
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 Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 5 August 2025 at 9:32 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr Anna Casey-Cox
Heamana Tuarua

Members

- Mayor Paula Southgate
- Deputy Mayor Angela O'Leary (via audio-visual link)
- Cr Maxine van Oosten
- Cr Moko Tauariki (via audio-visual link)
- Cr Ewan Wilson (via audio-visual link)
- Cr Louise Hutt
- Cr Andrew Bydder
- Cr Geoff Taylor
- Cr Sarah Thomson
- Cr Emma Pike
- Cr Maria Huata
- Cr Tim Macindoe
- Maangai Olly Te Ua

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Kathy Taufalele and Gayl de Boer, of the Hamilton Bahá'í Community.

1. **Apologies – Tono aroha**

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

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee accepts the apologies for lateness from Cr Tauariki and Cr Wilson, for early departure from Cr Macindoe and Mayor Southgate (Council Business) and for partial attendance from Deputy Mayor O'Leary.

2. **Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take**

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Pike)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee to confirms the agenda, noting that:

- a) Item 15 (*General Managers Report*) is accepted and circulated as a late item, to allow for a complete report on the matter; and
- b) Item 15 (*General Manager's Report*) to be taken after Item 7 (*Community Occupancy Applications*) to accommodate public consultation.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga*

Maangai Te Ua declared an interest in Item 7 Community Occupancy Applications and noted he was not conflicted, and would take in the discussion and vote on the matter.

4. Public Forum – Aatea korero

Margaret Evans, Peter Gillies and Neil Curgenvin spoke to Item 15 (General Managers Report) the current Hood Street project, suggested the inclusion of heritage elements within all projects where possible, and requested approval from the Committee for the 'Footsteps in History' project as outlined.

Scott Tiffany (Pukete Neighbourhood House) spoke to Item 7 (*Community Occupancy Applications*) in support of the staff recommendation for Pukete Neighbourhood House and the successful relation the organisation had with the Council

Sarah Gibbs (Community Waikato) spoke to Item 10 (*Community Occupancy Applications*) in support of the staff recommendation Community Waikato and the positive impact the group has.

Michelle Daly (Enviroschools Waikato) spoke to Item 10 (*Community Occupancy Applications*) in support of the Hamilton City Councils pilot project with Enviroschools Waikato.

Ravinder Powar (Waikato Multicultural Council) spoke to Item 9 (*Welcoming Plan 2025*) in support of the Welcoming Plan and noted their organisational values align with Te Ao Maaori principles in the plan.

Jeremy Mayall (Creative Waikato) spoke to various items on the agenda in support of the partnership partnerships that they create.

David Bluett (Waikato Hockey) spoke to in support of Item 10 (Community Occupancy Applications) *and the* various upgrades made at the associations hockey fields and the connection that sport has with the public

Vani Mills (Diversity Council) spoke to Item 9 (Welcoming Plan 2025) about the communal needs of new communities joining Hamilton's expanding population and how these linked with the Welcoming Plan.

5. Confirmation of the Unconfirmed Community and Natural Environment Committee Meeting Minutes 5 June 2025.

Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee confirm the Minutes of the Community and Natural Environment Committee Meeting held on 5 June 2025 as a true and correct record.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair, Cr Casey-Cox and Cr Pike all spoke to the report regarding community outreach, community led leadership, councillors shared vision and the impact that the Committee had over triennium.

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

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

7. Community Occupancy Applications

The Team Leader of Sports and Community Facilities spoke to the report noting an error in the report regarding the wording of section of the staff recommendation and the correction should read the lease should be approved under section 61 (2) a under the Reserves Act. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning occupancy near Porritt Stadium, extension on leases, differences between mid to long term leasing, Community Occupancy Policy upcoming review, right of renewals for the upcoming Council.

Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Cr van Oosten)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves a new community group lease, under section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, to Frankton Railway Combined Sports Club Incorporated for land being 592m² at Railway Park, being Lot 1 DPS 37471, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. Term – 15 years
 - ii. Rent - \$423.63 plus GST per annum in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy; and
 - iii. Permitted Activity – sports and recreation clubroom
 - iv. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines.
- c) approves a new community group lease, under section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Waikato Branch) for land being 205m², at Hillcrest Stadium, being section 38 at Hamilton East Town Belt, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. Term – 15 years
 - ii. Rent - \$159.13 plus GST per annum in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy; and
 - iii. Permitted Activity – clubrooms for recreational hunting and related activities
 - iv. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines.
- d) approves a new community group lease, under section 61(2A) of the Reserves Act 1977, to Pukete Community Centre Charitable Trust (Pukete Neighbourhood House) for building being 722m² and land being approximately 250m² at Ashurst Park, being Lot 1 DPS 38343, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. Term – 20 years
 - ii. Rent - delegates to the General Manager Customer and Community, approval of the exact land leased area and applicable rent in accordance with the Policy;
 - iii. Permitted Activity – Pukete Community Centre and associated activities
 - iv. Commercial Activity – coffee cart
 - v. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines
- e) approves a new community group lease, under section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, to Waikato Agility Group Incorporated for land being 88m² at Melville Park, being Park Lot 512 DPS 9477, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. Term – 15 years

- ii. Rent - \$74.25 plus GST per annum in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy; and
 - iii. Permitted Activity – for activities related to the sport of dog agility and storage of related equipment
 - iv. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines
- f) approves a new community group lease, under section 61(2A) of the Reserves Act 1977, to Waikato Equitherapy Incorporated for land being 87,800m² and buildings (Villa house being 231m² and barn being 339m²) at Vaile Road, Newstead, being Allotment 282 Kirikiriroa Parish, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. Term – 5 years
 - ii. Rent - that in accordance with clause 5.4 of the Community Occupancy Policy, Council adopts a higher rental subsidy of 93.75%, being \$4,870.63 plus GST per annum for the term of the lease; and
 - iii. Permitted Activity – recreational and therapeutic horse riding for people with special needs; and
 - iv. Special condition – Council to have the ability to terminate the lease should the land be required for Hamilton Park Cemetery expansion.
 - v. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines.
- g) approves a new community group lease, under section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, to Waikato Hockey Charitable Trust jointly with the Waikato Hockey Association for land being 22,566m² (approximately 22,487m² to the Trust and 79m² to the Association) at Innes Common, being Lot 1 DPS 90061, subject to the following terms and conditions;
 - i. Term – 15 years;
 - ii. Rent - \$3,058.08 plus GST per annum in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy; and
 - iii. Permitted Activity – playing of hockey and associated activities; and
 - iv. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines
- h) approves a new community group commercial occupancy agreement, under section 54(1)(d) of the Reserves Act 1977 to Waikato Hockey Association Incorporated for 45m² within the hockey pavilion at Innes Common, being Lot 1 DPS 90061, subject to the following terms and conditions;
 - i. Term – 15 years;
 - ii. Rent - \$104.79 plus GST per annum in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy; and
 - iii. Commercial Activity – canteen/bar; and
 - iv. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines.
- i) approves a new community group commercial occupancy agreement, under section 61(2)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977 to Waikato Hockey Association Incorporated for 34m² area within the hockey pavilion at Innes Common, being Lot 1 DPS 90061, subject to the following terms and conditions;

- i. Term – 15 years;
 - ii. Rent - \$79.18 plus GST per annum in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy; and
 - iii. Commercial Activity – hockey pro-shop; and
 - iv. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines
- j) approves a new community group lease, under section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, to Wanderers Sports Club (Hamilton) Incorporated for land being 331m2 at Porritt Stadium, being Park Lot 2 DPS 12833, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. Term – 15 years;
 - ii. Rent - \$250.41 plus GST per annum in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy; and
 - iii. Permitted Activity – Sports clubroom, primarily football; and
 - iv. All other terms and conditions in accordance with the Community Occupancy Policy and Community Occupancy Guidelines

15. General Managers Report

The General Manager Customer & Community took the report as read.

Resolved: (Cr Bydder/Cr Macindoe)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the 'Footsteps in History' project in principle; and
- c) notes that:
 - i. TOTI will individually nominate sign poles and sign layouts and submit to the already established Council 'Request Signage' process for approval Request signage | Hamilton City Council. No staff report is required, and the nomination may be declined if it is deemed unsuitable, and that this process ensures consistency of signage across the city and is managed by the Transportation team;
 - ii. TOTI will be responsible for historical research;
 - iii. Each nomination will confirm mana whenua consultation with council appointees;
 - iv. There is no council budget required for this project and that Sign design, production, and installation shall be the responsibility of TOTI.
 - v. TOTI invites up to two councillors to voluntarily liaise with the council on this project.

The meeting was adjourned from 12:50pm until 1:10pm.

8. Approval of schedule for development contributions community grant for small-scale development *(Recommendation to the Council)*

The Programme Manager - Economics & Policy took the report as read.

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Thomson)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) recommends that the Council approves the schedule for the Development Contributions Community Grant (**Attachment 1**) to be included in the Community Grants Policy (**Option 2** of the staff report); and
- b) notes that:
 - i. the approval of the schedule has been delegated to the Community and Natural Environment Committee by the Council;
 - ii. the first round of funding will be open in early 2026; and
 - iii. the Development Contributions Community Grant is independent of the Development Contributions Policy – it is not part of the Development Contributions Policy and does not influence the application or interpretation of the Development Contributions Policy.

Cr Tauariki joined the meeting (11.10 am) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

9. Welcoming Plan 2025

The Ethnic Development Advisor and the Community Advisor & Grants Manager spoke to the report noting the inclusiveness of updated plan and collaborative works. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning community funding and funding usage.

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Mayor Southgate)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) adopts the 2025 Welcoming Plan; and
- c) notes that progress on the Plan will be reported annually through the Community and Natural Environment Committee (or similar Committee as determined by the 2025-28 Governance Structure).

Deputy Mayor O'Leary retired the meeting (11.34 am) during the discussion of the above item. She was not present when the matter was voted on.

10. He Rautaki Whakawhanaki Hapori (Community and Social Development Strategy) Annual Update

The Community Advisor & Grants Manager and Senior Community Advisor spoke to the report noting the community engagement and overall progress linked to the strategy. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning communal fruit trees and interagency group engagement.

Resolved: (Cr Casey-Cox/Maangai Te Ua)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

11. Disability Action Plan Annual Update

The Community Advisor & Grants Manager spoke to the report noting the upcoming revision of the plan, and thanked Members for their work in engaging in the wider disability community. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning support from potential partners.

Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Cr van Oosten)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

12. Lake Domain Reserve Change of Classification - Proposal to Consult

The Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report noting that the report sought approval to consult on the reclassification of the area of the reserve.

Resolved: (Cr Taylor/Cr Hutt)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the commencement of the legislative process to change the classification of parts of Lake Domain Reserve to Local Purpose (Water Infrastructure) Reserve; and
- c) notes a public consultation process will be undertaken seeking the community's views on the change of classification following the process outlined in the staff report;

13. Library Strategy update 2025

The Libraries Director spoke to the report noting increased visitation rates and Council services at the libraries. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning play equipment funding budget, Te Kete Aronui café performance, e-content usage, content platform expansion, He Pou Manawa Ora considerations and staffing across peak usage times.

Resolved: (Maangai Te Ua/Cr Hutt)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

14. Aquatics Strategy Annual Update

The Aquatics Director spoke to the report noting an increase in usages across aquatic facilities, the upcoming 20 year anniversary with Partner pools programme with founding partner Te Rapa Primary School, and event delivery. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning community outreach and University of Waikato's future pool partnership.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Cr Huata)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) Request staff to investigate the current condition of the university pool, assess the feasibility and options of reopening it for community use.

Cr Wilson joined the meeting (12.43 pm) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

16. Resolution to Exclude the Public.

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Hutt)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

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 follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. MESH Proposal, Stage 2 (Hayes Paddock)) Good reason to withhold) information exists under) Section 7 Local Government	Section 48(1)(a)
C2. Request for change of use under the reserves act) Official Information and) Meetings Act 1987	

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, as follows:

Item C1.	to avoid the unreasonably, likely prejudice to the commercial position of a person who supplied or is the subject of the information	Section 7 (2) (b) (ii)
Item C2.	to avoid the unreasonably, likely prejudice to the commercial position of a person who supplied or is the subject of the information to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (b) (ii) Section 7 (2) (i)

Cr Macindoe and Cr Casey – Cox retired from the meeting 12:50pm.

The meeting moved in the Public Excluded at 12.50 pm

The meeting was declared closed at 1.42 pm