
Dog Control Hearings Panel

Te Koomiti Whiriwhiri I Ngaa Take Kuri

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Dog Control Hearings Panel held in Committee Room 1 and Audio Visual Link, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Wednesday 7 June 2023 at 9:30 AM.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Mark Donovan
Heamana
Members Cr Andrew Bydder
Cr Anna Casey-Cox

Attendance Susan Stanford – Animal Control Manager
Trudi Swanson - Team Leader – Animal Education and Control Officers
Justin Harden - Animal Education and Control Officer

Governance Amy Viggers – Governance Lead
Arnold Andrews – Governance Advisor

1. **Apologies – Tono aroha**
Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Bydder)
That the apologies for absence from Cr Tauariki and Cr Huaki are accepted.
2. **Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take**
Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Bydder)
That the agenda is confirmed.
3. **Declarations of Interest – Tauaakii whaipanga**
No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.
4. **Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Open Minutes 26 April 2023**
Resolved: (Cr Donovan/ Cr Casey-Cox)
That the Dog Control Hearings Panel confirm the Open Minutes of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Meeting held on 26 April 2023 as a true and correct record.
5. **Objection to the menacing classification of Basil from Christine Smith**

Ms Smith spoke to her objection of the classification of her dog Basil as menacing. She outlined the incident from her point of view and her concerns in relation to the process. She responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the age of the dog, historic behaviour of the dog, injuries on the victim dog and the incident.

Adele Fraser (witness) then responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the incident and her written statement.

The Animal Control Manager spoke to the report and highlighted the evidence that they had based the decision to classify Basil as menacing. Staff responded to questions from Elected Members concerning the incident, injuries on the victim dog, victim dog owner's statement and off leash dogs on leash required areas.

During the discussion of the above item (item 6: Objection to the menacing classification of Basil from Christine Smith) the meeting moved into a public excluded session at the request of Elected Members.

6. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Bydder)

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

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. Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Public Excluded Minutes 26 April 2023) Good reason to withhold information exists under) Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)

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 maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting persons from improper pressure or harassment	Section 7 (2) (f) (ii)
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The meeting went into public excluded session at 10:01am.

During the Public Excluded session of the meeting the following was resolved to be released to the public:
That the Dog Control Hearings Panel:

- receives the report;
- confirms it has considered the mandatory matters specified under the Dog Control Act 1996, and other matters relevant to the objection;
- notes that the Dog Control Hearings Panel in determining any objection can only either uphold or rescind the classification under the Dog Control Act 1996;
- rescinds the menacing classification; and
- approves the release of the above resolution to the public via the open minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.12am.