

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 22 October 2024, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford (*Left the meeting for Item 7.7*)

Deputy Chairperson, Tui Shortland (*Via audio-visual link*)

Councillors:

John Blackwell

Jack Craw

Peter-Lucas Jones (*Via audio-visual link*)

Amy Macdonald

Marty Robinson

Rick Stolwerk (*Left the meeting for Item 7.3*)

Joe Carr

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Risk Advisor

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor (*Via audio-visual link*)

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Pou Taumatua – GM Corporate Services

Group Manager - Community Resilience

Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity

Translator

Kaitatari Kaupapa Wai Māori

Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services

Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services

Finance Manager

Transport Manager

Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager

Compliance Monitoring Manager

Financial Accountant

Personal Assistant to the Chair (*Via audio-visual link*)

Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive (*Via audio-visual link*)

Policy Specialist – Freshwater

Strategic Policy Specialist

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.15am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by the Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

It was noted that Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor, Dee Anne Wolferstan, was an apology.

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.

Confirmation of Council Minutes - 24 September 2024 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 24 September 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Clarification was provided that Standing Orders defined a process for the revocation or alteration of a previous resolution of council, including the requirement to give notice.*
- *'The only topic that may be discussed at a subsequent meeting, with respect to the minutes, is their correctness' (Standing Order 28.3).*

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *An update was provided that council would workshop the implications of not proceeding with a binding referendum for Māori constituencies on 30 October 2024 and the Wairoa Stream and Ahipara wastewater treatment plant on 6 November 2024.*
- *Attention was drawn to the importance of progressing the lower Whangatane spillway works as critical flood mitigation infrastructure that would have a positive impact on Awanui and Kaitāia. The matter to be raised at council's meeting with the Northland MPs the following week.*
- *It was stressed that any key conversations with Ministers should be documented.*

Financial Report to 30 September 2024 (Item 6.1)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Jones/Blackwell)

That the report 'Financial Report to 30 September 2024' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 8 October 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- Assurance was provided that council maintained sufficient funds in term deposits to ensure it could meet its operating costs in the event the markets changed unfavourably.
- It was advised that every reserve had a specific purpose as defined in council's Long Term Plan and any withdrawal from a reserve required a council decision.
- At the end of each financial year council was provided the full budget results and had the opportunity to determine how any surplus was allocated.
- It was an ongoing priority for the organisation to fill vacant roles. Governance would be advised if there was any significant drop in service delivery.
- Clarification was provided that the higher than budgeted grants and subsidies for Predator Free Whangārei was due to phasing of anticipated works.

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

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Robinson/Craw)

1. That the report 'Update to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 30 September 2024, be received.
2. That the updated Elected Members' Allowances Policy (*included as Attachment One pertaining to Item 7.1 of the 22 October 2024 council agenda*) be adopted.
3. That Councillor Blackwell, Councillor Craw and Councillor Jones be appointed to the Members' Expenses and Allowances Panel in accordance with Section 2.8 of the updated Policy.

Secretarial Note: With the approval of the mover and seconder of the motion, and in accordance with Standing Order 23.4 Substituted Motion, an additional forth part was included as follows:

4. That the Members Expenses and Allowance Panel may consider past expense or allowance claims within the current term of council.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

2025 Meeting Calendar (Item 7.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Robinson)

1. That the report '2025 Meeting Calendar' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 1 October 2024, be received.
2. That the programme of meetings for 2025 (*as detailed in Attachment One pertaining to Item 7.2 of the 22 October 2024 council agenda*) be adopted.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- Staff to give consideration to aligning the meetings calendar with the Maramataka.
- Councillor Stolwerk declared a conflict of interest and the left the meeting for the duration of Item 7.3 'Regional Rescue Services Reserve'.

Regional Rescue Services Reserve (Item 7.3)

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

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Regional Rescue Services Reserve' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 19 September 2024, be received.
2. That council resolves to cancel the final two years (2022/23 and 2023/24) allocation of the 2021-2024 Emergency Services Fund to St John Northern Region of \$90,000 per annum.
3. That council resolves to award the final year (2023/24) allocation of the 2021-2024 Emergency Services Fund to Far North Radio and Sea Rescue of \$9,000.

Secretarial Note:

- *There were differing opinions on the matter. It was stressed that the cancellation of funding to St John Northern Region was in no manner reflective of the value the organisation provided the region. St John was in a 'healthy' financial position and it was an opportunity for council to allocate funds across the community to achieve equity. On the other hand it was emphasised that council should honour its funding commitment.*
- *Legal advice confirmed the recommended approach was legitimate.*
- *With the approval of the mover and seconder of the motion, and in accordance with Standing Order 23.3 'Motions expressed in parts', parts 1 and 3 were addressed separately to part 2.*

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Regional Rescue Services Reserve' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 19 September 2024, be received.
3. That council resolves to award the final year (2023/24) allocation of the 2021-2024 Emergency Services Fund to Far North Radio and Sea Rescue of \$9,000.

Carried

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

2. That council resolves to cancel the final two years (2022/23 and 2023/24) allocation of the 2021-2024 Emergency Services Fund to St John Northern Region of \$90,000 per annum.

Carried

(In putting the motion the Chair called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Carr, Craw, Crawford and Macdonald in favour of the motion and Councillors Blackwell, Jones, Robinson and Shortland against. Given an equality of votes the Chairperson subsequently exercised his casting vote (in accordance with Standing Order 19.3 'Chairperson has a casting vote') in favour of the motion).

Secretarial Note:

- *A future council decision would be required to either reallocate the reserve balance of the Regional Rescue Services Reserve to other service providers or use it to offset the Regional Rescue Services Rate in future Annual Plans.*
- *Councillor Stolwerk returned after the conclusion of debate on Item 7.3.*

Request to Transfer Full Local Share to WDC to provide Road Safety Promotion and Education as a shared service across Northland (Item 7.4)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Request to Transfer Full Local Share to WDC to provide Road Safety Promotion and Education as a shared service across Northland' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 3 October 2024, be received.
2. That the Northland Regional Council approve that all funds collected through the Long-Term Plan 2024/2034 for Road Safety Promotion and Education be transferred to Whangarei District Council as part of the shared delivery of this service.

Carried

Proposal to Allocate budget from the Biosecurity Reserve for Freshwater Gold Clam actions (Item 7.5)

Report from Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity

Moved (Craw/Crawford)

1. That the report 'Proposal to Allocate budget from the Biosecurity Reserve for Freshwater Gold Clam actions' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 1 October 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the allocation of up to \$160k from the Biosecurity Pest Incursion reserve to fund preventative actions aimed at excluding freshwater gold clam from entering Lake Taharoa and other waterways in Taitokerau.
3. That future funding of preventative measures aimed at stopping freshwater clam entering Northland be considered as part of Annual and Long-Term Plan processes.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *It was stressed that council must be proactive in this space given the potential impacts of a Gold Clam incursion in Northland.*
- *Given the funding allocation was modest, resources would be concentrated in the Kaipara where the risk was highest. However, 'awareness work' would extend across the region.*
- *Council to workshop the matter as soon as practicable. A request also to be made to include Gold Clam on the next Northland/Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshop agenda which was being hosted by KDC.*

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Proposed Plan Change (Item 7.6)

Report from Alison Newell, Policy Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Carr)

1. That the report 'Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Proposed Plan Change' by Alison Newell, Policy Specialist and dated 8 October 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the commencement of a proposed Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe plan change.
3. That council confirms the draft plan change provisions are to be endorsed by Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board before a council decision in respect of adoption and notification of the proposed plan change is made.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting for the duration of Item 7.7. Cr Crawford was nominated to Chair the meeting during his absence.

Air travel costs to attend the Thailand Familiarisation Trip for New Zealand Business, Media and Influencers (Item 7.7)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Jones/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Air travel costs to attend the Thailand Familiarisation Trip for New Zealand Business, Media and Influencers' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 9 October 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the one off cost of \$2,103.85 for return economy flights and any potential travel insurance costs for the Chair of council to attend the Thailand Familiarisation Trip for Business to take place 5 – 12 November 2024.
3. That any variation in the costs for flights or insurance be delegated to the Deputy Chair and Chief Executive Officer for approval (*in accordance with Section 2.7(b) of the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy*).

Carried

(In putting the motion the Chair called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Crawford, Macdonald, Robinson and Stolwerk in favour of the motion and Councillors Jones and Shortland against).

Secretarial Note:

- *It was stressed that if the Chair (and potentially a representative from Northland Inc. Limited) attended the Familiarisation Trip there must be a return on investment with tangible outcomes for the region.*
- *The matter had been previously raised in Councillor Only Time; which provided an opportunity for elected members to meet and informally canvas matters.*
- *While there were no specific measurable outcomes at the onset, it was noted that relationship building would be key. It was suggested that if council approved the Chair's attendance that it would be beneficial for him to provide a full written report on return outlining the outcomes.*
- *Councillor Crawford returned after the conclusion of debate on Item 7.7.*

Council Submissions Lodged under Delegation - retrospective approval (Item 7.8)

Report from Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Crawford)

1. That the report 'Council Submissions Lodged under Delegation - retrospective approval' by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 14 October 2024, be received.
2. That the council retrospectively approve the attached submission on Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) (Customary Marine Title) Amendment Bill.

Carried

Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathway Plan (Item 7.9)

Report from Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater; Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori

Moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

1. That the report 'Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathway Plan' by Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater and April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori and dated 15 October 2024, be received.
2. That council approves commencement of the review of the 2017 Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathways Plan.
3. That council approves that staff undertake early public consultation in general accordance with the communication and engagement plan.
4. That council approve the release of the discussion document outlining proposed changes to the current pest plan and inclusion of new candidate species (to be circulated prior to council meeting).
5. That the Biosecurity Group Manager has delegation to approve minor amendments to the discussion document and supporting material prior to release.
6. That the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party oversee the development of the draft Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathway Plan 2027-2037 (and supporting material).
7. That once the draft Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathway Plan 2027-2037 (and further supporting material) has been developed, the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party make recommendations to council on next steps including any need for further consultation or supporting evidence and notification of the proposed Pest Plan.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Council supported the proposed approach to undertake the review and appreciation was extended to staff for their 'sound planning'.*
- *The 'design version' of the discussion document was presented to the meeting.*

Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.1)

Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Moved (Blackwell/Stolwerk)

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 7 October 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *There was an expectation that the Chair would continue to provide councillors reports on the outcomes from key engagements.*
- *Councillors had the opportunity to forward any questions on the content of the Chair's report prior to the council meeting.*

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.2)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 30 September 2024, be received.

Carried

Health and Safety report for July to September 2024 quarter (Item 8.3)

Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

That the report 'Health and Safety report for July to September 2024 quarter' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and dated 1 October 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Attention was drawn to the record number of nominations for Health and Safety representatives which positively reflected on the Health and Safety culture of the organisation.*
- *Innovative solutions such as the use of a QR code for incident reporting, a tracking system for staff in the field and safety champions had elevated health and safety awareness.*

People and Culture Quarterly Report (Item 8.4)

Report from Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager

Moved (Craw/Crawford)

That the report 'People and Culture Quarterly Report' by Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and dated 7 October 2024, be received.

Carried

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Stolwerk/Carr)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management – 3 September 2024
- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board - 20 September 2024
- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee - 27 September 2024

be received.

Carried

Working Party Updates (Item 9.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Shortland/Craw)

That the report 'Working Party Updates' be received.

Carried

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

Moved (Carr/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 - 24 September 2024	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	Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes - 24 September 2024	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.
10.3	Sale Price for a Council Held Asset Class	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is

		necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).
10.4	Mid North Water Scheme: Changes to council's investment commitment	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).
10.5	Strategic Projects Update	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h).

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

Carried

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 1.07pm and reconvened at 1.30pm to address business with the public excluded.

Open Meeting

Moved (Blackwell/Carr)

That the council resumes in open meeting.

Carried

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes in Open Meeting

The confidential resolutions confirmed in open meeting were as follows:

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 24 September 2024 (Item 10.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Blackwell/Craw)

That the confidential minutes of the council meeting held on 24 September 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Sale Price for a Council Held Asset Class (Item 10.3)

Report from Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager

Moved (Carr/Craw)

1. That the report 'Sale Price for a Council Held Asset Class' by Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager and dated 7 October 2024, be received.

Carried

Moved (Craw/Crawford)

2. That council's holding of 17,460 Carbon Units with delegation to staff to manage the sale provided the sale price is \$60 per unit or higher.

Carried

(In putting the motion the Chair called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Craw, Crawford, Jones, Macdonald, and Shortland in favour of the motion and Councillors Robinson and Stolwerk against)

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.00pm with a karakia by the Pou Manawhakaere - GM Governance and Engagement.

Unconfirmed Minutes