

*Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chambers, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 commencing at 10.01am.*

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**1 PRESENT**

Councillor GH Jull - Chairperson

**Members**

His Worship the Mayor AD Livingston; Councillors – EH Barnes, MEH Cox, LWE Hoverd, PL Lee, GG Scaramuzza, DL Sharpe, GW Simmons, BJ Taranaki, BS Thomas, GRP Webber.

**Public**

There were no members of the public present.

**Others**

Chief Executive, J Inglis; Group Manager – Engineering Service Delivery, J Kerr; Group Manager - Infrastructure Management & Planning, J Mills; Group Manager – Finance & Corporate Services, S Kew; Strategic Planning Manager, G Knighton; Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning, T Roxburgh; Council's Consultant, M Chrisp; Committee Secretary, S King.

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**2 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures.

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**3 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

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**4 LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items.

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**5 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING**

File: 01-85-12

**RESOLVED**

2/09/30

*That the order of the meeting be confirmed, with Item 9 taken at 12 noon.*

Councillor Sharpe / Councillor Taranaki

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**6 VISITORS**

Representatives from Environment Waikato, Chris McLay & Councillor Andra Neeley attended the meeting at 12 noon and presented their 10-year Plan to Council.

## **7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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File: 01-85-12

**Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 10 March 2009 were included in the agenda.**

### **RESOLVED**

2/09/31

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 10 March 2009 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.*

Councillor Scaramuzza / Councillor Webber

## **8 KIHIKIHI RECREATION RESERVE: REVIEW OF THE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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File: 04-03-03

**Report of Council's Consultant Planners dated 26 March 2009 is included in the agenda.**

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning said that once the Committee approve the draft strategic plan and the draft management plan advertising will commence seeking public comment & submissions. He also said that the management plan can only include the existing reserve whilst the strategic plan looks beyond the existing reserve boundaries and allows Council to pursue with the adjoining landowners an agreement to secure the use of their land for major equestrian events. He further said that there were a number of mechanisms available that would enable Council to include the use of adjoining land with its own use of the Domain. He said that the plan foreshadows that some relationship will exist between the adjoining landowners and Council but no details were provided as the nature of that relationship is uncertain at this time.

Council's Consultant said that the draft plans were compiled on the basis that retention of the character of the area and recognition of all existing uses underpin the documents. He said an area of confusion relates to the conflicting signage and suggested that Council finalise the reserve's name and ensure that all signage is consistent. In response to a question, he said that naming rights could be considered for the reserve as a fund raising activity.

Council's Consultant also said that the prospect of relocating the speedway had been considered but that it would be a multi-million dollar project. He said that the speedway was included in the draft plans as it is part of the current environment and that there is potential to mitigate the noise effects through bunds and plantings. In response to a question, he said that notification of the speedway was included in the LIM report for properties in the area.

**RESOLVED**

2/09/33

*That*

- a) The report of the Consultant Planners dated 26 March 2009 be received;*
- b) The proposed draft Strategic Plan and Reserve Management Plan for Kihikihi Recreation Reserve be approved for release for public comment in accordance with provisions of the Reserves Act 1977; and,*
- c) The draft Plan be available for public comment from 20 April to 22 June 2009.*

Mayor Livingston / Councillor Scaramuzza

Mayor Livingston said that consideration should be given as to what extent Council should become involved in promoting use of the Domain through Council's Communications, Business Development and Promotions Department.

**RESOLVED**

2/09/32

*That a briefing paper be prepare and a workshop be held on the recently formed Communications, Business Development & Promotions Department.*

Councillor Cox / Councillor Lee

The meeting adjourned for the morning tea break at 11.02am and reconvened at 12 noon.

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**9 ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO**

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File: 01-69-04

Environment Waikato (EW) Councillor, A Neeley & EW Group Manager – Special Projects, C McLay presented Environment Waikato's (EW) 10-year Plan (LTCCP).

Mayor Livingston said that 'Clean Streams' is a visually successful project and the decision to stop is inconsistent with the view of Waikato people that environmental enhancement is a priority matter. EW's Group Manager – Special Projects said that this programme was funded from the investment fund which was not performing to the same levels as previously and that a decision had been made that industries should be driving this initiative. In response to a question, EW's Councillor said that the rules of the Plan do not enforce a level of riparian management.

EW's Group Manager – Special Projects said that the submission form included a section relating to the provision of \$300,000 for the Maungatautari Ecological Island project. EW's Councillor said that support for the project would come at the expense of other projects and that with the reorganisation of the natural heritage category there is increasing competition for a decreasing level of funds. EW's Group Manager – Special Projects said that feedback was also being sought on EW's collection of a levy on behalf of the Animal Health Board (AHB) for regional vector control. In response to a question, he said that AHB are reviewing their work and that there may be an opportunity to submit to that Board.

In response to a request, EW's Councillor updated Council on the implications of the Auckland super council and boundary readjustment decision. She said that this decision would break the catchment management principles and that it would impact on EW's ability to deliver on the Treaty settlement. She further said that a big impact on rating would see approximately \$2.5m of existing rates removed and that in return EW would get approximately \$200,000 in new rates but also two expensive regional parks.

The meeting adjourned for the lunch break at 12.49pm and reconvened at 2.36pm.

**RESOLVED**

2/09/34

*That the information be received.*

Councillor Webber / Councillor Barnes

Strategic Planning Manager requested confirmation of any aspects that Council would like to submit on. Councillor Jull said that the cuts are in the environment field and that as Environment Waikato the cut backs should be in areas that are not core business. Councillor Sharpe said that instead of the 4 hectare minimum for the AHB levy that the size should be reduced to 1 hectare in line with Council's District Plan. Mayor Livingston said that EW's rating valuation is struck over a three year period which is not equitable and requires a valuation index adjustment to ensure consistency through the entire EW area.

Councillor Scaramuzza left the meeting at 2.43pm. Councillor Webber left the meeting at 2.46pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.47pm.

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD**

**CHAIRPERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_