

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chambers, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Tuesday 8th September 2009 commencing at 9.02am.

1 PRESENT

Councillor GH Jull - Chairperson

Members

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

Public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Staff

Chief Executive, G Dyet; Environmental Safety Manager, J McFarlane [for item 8]; Animal Control Officer, H McLean [for item 8]; Animal Control Officer, V Byford [for item 8]; Civil Defence Officer, C Davis; Governance Support Manager, C Shaw; Committee Secretary, S King.

2 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no disclosures.

3 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

2/09/84

That the apologies for non attendance received from Councillors Newlands and Thomas be received.

Councillor Webber / Councillor Hoverd

4 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

5 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

File: 01-85-12

RESOLVED

2/09/85

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Councillor Taranaki / Councillor Scaramuzza

6 VISITORS

There were no visitors.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 01-85-12

Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 14 July 2009 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

2/09/86

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 14 July 2009 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Councillor Webber / Councillor Barnes

8 PROPOSED WAIPA DISTRICT DOG CONTROL POLICY 2009 AND THE PROPOSED WAIPA DISTRICT DOG CONTROL BYLAW 2009

File: 33-15-17

Report of Environmental Safety Manager dated 12 August 2009 was included in the agenda.

Environmental Safety Manager, J McFarlane outlined the report and presented the results of a recent survey of dog owners.

In response to a question she confirmed that staff monitor all requirements under the Act during registration, including the 1 hectare provision relating to the maximum number of dogs permitted. A permit can be issued for three years, costing \$25, to allow owners to have more than the maximum allowed. Clarification was sought as to why all schools were not prohibited dog areas. She said that as they are not Council-owned property each School has the right to choose. As a matter of process, all schools will be contacted to inform them of their choice and any changes will be updated on the dog exercise area schedule.

She said there are no plans to fence the dog exercise areas at this time, partially due to budget constraints but also to avoid creating a false sense of security. Dog registration fees have been increasing annually with the early payment discounts popular with dog owners. The Chief Executive said the rationale for the current level of fees and charges was ensuring the significant level of impounding and disposal for unregistered dogs, which has a public benefit, was not just imposed on all dog owners.

Councillor Webber raised concerns about the proposed extension on Addison Street, Cambridge where dogs are encouraged to roam free but often are not re-leashed at the cemetery grounds. Environmental Safety Manager said increased signage and green dog bins could be installed.

Clarification was sought as to the classification of a menacing dog. She said restrictions in legislation meant dogs were classified as menacing due to breed rather than behaviour and this applied to most of the 40 classified dogs within the district.

RESOLVED

2/09/87

That:

- a) *The report of the Environmental Safety Manager dated 12 August 2009 be received;*
- b) *The Policy Committee approve the release of the Statement of Proposal (Proposed Waipa District Dog Control Policy 2009 and Waipa District Dog Control bylaw 2009) and Summary of Information for public submissions on 15 September 2009 in accordance with Sections 10, 10AAA and 20 of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the special consultative procedure set out in Sections 83 and 86 of the Local Government Act 2002;*
- c) *Submissions on the Statement of Proposal be received from the public until 5pm on Friday 16 October 2009; and,*
- d) *Submissions be considered and if requested, heard by the Policy Committee at a meeting to be held in Te Awamutu on 10 November 2009.*

Councillor Sharpe / Councillor Hoverd

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

REVIEW OF WAIPA DISTRICT DOG CONTROL POLICY AND WAIPA DISTRICT DOG CONTROL BYLAW

Prepared pursuant to sections 10, 10A and 10 AA and 20 Dog Control Act 1996 and sections 83,86, and 89 of the Local Government Act 2002.

This is a proposal to review the Waipa District Dog Control Policy 2004 and Waipa District Dog Control Bylaw 2004 and thereby revoke the Waipa District Dog Control Bylaw 2004 and make the Waipa District Dog Control Policy 2009 and the Waipa District Dog Control Bylaw 2009 at a meeting of the Waipa District Council to be held in Te Awamutu on 30 November 2009 commencing at 9.00am. The Policy and Bylaw must be reviewed in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 which requires the preparation of a Statement of Proposal, including a summary of the information contained in the Statement of Proposal. The proposed Waipa

District Dog Control Policy 2009 and proposed Waipa District Dog Control Bylaw 2009 form part of the Statement of Proposal as does the report to Council dated 12 August 2009 prepared by Council's Environmental Safety Manager. The report explains that the Bylaw is due for review under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Dog Control Act 1996 requires a territorial authority to review its existing dog control policy, if reviewing the bylaw.

A Summary of the information contained in the Statement of Proposal is detailed below and will be published in the Te Awamutu Courier and Cambridge Edition newspapers during September 2009.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Amendments are proposed to both the Waipa District Dog Control Policy and the Waipa District Dog Control Bylaw. The areas prohibited to dogs remain the same, apart from the removal of Bulmer's Landing, Lake Arapuni. Additional exercise areas have been added in Cambridge: the walkway in the greenbelt from Thornton Road to Watkins Road, the river walkway along Dominion Avenue, the polo grounds in Lamb Street (when not in use) and the walkway from Addison Street to Wordsworth Street and area adjacent to the cemetery. These areas replace the road berm areas along Vogel and Taylor Streets, and the area adjacent to the Leamington sports grounds at the corner of Carlyle and Wordsworth Streets which areas will no longer be dog exercise areas. In Te Awamutu, the rear area of the Sculpture Park is proposed as a dog exercise area, and the areas known as Greenough Crescent Reserve, Te Rahu Road Reserve, Douglas Avenue Reserve and Bryce Street/Hall Street corner, Kihikihi have been removed as dog exercise areas and will become dog on lead areas. A river walkway has been added as a dog exercise area in Pirongia, with the following areas removed: the toll rail lease area adjacent to Kahikatea Park, Ohaupo, Arapuni Landing, Lake Arapuni and Judd Lane, Maungatautari Road.

In the Policy, the Fees and Charges and Education sections have been updated to reflect current fees and discounts. Also the section on Menacing Dogs continues to require menacing dogs to be neutered but has been amended to reflect the requirements in the Dog Control Act 1996.

SUBMISSIONS

It is proposed to release the draft amended bylaw for submissions on Tuesday 15 September 2009. Submissions must be in writing, and will close at 5.00pm on Friday 16 October 2009. Council will acknowledge in writing each submission received. It is proposed that submissions will be heard by the Policy Committee of Council at the meeting to be held in Te Awamutu on 10 November 2009 commencing at 9.00am. Submitters wishing to be heard in support of their submission must clearly state this in their submission. All submitters wishing to be heard will be given notice of the hearing time.

Availability: Copies of the Statement of Proposal and Summary of Information and submission forms will be available from: -

Te Awamutu	Council Offices, Bank Street, Te Awamutu (07 872 0030) Council Library, Roche Street, Te Awamutu
Cambridge	Council Offices Wilson Street, Cambridge (07 823 3800) Council Library, Wilson Street, Cambridge Freephone 0800 924 723

Submissions can be made as follows:

- 1) by mail to Waipa District Council, Private Bag 2402, Te Awamutu 2400
- 2) by email to jennie.mcfarlane@waipadc.govt.nz
- 3) by fax to (07) 872 0033
- 4) delivery to Waipa District Council offices, Bank Street, Te Awamutu or Wilson Street, Cambridge.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE MARKED WITH FILE REFERENCE 33-15-17

9 WAIPA RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY – RURAL FIRE PLAN

File: 55-40-01

Report of Principal Fire Officer dated 31 August 2009 was included in the agenda.

The Civil Defence Officer, C Davis said the Rural Fire Authority Plan (the Plan) included areas other than urban, Department of Conservation and margin areas. The Plan was adopted by Council in 2005 and a second review of 'Readiness' and 'Response' sections was underway.

He explained how Section 15 agreements, the National Rural Fire Authority and Pirongia Rural Fighting force interact. The Chief Executive said the biggest threat in Waipa was peat fires. He said Council, under the Fire Control Bylaw 2007, ensure sections with excessive vegetation are served a notice of fire hazard but that this was predominately in urban areas.

Councillor Lee queried the fire fighting plan/service for Maungatautari and volunteers' limited availability for major fires while Mayor Livingston spoke on the duplication of services with resulting areas of uncertainty around responsibility.

RESOLVED

2/09/88

That -

- a) *The report of the Principal Rural Fire Officer dated 31 August 2009 be received; and,*
- b) *Council approve Part 2 Readiness and Part 3 Response of the Waipa Rural Fire Authority Rural Fire Plan.*

Councillor Lee / Mayor Livingston

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20am.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD

CHAIRPERSON

DATE:

Completed and dispatched: 8 September 2009.