

*Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chambers,
Waipa District Council offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Monday 8
October 2007 commencing at 9.00am*

1 PRESENT

Councillor AJH Empson - Chairperson

Members

His Worship the Mayor AD Livingston; Councillors – EH Barnes, RJ Cooper, GC Flay, GH Jull, PL Lee (from 9.05am), EC Newlands, GG Scaramuzza, DL Sharpe (from 9.09am), BJ Taranaki, BS Thomas, GRP Webber and Committee Member V Ingley

Staff

Chief Executive (JC Inglis), Group Manager Policy & Strategy (R McNeil), Group Manager Engineering & Utilities (J Kerr), Secretary (G Taumanu)

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

2/07/120

That the apology for absence from Cr Jull be received.

Cr Cooper/Cr Barnes

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-12

RESOLVED

2/07/121

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Cr Taranaki/Cr Newlands

5 VISITORS

Nil.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-12

Minutes of Policy Committee meeting held on 10 September 2007 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

2/07/122

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 10 September 2007 be received.

Cr Webber/Cr Thomas

Matters Arising -

6.1 Cambridge Traffic Study

The Chief Executive advised that a request to include more realistic figures for growth has been made to the Consultants. They will incorporate the revised growth figures in their five year growth projections, but advise that Transit will only acknowledge the figures from Statistics New Zealand, and will use the 2006 Statistics figure for their base.

6.2 Enforcing the Two New Bylaws

In an effort to be more vigilant in policing Council's bylaws with regard to signage and parking, it was suggested that an update report on infringements notices issued be given quarterly, and to be included in Word on Waipa.

RESOLVED

2/07/123

That reports on infringement notices issued in breach of bylaws be prepared on a quarterly basis for Council information, and included in the Word on Waipa.

Mayor Livingston/Cr Newlands

6.3 Road Naming Policy

Cr Barnes suggested that if there is a desire in the community to have Maori road names, there is a need to have them included on the register, otherwise they will never be considered.

The Chief Executive advised that Nga Iwi Toopu o Waipa would be advised of proposed new roads as part of the process for Council notifying them of applications for subdivision consent. He said that this would give them the opportunity to consider possible road names at the start of the process.

RESOLVED

2/07/124

That Council advise Nga Iwi Toopu o Waipa of the areas that have been identified for future development, including those that are currently under way, and they be asked to consider and submit any names specific to that geographical area.

Cr Newlands/Committee Member Ingley

6.4 Process of Naming Roads

Developers will be provided with a list of potential road names at the time they submit their application for resource consent. It is up to developers to determine whether they wish to use a name on the list or submit names of their choosing for consideration. Council has the final decision for naming roads.

Cr Barnes said with any new roads in Kihikihi she believed there was a certain amount of concern about naming roads after militia or parliamentarians, and no Maori names have been included.

7 UPDATE OF REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S BYLAWS

File: 45-02-08

The Committee were advised that to date 13 new bylaws have been made, with the consequential revocation of 20 old bylaws. To date there are three Bylaws still to be reviewed and these will be complete by mid 2008.

RESOLVED

2/07/125

That the information be received.

Cr Taranaki/Cr Cooper

8 ROAD CONTROL POLICY

File: 55-23-02

Report of the Group Manager - Policy & Strategy was included in the agenda.

Prior to 2005 the Transport Act and associated regulations prescribed how parking restrictions and intersection controls were managed. In 2005 the legislation was replaced with a more flexible framework, key elements of which are a Land Transport Rule covering Traffic Control Devices and safety management systems which guide decision-making through standards and process.

The proposed Road Control Policy sets out Council's position and commitment in relation to road safety, parking controls and other roading matters. The Policy will provide guidance on the development of a safety management system and a consistent approach to the establishment of parking restrictions.

The implementation of the new management regime provides Council with the opportunity to reconfirm existing signs and controls as being established in accordance with the pre-2005 legislative requirements. The registers of intersection and parking signs/controls establish a base-line from which future road control and safety improvements can be advanced.

Register of Parking Restrictions

Council has adopted a bylaw which provides broad powers to the Engineer in relation to establishing parking controls. The proposed Policy provides a framework whereby staff with the appropriate delegated authority can establish restrictions in accordance with Council's general requirements.

Speed Limits

Cr Barnes commented that she did not see any reference to traffic having to slow down in a school area.

The process for reviewing speed limits is set out in a rule under the Land Transport Act. But in adopting the proposed Policy, Council will make its intentions clear that it seeks the lowest practicable speed limit in the vicinity of schools.

Mayor Livingston asked when the review of our speed limited is to be completed, given there are some rural schools where the speed limit is 100kph.

A survey of speed levels around schools has been undertaken by consultants, and the results discussed with staff, police and rural schools. Council can not set the speed limit without consulting with and gaining the approval of Land Transport New Zealand and the Police. Staff will be working with these agencies to promote reductions in these speed limits.

Directional Signs

Directional signage is covered by the Land Transport Rule. Council's policy on road signs provides guidance on tourist signs on road reserves, but these must meet national standards and be funded by the tourist operation seeking them.

Cr Sharpe commented that Ohaupo Ratepayers Association had requested a sign welcoming travellers to Ohaupo, and asked if that request came through Council.

RESOLVED

2/07/126

That staff follow up the request from Ohaupo Ratepayers Association for welcome to Ohaupo signs to be put up as part of the 50k or 70k signage within the township.

Cr Sharpe/Cr Taranaki

It was noted that this request was made of Transit New Zealand 18 months ago and declined, although Transit did erect standards signs with 'Ohaupo' at the 70kph zones.

The Chief Executive noted that the proposed policy provisions relating to the hours when parking restrictions would apply are contrary to the Council's Traffic Control Bylaw, and that these should be removed from the proposed Policy but subject to a future report. In the interim the provision of the Bylaw would continue to apply

RESOLVED

2/07/127

That paragraph 3 of the parking restriction section (relating to hours when parking restrictions would apply) of the proposed policy be deleted, and the amended proposed Policy be recommended to Council for adoption.

Cr Barnes/Cr Lee

RESOLVED

2/07/128

That the policy be reviewed in 12 months to evaluate how well it is working, with a further review period to be set at that time.

Cr Scaramuzza/Cr Webber

9 PEAT LAKES MANAGEMENT PLAN

File: 50-01-07

Report of the Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves Planning was included in the agenda.

The proposed draft Peat Lakes Management Plan was presented for consideration and approval to commence the consultative process required by the Reserves Act 1997.

The proposed draft Plan covers all peat lakes and associated reserve areas administered by Council. The Plan does not cover Lake Ngaroto and adjoining Council-administered land as a separate reserve management plan will apply.

Amendments to the Proposed Plan

Cr Sharpe said there was a resolution passed that Lake Cameron should be referred to as Lake Kareatohi with Cameron in brackets.

Rukuhia needs to be spelt correctly throughout the report

Page 122, Part Two under Location and Access, Tuhikaramea needs to be removed.

Page 123, Water Levels, paragraph 3 (J Krippner) name to be corrected.

P94 No. 7.0 – Existing Management and Management Issues – to read: “Day to day management of Reserved land is the responsibility of Council’s Recreation Department. Other Council administered land, which is often leased to an adjoining land owner, is managed by Council’s Parks and Reserves Department, often for a commercial return.”

RESOLVED

2/07/129

That -

- a) The report of the Project Manager Heritage Development and Reserves Planning be received.*
- b) The “Draft Plan for the Management of Peat Lakes and Associated Reserves administered by the Waipa District Council” subject to the amendments noted, be released for public comment in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.*
- c) The submission period commence on Friday 12 October 2007, with submissions closing at 5.00pm on Monday 10 December 2007.*

Cr Thomas/Cr Flay

10 TAINUI: CLAIM ON WAIKATO RIVERBED AND COUNCIL SUBMISSION

File: 85-32-05

Draft Submission was included in the agenda.

The use of the word “legitimate” in the third paragraph, relating to Waikato-Tainui’s claim to the river, was considered inappropriate as Council had no way of determining the legitimacy of the claim, and that was a matter for the Crown to determine

RESOLVED

2/07/130

That the word “legitimate” be removed from the submission to the office of Treaty Settlements.

Cr Newlands/Cr Lee

RESOLVED

2/07/131

That the last sentence in the second paragraph on the second page of the submission be amended to read: “Council supports the inclusion of representatives from local communities, including landowners, on the proposed Waikato River Statutory Board.”

Cr Webber/Cr Cooper

RESOLVED

2/07/132

That the submission be sent to the Office of Treaty settlements following amendment as resolved.

Mayor Livingston/Cr Flay

11 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

File: 01-37-01

(Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987)

RESOLVED

2/07/133

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	Minutes/Report of:	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
12	Chief Executive	Emergency Work on Stormwater Easement	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(g)
13	Group Manager – Finance	Rates Remission Policy	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 48(1)(f)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item No		
12	Maintain legal professional privilege	Section 7(2) (g)
13	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through (ii) the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment	Section 7(2)(f)(ii)

Cr Cooper/Cr Flay

12 EMERGENCY WORK ON STORMWATER EASEMENT

This item was taken with the public excluded.

13 RATES REMISSION POLICY

This item was taken with the public excluded. The public were readmitted at 12.23pm.

14 TRIBUTE

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mayor Livingston made special tribute to retiring Chairperson Alan Empson. He congratulated Alan on being a Councillor and Community Board member for five terms (15 years), Chairperson of the Policy Committee for four terms (12 years) and his commitment and dedication. Mayor Livingston said that not only was he dedicated in his length of service but the quality of his service and Leadership saw him to be a wise and highly regarded counsel with much respect.

Mayor Livingston thanked Alan's family and said that on behalf of Council and the Community for his contribution and the unselfish support of the family which was essential to allowing Alan time to give to the Community. He wished them well for the future and presented Alan with a gift.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45pm

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CHAIRPERSON: _____

DATE: _____