- Focusing on advocacy of road user charges in the region.
- Council's role was to advocate and work alongside roading industry.
- Community engagement should not include basic infrastructure that Council was required to provide.

Response to questions:

- DrainWise was on track for budget spend this year following COVID-19 delays. Progress would depend on availability of materials.
- \$100k per year was set aside for cycleway network planning ie. interconnecting links to existing cycleways.
- Road services would be further reduced if money taken from its budget for cycleways.
- The proposed roading budget was based on a 10-12% increased rate take.
- The \$2.7m for cycleways would be debt funded.
- Waka Kotahi had indicated there was limited regional land transport funding nationally.
- The Taruheru Cycleway was dependent on funding from Waka Kotahi.
- Smoothing of the Taruheru Cycleway Project would be achieved by project delivery and phasing smaller spend at the start.
- As Taruheru Cycleway was recognized in 2015 as the missing community connection link, it was next cab off the rank as would provide maximum benefit ie safety, connectedness, tourism, etc.
- The cycleway to the river mouth was a Trust Tairāwhiti project. The project timeframe would not be met due to having to resolve consents with landowners to cross their land.
- As there was no consent for the stopbank cycleway Trust Tairāwhiti was working with the Tairāwhiti Trails Trust to get a resource consent.
- Leveraging NZTA FAR funding necessitated funds only being used for roading purposes.
- Cost was the biggest factor in aligning and building cycleways.
- Council had good relationships with the Cycle Trust, Motu Trails and Tairāwhiti Trails Trust.
- The Revenue and Finance Policy may or may not allow a targeted rate for cycleways.
- \$50k had been allowed for funding a plan with the cycling community.
- Council and Trust Tairāwhiti were supporting Tairāwhiti Trails Trust promote and deliver their projects.
- Manutuke would be vulnerable to flooding until the floodbank was raised on their side.
- The flood control scheme had high and low points that would spill into different areas which meant that flooding would not necessarily be higher in Manutuke.

- \$75k seed funding had been set aside in the Long Term Plan to investigate wastewater alternative use and disposable options.
- The \$270k local share of the \$600 Uawa project did not include the bridge clip-on.

MOVED by Cr Cranston, seconded by Cr Gregory

That the Council:

1. Approves the preferred 2021–2031 Long Term Plan consultation option to spend the same amount on the option presented in the Consultation Document for:
 - a. Ō tātau paipa wai / Our water pipes.
 - b. Ō tātau kūkūwai waipara / Our city wastewater wetlands.
 - c. Te whakamaru i tō ta`tau rohe i te waipuke / Protecting our region from floods.
 - d. Te whakapaipai i ō tātau rori / Maintaining our roads.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Cranston, seconded by Cr Gregory

That the Council:

2. Approves:
 - a. To fund \$2.5m of the local share for the Taruheru walking and cycling project; and
 - b. To fund \$270k of the local share for the Uawa walking and cycling project
 - c. Including \$100,000 per annum additional expenditure to the 2021–2031 Long Term Plan over the next three years for the planning phase of the Tairāwhiti Walking and Cycling Network Plan (subject to approval from Waka Kotahi - through the Regional Land Use Planning (RLTP) process - who would contribute a 66% subsidy).

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Cranston, seconded by Cr Gregory

That the Council:

3. Notes the following:
 - a. Follow National Direction about levels of service (LoS) for drinking water in coastal and rural townships.
 - b. Advocate Taumata Arowai (water regulator) for these LoS to be issued promptly.
 - c. Include domestic drinking water tanks in scope of a water security strategic framework for the district.
 - d. Council's iwi partners support the city wastewater wetlands starting in 2025.
 - e. Await National Direction on Climate Change Adaptation (proposed CCA Act) before committing to undertaking major flood protection works in coastal and rural areas unless there were significant reasons such as to save or protect life.
 - f. The need for a Council workshop to agree to LoS and maintenance priorities that should be included in the new maintenance contracts.
 - g. The need for a Sealed Reversion Policy and a Roding Winter Restrictions Scoping Paper to be presented to the Operations Committee for approval.

CARRIED

10.6 21-80 2021-2031 Long Term Plan - Strategy & Science

Debate included:

- Development contributions:
 - Be applied to purpose for which collected.
 - Lack of understanding about apportionment.
- Everything hinges on Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP).
- Procrastination around Makauri Aquifer Recharge (MAR).
- Urgency of water security plan.
- Opportunities to rate charge development contributions.
- Separate and distinct development contributions required for infill, greenfield etc.
- Review management of Council owned land and housing:
 - Business as usual versus new work.
 - Review being jointly funded by Council and Gisborne Holdings Limited.
 - Housing was a social issue.
 - Review potential redundant land important to identify additional opportunities.
 - Lacking strategic approach.

Response to questions:

- Development contributions overall changed to 14% because Long Term Plan projects budgets changed.
- Infrastructure review tied in with the TRMP review which was the focus for the next two years.
- Policy review was in line with the Long Term Plan (3 yearly) unless brought forward.
- A paper would be presented to Council in September with recommendations that included MAR and stakeholders in the water security framework.
- Review of development contributions policy and strategic framework was decided in December 2020.
- Targeted rates required a review of Revenue and Finance Policy and strategic framework.
- Piritahi Policy was updated each LTP unless the Maori Responsiveness and Engagement Team brought it forward for some reason.
- Prioritisations over the next three years included the overall strategic framework in the Regional Policy Statement, urban growth, infrastructure, zoning, housing supply and the timebound 2024 Freshwater Plan.
- Community engagement weighed heavily and that was why that team had been increased.
- The housing and land review was not rate funded. The \$50k would come from housing depreciation which had to be applied to housing. It would take existing staff some time to complete and would have to replace something on the priority list. Additional funding would allow it to be completed sooner.

- Any change in development policy would require another consultation process.
- Three Waters Reform would impact on the Long Term Plan but it was hard to tell if it would impact on the region's water security.
- The Ministry for the Environment was looking to pilot the spatial planning approach and staff were keen to be involved.
- Water security programme would be useful for any future spatial planning under the Strategic Planning Act.

MOVED by Cr Dowsing, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

1. Approves the following changes to the 2021–2031 Long Term Plan:
 - Additional \$50,000 for the Community Housing budget to progress a review of the management of Council and Council-controlled trading organisation owned land and housing.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Sheldrake, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

2. Retains the following in the 2021–2031 Long Term Plan:
 - Strategic intent of the Infrastructure Strategy, and Development Contributions Policy, with no policy direction amendments. Updates to the Strategy and Policy will be made to reflect the final budgets and projects agreed as a result of deliberations on the 2021–2031 Long Term Plan.
 - Proposed climate change planning timeframes and budget.
 - Proposed budgets and activities for the Science activity.
 - Water security workstream for the Strategic Policy and Planning activity.
 - Proposed budget for freshwater planning.
 - Proposed budget for the review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Sheldrake, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

3. Adopts the Significance and Engagement Policy, and the Tairāwhiti Piritahi Policy with no amendments.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Sheldrake, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Council:

4. Notes the following:

- The next review of the Development Contributions Policy will investigate points raised about forestry and charges for the inner city.
- Feedback on engagement and determining impact of the significance criteria will be addressed operationally.
- The next review of the Tairāwhiti Piritahi Policy will be co-created with Iwi/Māori.

CARRIED

10.7 21-81 2021-2031 Long Term Plan - Liveable Communities

Debate included:

- Not doing enough in biodiversity space.
- Doing more with pest control with money available.
- Relying heavily on pastoral farming income.
- Cannot keep charging for undelivered services.
- Not treating reserves equally.
- Opossum risk.
- Budget did not capture the much needed biodiversity.
- Land management not reflected in budget.
- Getting best bang for buck.
- Bush was degrading not regenerating due to lack of protection.
- Encouraging biodiversity partnerships.
- Doing more with existing budget from Year Four onwards.
- Adding more time to Waingake in terms of volumes of funds for biodiversity.
- Criticality of organisation's core functions.
- Not making the \$100 resource consent administration fee a blanket average cost.
- Biodiversity should be done on the same scale as community facilities.
- Lot of support for Taruheru Cycleway.
- Do more with current budget.
- Some core functions were not being done.
- Rescheduling cost of Waingake into the later years of the Long Term Plan.
- Natural Heritage Fund was rate payer funds going to private land.

Response to questions:

- Waingake Transformation Project:
 - Reducing funding to increase the Natural Heritage fund would put \$5m external grants at risk.
 - Reduction of deer numbers was part of the animal ground-based work programme.
 - Pest reduction was a managed approach.
 - Project consisted of treaty partnership and other outcomes.
 - Would be reviewed in three years' time to obtain a true assessment of costs.
 - Council's 30% input, which contributed to achieving outcomes not able to be achieved with external funding, was needed to secure the \$5m external grant.
 - Forestry returns and grant funding contributed 30% each.
 - The full cost of the project was unknown but two years of replanting after harvesting would enable a true assessment of costs.
 - The impact on rates would be known the following year.
- Earlier vacancies in biosecurity team were now filled and staff were working with landowners.
- Did not rate for more than what could be done and do adjust where necessary.
- As the uptake for Natural Heritage Fund had been low the eligibility criteria might need to be reviewed.
- Waiapu Catchment Plan:
 - Awaiting confirmation of grant funding as funders were concerned about lack of capacity and expertise.
 - Biosecurity staffing now at full complement and were catching up on pest control requirements in the Waiapu Catchment.
 - The dollozes were part of Council's contribution towards a wider funding bid to Ministry of Primary Industries to assist with placing them at strategic sites in the river.
 - Cost to transport and installation of the dollozes was being sought from the funders.
- Council had provided the Netball Centre with a letter of support to secure funding from Trust Tairāwhiti.
- Elgin:
 - The Blackpool Street land was Council owned and had play equipment for older children.
 - The area E Tu Elgin spoke about was around the airport area.
 - Council had spent much time looking for an open space well-appointed in Elgin.
 - Now exploring other areas in partnership with Sports Tairāwhiti.

Secretarial Note: Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.48 and reconvened at 1.30pm.

- Were leveraging on other opportunities as the biodiversity projects budget listed in 1a was tight.
- New money was needed as not a lot of wriggle room to shift between budgets.
- The \$100 resource consent administration fee charged from 2020 onwards would accrue income in the order of \$16k.
- Effluent disposal contractors reported to Council.

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Dowsing

That the Council:

1. b) Approves the 'spend more, do more option' presented in the Consultation Document: Te whakapai ake i te rerenga rauropi o Te Tairāwhiti / Improving our Biodiversity to allow us to deliver more at a cost of \$1.2m resulting in rates increase of 0.2% per annum.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Dowsing

That the Council Committee:

2. b) Approves an addition of \$60k to the Natural Heritage Fund making a total of \$100k per annum,

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Foster, seconded by Cr Dowsing

That the Council Committee:

3. Notes the following:
 - a) Submitter support for Community Facilities Strategy implementation.
 - b) Submitters support for Agreement with Gisborne Museum and Art Trust.
 - c) Submitter support for street tree planting.
 - d) Submitter support for activation of play spaces – staff will work with E Tu Elgin and Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti to identify future opportunities and report back to Council.

CARRIED

11. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4.37pm.

Rehette Stoltz
MAYOR