

## Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Wednesday 26 April 2023, commencing at 10.30am

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Tui Shortland

Councillors:

John Blackwell

Joe Carr

Jack Craw

Geoff Crawford

Peter-Lucas Jones

Amy Macdonald

Rick Stolwerk (*via audio visual link*)

Marty Robinson

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

Independent Financial Advisor

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services

Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services

Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity

Pou Tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience

Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services

Translator

Governance Specialist

#### Part Meeting

Human Resources Manager

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.37am and proceedings commenced with the Tauāki ā roto by full council.

### Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

### 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 Minutes - 28 March 2023 (Item 5.1)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

**Moved (Jones/Macdonald)**

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 28 March 2023, 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 (Robinson/Blackwell)**

That the action sheet be received.

**Carried**

## **Financial Report to 31 March 2023 (Item 6.1)**

**Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant**

**Moved (Carr/Macdonald)**

That the report 'Financial Report to 31 March 2023' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 13 April 2023, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *During the month of March council's managed funds had experienced a loss of \$99k which had a \$15k impact on the net surplus after transfers from/to reserves (reducing from \$993k to \$978k).*
- *Higher than budgeted pilotage fees were a result of cruise ships ceasing during Covid-19 and being an unknown quantum. However, revised pilotage fees would be built into the budgets going forward.*
- *Attention was drawn to the unfavourable expenditure relating to IT and the Enterprise System; noting that 'one of the highest risks and major area of concern' for councils was investment in new IT platforms.*
- *Concern was raised that the current financial climate could lead to an increase in rate arrears. In response it was advised that whilst council must remain vigilant to any emerging trends it had no net debt and a bigger 'buffer' than many other councils.*
- *Assurance was provided that although the flood protection works in Otiria-Moerewa and Awanui had been delayed they were progressing in line with the revised timeframes.*

## **Oversight of Environment Fund Grants (Item 7.1)**

**Report from Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao**

**Moved (Craw/Jones)**

1. That the report 'Oversight of Environment Fund Grants' by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and dated 5 April 2023, be received.

2. That council confirm the sighting or review of any grant fund applications by the Chair of the Northland Regional Council is not required.
3. That the decision to grant Environment Fund applications is required by full council under the following circumstances:
  - a. Projects that exceed the following financial thresholds:
    - i. \$40,000 maximum for any single year allocation.
    - ii. \$20,000 maximum per year for any multi- year allocation
  - b. Any Environment Fund projects that are outside the ambit of those activities that have already been agreed upon by council and form part of the standard criteria for grant funding.
4. That the information contained in Northland Regionals Council's Grant Fund Register is made publicly available via the council website in accordance with the requirements of the most up to date version of the Northland Regional Council Grant Funding Policy.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *The Environment Fund was currently the only grant that required sign off by the Chair and the recommendations in the report were for 'a more refined and efficient process.' A further report would be presented to council in due course seeking a more consistent approach to council's grants.*
- *It was stressed that staff must make sure there were safeguards in the process to ensure transparency and independence of grant fund approvals.*
- *Consideration to be given to annual reporting or mapping where council funding had been allocated.*
- *Elected members to be provided the criteria for Environmental Fund grants (for information only).*

## **Health and safety report (Item 8.1)**

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

**Moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)**

That the report 'Health and safety report' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and dated 5 April 2023, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Council to be kept up to date with the review being undertaken on the procedures for firearm usage by staff and contractors.*

## **Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.2)**

**Report from Tui Shortland, Chair**

**Moved (Shortland/Jones)**

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Tui Shortland, Chair and dated 11 April 2023, be received.

**Carried**

## Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.3)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Carr/Craw)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 14 March 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *The cost to develop the High-Resolution Digital Network model for Northland to be provided to elected members.*
- *Appreciation was extended to the CDEM team for its response and recovery work in relation to Cyclone Gabrielle. The performance and flexibility of the maritime team was also acknowledged, noting that the team dealt with a range of issues across the organisation.*
- *It was stressed that council must be vigilant of the sensitivities relating to data sovereignty when collecting and managing data.*
- *Assurance was provided that council was actively working with district councils and Entity A regarding wastewater treatment plant, water supply and stormwater resource consent and compliance status.*

## Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Shortland/Robinson)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee - 10 March 2023
- be received.

Carried

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

Moved (Robinson/Craw)

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 - 28 March 2023	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 - March 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).
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3. That the Independent Financial Advisor be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded.

**Carried**

### **Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

**The meeting concluded at 12.38pm with a karakia by Councillor Jones.**

Confirmed as a true and correct record 23 May 2023



Chair Tui Shortland