

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Inaugural Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 5 November 2025, commencing at 10.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Councillors:

John Blackwell
Joe Carr
Jack Craw
Geoff Crawford
John Hunt
Colin Kitchen
Amy Macdonald (*Via audio-visual link*)
Arama Morunga
Pita Tipene

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

All or Part Meeting

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Tātaki GM – Kaipara Moana Remediation (*Via audio-visual link*)
Pou Taumatua – GM Corporate Services
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Strategic Partnerships and Engagement
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Group Manager - Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity
Communications Manager
People and Culture Manager
Marketing and Engagement Manager
Legal Counsel
Principal Advisor
Media Specialist
Corporate Planning Specialist
Emergency Management Response Specialist
Emergency Management Recovery Support Advisor
Emergency Management – Iwi Engagement Advisor
Kai Arahi Tikanga Māori
Kaihāpai Kaupapa Māori
Digital Experience Support
Te Tiriti Partnerships & Engagement Support Administration
Governance Specialist

Secretarial Note: The Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer (who was presiding over the meeting until the election of the Chairperson of council) declared the meeting open at 10.30am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by Councillor Morunga. The Chief Executive then welcomed newly elected members and all attendees.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 1.0)

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

Announcement of the results of Triennial Elections 2025 (Item 5.1)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

The Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer announced the names of the successful candidates of the 2025 Triennial Elections by constituency.

Declaration by councillors (Item 5.2)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Secretarial Note:

- *The Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the significance of the swearing in ceremony and commended elected members for 'stepping up to represent the region'.*
- *The Chief Executive then invited each councillor (in alphabetical order by surname) to read the declaration out loud and sign the declaration document. The Chief Executive Officer witnessed the declarations of the councillors that were in attendance in person with his signature.*
- *Councillor Macdonald was in attendance via audio-visual link. The Pou Tataki witnessed Councillor Macdonald's declaration in person from her remote location (in accordance with the appointment by the Chief Executive Officer for the purposes of clause 14(2)(e) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002).*
- *Councillors Macdonald, Morunga and Tipene executed their declarations in both Te Reo and English.*

Election of Chairperson (Item 5.3)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Carr/Kitchen)

1. That the report 'Election of Chairperson' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 11 October 2025, be received.
2. That in the event more than one nomination for Chairperson is received, "System A" as specified in Clause 25 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act be used for the election of the Chairperson.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for election to the office of Chairperson.

Moved (Craw/Morunga)

- 3a. That Councillor Tipene be nominated Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.

It was further moved (Blackwell/Hunt)

3b. That Councillor Crawford be nominated Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.

Secretarial Note:

- *Councillors Tipene and Crawford accepted the nomination for the office of Chairperson.*
- *The Chief Executive Officer called for an expression of opinion by show of hands; the result being:*
 - *Councillors Craw, Kitchen, Macdonald, Morunga and Tipene voting in favour of Councillor Tipene to be elected Chairperson;*
 - *Councillors Blackwell, Crawford and Hunt voting in favour of Councillor Crawford to be elected Chairperson; and*
 - *Councillor Carr abstained from voting.*
- *The Chief Executive Officer declared Councillor Tipene to be elected the Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.*
- *The newly elected Chairperson was acknowledged by a round of applause and waiata.*

Declaration by Chairperson (Item 5.4)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Kitchen/Hunt)

That the report 'Declaration by Chairperson' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 11 October 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *The Chief Executive Officer invited the newly elected Chairperson, Pita Tipene, to make and sign the declaration to enable him to carry out his duties as Chair; as required by law. The Chair executed his declaration in both Te Reo and English. The Chief Executive Officer then witnessed the declaration with his signature.*
- *The newly elected Chair then presided over the remainder of the inaugural council meeting.*

Election of Deputy Chairperson (Item 5.5)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Blackwell/Crawford)

1. That the report 'Election of Deputy Chairperson' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 11 October 2025, be received.
2. That in the event more than one nomination for the Deputy Chairperson is received, System A as specified in Clause 25 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act be used for the election of the Deputy Chairperson.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Chair called for nominations for election to the office of Deputy Chair.

Moved (Macdonald/Morunga)

- 2a. That Councillor Craw be nominated Deputy Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.

It was further moved (Hunt/Blackwell)

- 2b. That Councillor Crawford be nominated Deputy Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.

Moved (Blackwell/Kitchen)

- 2c. That Councillor Carr be nominated Deputy Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.

Secretarial Note:

- *It was advised that a mover and seconder could only move or second one councillor for the role of Deputy Chairperson.*
- *Councillor Blackwell confirmed his intention to move the nomination for Councillor Carr as Deputy Chairperson and hence withdrew as seconder of the nomination for Councillor Crawford.*
- *The Chair approved Councillor Kitchen's request to withdraw as seconder of the nomination for Councillor Carr as Deputy Chairperson (in accordance with Standing Order 14.4 'Chairperson's rulings').*
- *The Chair called for a seconder for the nomination of Councillor Crawford as Deputy Chairperson. There was no seconder forthcoming so the nomination lapsed.*
- *The Chair called for a seconder for the nomination of Councillor Carr as Deputy Chairperson. The Chair approved Councillor Hunt as seconder of the nomination; given his previous nomination for Councillor Crawford had lapsed for lack of a seconder (in accordance with Standing Order 14.4 'Chairperson's rulings').*

The confirmed nominations for the Deputy Chair of the Northland Regional Council were as follows:

Moved (Macdonald/Morunga)

- 2a. That Councillor Craw be nominated Deputy Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.

Moved (Blackwell/Hunt)

- 2b. That Councillor Carr be nominated Deputy Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.

Secretarial Note:

- *The Chair called for an expression of opinion by show of hands; the result being:*
 - *Councillors Craw, Kitchen, Macdonald and Morunga voting in favour of Councillor Craw to be elected Deputy Chairperson; and*
 - *Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Crawford and Hunt voting in favour of Councillor Carr to be elected Deputy Chairperson.*
- *Given there was an equality of votes the Chairperson applied his casting vote (in accordance with Standing Order 19.3 'Chair person has a casting vote'), voting in favour of Councillor Craw.*

- *The Chair declared Councillor Crawford to be elected the Deputy Chairperson of the Northland Regional Council.*
- *The newly elected Deputy Chairperson was acknowledged by a round of applause.*

Legislation affecting councillors (Item 5.6)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

That the report 'Legislation affecting councillors' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 11 October 2025, be received.

Carried

Fixing the date of the first ordinary meeting of council (Item 5.7)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Fixing the date of the first ordinary meeting of council' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 21 October 2025, be received.
2. That the ordinary meetings of the Northland Regional Council for the remainder of the 2025 be held at the council offices, 36 Water Street, Whangārei on Tuesday 25 November 2025 and Wednesday 17 December 2025 commencing at 10.00am.
3. That a full meeting schedule (including the meeting dates of council's subordinate bodies) be presented to council for its consideration once the governance structure has been confirmed.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Councillor Crawford tendered his apology for the 25 November 2025 council meeting.*
- *In closing the inaugural meeting the Chairperson stressed the importance of council being a team and working together to build trust for Northland. The Chair also paid tribute to the work of the previous Chair of council.*

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 10.46am with a karakia by Councillor Morunga.