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## **Council Kaunihera OPEN MINUTES**

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Thursday 29 August 2024 at 12:30pm.**

### **PRESENT**

**Chairperson** Mayor Paula Southgate  
*Heamana*

**Deputy Chairperson** Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary  
*Heamana Tuarua*

**Members**

- Cr Maxine van Oosten
- Cr Moko Tauariki (via Audio visual Link)
- Cr Ewan Wilson
- Cr Mark Donovan
- Cr Louise Hutt
- Cr Andrew Bydder
- Cr Geoff Taylor
- Cr Sarah Thomson
- Cr Emma Pike
- Cr Maria Huata
- Cr Anna Casey-Cox (via Audio visual Link)
- Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf
- Cr Tim Macindoe

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*Kaumātua Tame Pokaia opened the meeting with mihi and karakia.*

- 1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***  
There were no apologies
- 2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***  
**Resolved:** (Cr Oosten/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)  
That the agenda is confirmed.
- 3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***  
No conflict of interest we declared.
- 4. Public Forum – *AAtea koorero***

**Danielle Marks** spoke to item 5 (Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill) in support of retaining the Māori Wards seats and a binding poll at the next election.

**Jahvaya Wheki , Tania Pointon, Annika van Driel and Maia Johnston** (Seed Waikato) spoke to item 5 (Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill) in support of retaining the Māori Wards seats and going to a binding poll at the next election.. Nothing the importance for their organization having Māori representation on the Council and in local government politics.

**Linda Te Aho** (on behalf of Waikato Tainui) spoke to item 5 (Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill) in support of retaining the Māori Wards seats and going to a binding poll at the next election.. Nothing the Māori Wards seats allows for direct representation for the Māori community.

**Olly Te Ua** (on behalf of Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa and Maangai Māori) spoke to item 5 (Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill) in support of retaining the Māori Wards seats and going to a binding poll at the next election.

A written submission from Melissa Smith was circulated to Elected Members prior to the meeting and are attached to the minutes as **Appendix 1**.

*Cr Tauariki joined the meeting (12.41pm) during the discussion of the above item.*

#### **5. Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill**

The report was taken as read.

**Motion:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) affirms the retention of the Kirikiriroa Māori Ward and directs the Electoral Officer to hold a binding poll as part of the 2025 Local Government Elections to determine whether the community supports the retention of Kirikiriroa Māori Wards (**Option 1**) as required by the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024; and
- c) requests staff prepare a proposal for consideration in the 2025 Annual Plan, that seeks to increase voter engagement via a campaign leading up to and including the 2025 election noting that the proposal would include a full communications plan with timeline, costs, options for a wider programme of 'walk up voting sites' around the city, the details of the poll and other direction provided by Elected Members at a future briefing on the proposal.

**Amendment:** (Cr Taylor/Cr Bydder)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) resolves to disestablish the Kirikiriroa Māori Ward and revert to the 2019 representation arrangements of 6 East ward Elected Members, 6 West ward Elected Members and Mayor, noting that this representation arrangement meets the requirements for fair and effective representation under the Local Government Electoral Act 2001 (option 2a).

**The Amendment was put.**

**Those for the Amendment:**

Crs Bydder and Taylor.

**Those against the Amendment:**

Mayor Southgate, Deputy Mayor O'Leary,  
Crs Hutt, Donovan, Casey-Cox, Naidoo-  
Rauf, van Oosten, Huata, Tauariki,

Wilson, Pike, Macindoe and Thomson.

**The Amendment was declared LOST.**

**The Motion was then put and declared CARRIED.**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;
- b) affirms the retention of the Kirikiriroa Maaori Ward and directs the Electoral Officer to hold a binding poll as part of the 2025 Local Government Elections to determine whether the community supports the retention of Kirikiriroa Maaori Wards (**Option 1**) as required by the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Maaori Wards and Maaori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024; and
- c) requests staff prepare a proposal for consideration in the 2025 Annual Plan, that seeks to increase voter engagement via a campaign leading up to and including the 2025 election noting that the proposal would include a full communications plan with timeline, costs, options for a wider programme of 'walk up voting sites' around the city, the details of the poll and other direction provided by Elected Members at a future briefing on the proposal.

*Kaumatua Tame Pokaia closed the meeting with a karakia*

**The meeting was declared closed at 1.51 pm**

**Appendix 1**

Kia Ora

I am writing to express my support for the retention of Māori wards in Kirikiriroa Hamilton.

Kind regards

Melissa Smith