

Community and Natural Environment Committee

Te Komiti Haapori me te Oranga o te Taiao

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Natural Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber and via Audio-Visual Link, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 9:30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf
Heamana
Deputy Chairperson Cr Anna Casey-Cox (via audio-visual)
Heamana Tuarua

Members
Mayor Paula Southgate
Cr Andrew Bydder (via audio-visual)
Cr Mark Donovan
Cr Louise Hutt
Cr Tim Macindoe
Cr Maxine van Oosten (via audio-visual)
Cr Emma Pike (via audio-visual)
Cr Sarah Thomson
Cr Ewan Wilson
Maangai Olly Te Ua

M Noor of the Waikato Muslim Association opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Apologies – *Tono aroha*

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Hutt)

That the apologies for absence from Deputy Mayor O’Leary, Cr Taylor and Cr Tauariki; for partial attendance from Cr Hutt and Cr Casey-Cox and lateness from Mayor Southgate are accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Hutt)

That the agenda is confirmed noting that the late report Item 11 (West Town Belt Development Project Update) is accepted. This report is unable to wait until a future meeting of the committee as there are works that require additional budget allocation to safely resolve in a timely manner.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga*

Councillor Hutt declared an interest in Item 8 (Papa Ahuareka O Kirikiriroa Hamilton Open Spaces Strategy Update). She noted that she was not conflicted and would take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.

4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

No members of public wished to speak in the Public Forum.

5. Confirmation of the Open Community and Natural Environment Committee Open Minutes - 9 April 2024

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Hutt)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Community Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2024 as a true and correct record.

6. Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Quarterly Report

The Safety and Resilience Unit Director spoke to the report introducing the new Hamilton Civil Defence Emergency Management Local Controller. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning key natural hazards, earthquake risk, community engagement, new legislation, flood depression areas and preparedness, mana whenua in Civil Defence, Climate Risk Assessment and mitigation for extreme weather events.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to inform Committee Members of known key areas in Hamilton identified for high autumn leaf fall and the mitigation for extreme weather events.*

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to organise an opportunity for Members to discuss Civil Defence Emergency Management resourcing and the education of residents for preparedness for an extreme weather event.*

Resolved: (Maangai Te Ua /Cr Pike)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) formally endorses the appointment of Claire Toko as a Hamilton Civil Defence Emergency Management Local Controller.

Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (9.48am) during the discussion of the above item. She was present when the matter was voted on.

7. Aquatics Strategy and River Safety Update

The Aquatics Director highlighted aspects of the report including the increased aquatic users, events and river safety. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning personal rescue equipment, river safety education, women's only swimming, funding for water safety, removal of river jetties, maintenance of facilities, swimming lessons affected by events, external partnerships opportunities and the economic benefit of Swimming New Zealand events.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to provide the Members with information on the number of Harbour Masters on the Waikato River between Cambridge and Ngaruawahia.*

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Donovan)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) notes that the next annual report on the progress of the Hamilton City Council Aquatics Strategy will be presented to the Committee in early 2025.

8. Papa Ahuareka O Kirikiriroa Hamilton Open Spaces Strategy Update

The Parks and Recreation Manager took the report as read. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning programmes to improve water quality at Lake Rotorua, mapping of open spaces and funding from NZTA for walking/cycling pathways and the future of no mow areas.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to provide Members with further information the behaviour of water fowl on and off Lake Rotoroa.*

Resolved: (Mayor Southgate/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

9. He Rautaki Whakawhanaki Hapori (Community and Social Development Strategy) Annual Update/Welcoming Plan Update/Age Friendly Plan Update

The Community Advisor and Grants Manager highlighted projects over the year in the report. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the value of the plans developed around the strategies.

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

The meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of the above Item from 11.14am to 12.06pm.

Councillor Hutt retired from the meeting during the above adjournment.

10. Disability Action Plan Annual Update

The Disability Advisor spoke to the report and highlighted barrier free accessibility audits, uptake of New Zealand Sign Language training and uptake of accessibility advice at the start of projects.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Maangai Te Ua)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

11. West Town Belt Park Development Project Update

The Parks and Recreation Unit Director introduced the report and outlined the financial aspects of the report. Staff responded to questions from the Members concerning the demolition projection in particular the unknown indication of asbestos in the Founders' Theatre building and due diligence of the initial survey, redevelopment of the site, and alternative funding to develop the green space.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to investigate opportunities for revenue generation in terms of commercial partnerships and philanthropic donations to develop Stage 2 of the project.*

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Donovan)

That the Community Committee

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the Project Budget increase for Stage one works to \$3,654,380 which includes an increased new contract sum \$2,757,709 for CON0001592-2022 Demolition of Founders Theatre; and
- c) notes that any balance of funding from the \$4,165,000 West Town Belt Development Project funding will be directed to complete basic development of Boyes Park.

The meeting was declared closed at 1.02pm.