

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 28 February 2023, commencing at 10.30am

Tuhinga/Present: Deputy Chair, Jack Crow

Councillors:

John Blackwell
Joe Carr (*from 11.56am via audio-visual link*)
Geoff Crawford
Peter-Lucas Jones
Amy Macdonald
Marty Robinson (*via audio-visual link*)
Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Financial Advisor (*via audio visual link*)
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity
Human Resources Manager
Finance Manager
Corporate Strategy Manager
Te Reo Translator
Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager
Management Accountant
Financial Accountant
Assistant Management Accountant
Policy Specialist

Secretarial Note:

- *The Deputy Chair presided over the meeting in the absence of the Chair.*
- *The Chair of the meeting opened proceedings at 10.35am with a karakia and acknowledged the significance of the occasion with a Te Reo Translator present for the first time.*
- *Councillor Jones provided a mihi; giving thanks to the Te Reo Translator and noting the importance of speaking Te Reo in a formal context.*

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 1.0)

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

That the apologies from Chair Shortland, for non-attendance, and Councillor Carr, for delayed arrival be received.

Carried

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)

It was advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Receipt of Tabled Report: NRC representation on the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (Item 4.0A)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Crawford)

That as permitted under section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following tabled report be received:

- NRC Representation on the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes - 13 December 2022 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2022 (Item 6.1)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Robinson/Jones)

That the report 'Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2022' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 1 February 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Based on the level of rates collected in the first two quarters of the 2022/23 financial year it was likely that the provision set aside to offset the non-collection of rates would need be larger than what had been budgeted.

Financial Report to 31 January 2023 (Item 6.2)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

That the report 'Financial Report to 31 January 2023' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 15 February 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *At the end of January 2023 council had a year to date surplus which was \$1.55M favourable to budget. This was predominantly due to the salaries variance (\$1.1M), with council actively recruiting for 20 positions at this time.*
- *Given that council had budgeted to use gains from its externally managed funds for budgeted general funding it was proposed that the best approach maybe to re-capitalise council's gains, providing flexibility for council in an extremely volatile period.*
- *It was advised that at the end of December 2022 council had achieved \$1.1M Long Term Fund gains which was below budget. However during the month of January 2023 it had achieved \$1.8M gains on its Long Term Fund; which was now favourable to budget.*
- *Concern was raised regarding the impact of recruiting/retaining staff on council's ability to deliver its work programmes.*
- *Attention was drawn to the importance of the flood works being undertaken in Awanui and Otiria-Moerewa, with both areas badly affected by the recent severe weather. It was advised that discussions were ongoing as to how the shortfall of funding to complete the Otiria-Moerewa works would be met.*

Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Update (Item 7.1)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

1. That the report 'Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Update' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 7 February 2023, be received.
2. That the updated Elected Members Expenses and Allowances Policy (*included as Attachment One to Item 7.1 of the 28 February 2023 council agenda*) be approved.

Carried

Appointment of council Registrar - Pecuniary Interests Register (Item 7.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Appointment of council Registrar - Pecuniary Interests Register' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 13 January 2023, be received.

2. That the NRC Governance Specialist be appointed council's Registrar in accordance with section 54G of the Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022.

Carried

Delegations for Proposed Regional Plan Appeals (Item 7.3)

Report from Michael Payne, Policy Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)

1. That the report 'Delegations for Proposed Regional Plan Appeals' by Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and dated 8 February 2023, be received.
2. That Councillor MacDonald and the Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services be delegated the ability to make decisions on council's behalf for resolving appeals on the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland that are generally aligned with the direction already set by council.

Carried

It was further moved (Macdonald/Crawford)

3. That four councillors be delegated the authority to make decisions on council's behalf for resolving appeals on the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland that are not generally aligned with the direction already set by council:
 1. Councillor Macdonald
 2. Councillor Carr
 3. Councillor Crawford
 4. Councillor Robinson

(Being the members of the Natural Resources Working Party)

4. That a decision made in accordance with the delegation under Resolution (2) and (3), must be unanimous. If not unanimous, then the decision will revert back to council.

Carried

Independent Risk Advisor Recruitment (Item 7.4)

Report from Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Independent Risk Advisor Recruitment' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 21 February 2023, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

2. That council commences recruitment for an Independent Risk Advisor.
3. That Councillors Stolwerk, Jones and Chair Shortland be appointed as the panel to shortlist and interview applicants for the Independent Risk Advisor role and make a recommendation for appointment to council.

Carried

**NRC representation on the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee
(Tabled Item 7.5)**

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'NRC representation on the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 22 February 2023, be received.
2. That Chair Shortland replace Councillor Jones as one of NRC's two members on the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (in conjunction with Councillor Robinson) and Councillor Jones subsequently be appointed NRC's alternate member on the committee.

Carried

Health and safety report (Item 8.1)

Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager

Moved (Jones/Robinson)

That the report 'Health and safety report' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and dated 8 February 2023, be received.

Carried

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.2)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Crawford/Robinson)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 26 January 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Team for their 'superior leadership' and the co-ordinated response during the recent series of severe weather events (the most recent being Cyclone Gabrielle).*
- *The Enviroschools team were commended for continuing to deliver a successful programme.*

- *Consideration to be given to the guidance for councils with regard to the National Adaptation and Emissions Reduction Plan and how this could be applied under the current framework.*
- *The format in which the consent status of Wastewater Treatment Plans was reported to be reviewed; potentially ranking by significance of non-compliance or where kai moana was gathered.*
- *In his absence, Councillor Carr to be briefed regarding the Far North treatment plants with expired consents (Councillor Carr joined the meeting shortly after at 11.56am). Councillor Carr also to be briefed regarding the request for Rural Support to assist with the clearance of storm debris from the Omanaia River.*
- *With regard to the new fishing controls/marine protected areas, it was stressed that the council, being the regulatory authority, would need to ensure there was sufficient resourcing to deliver an effective implementation plan.*
- *An error was identified in the table detailing the breakdown of road fatalities by age group.*

Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2022/23 Year (Item 8.3)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2022/23 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 26 January 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Quarterly reporting to include a high level summary of all measures (as opposed to reporting by exception).

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Jones/Macdonald)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Regional Transport Committee Meeting – 7 February 2023
be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: It was advised that the minutes were 'correct but incomplete' as they did not reflect the Chair's request to confirm the committee's meeting schedule and to discuss roading constituencies or the consideration of future agenda items (taking note of Standing Order 28.2 Matters recorded in minutes).

Working Party Updates and Chairpersons' Briefings (Item 9.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Craw/Macdonald)

That the report 'Working Party Updates and Chairpersons' Briefings' be received.

Carried

Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 10.0)

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

1. That the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider confidential matters.
2. That the general subject of the matters to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to this matter, and the specific grounds under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:

Item No.	Item Issue	Reasons/Grounds
10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 13 December 2022	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.
10.2	Human Resources Report - December/January 2023	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(a).
10.3	Introduction of Greenmount Capital Co-Investment Fund into the Long-Term Investment Fund	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage s7(2)(j).

3. That the Independent Financial Advisor be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 1.14pm with a karakia by Councillor Macdonald.