
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 via Audio Visual Link, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Wednesday 28 May 2024 at 9:30 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr Mark Donovan
<i>Heamana</i>	
Members	Cr Moko Tauariki Cr Andrew Bydder Cr Anna Casey-Cox (via Audio-Visual Link)

In Attendance:	Kelvin Powell - City Safe Unit Manager Susan Stanford - Animal Control Manager Trudi Swanson - Team Leader – Animal Education and Control Officers
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- 1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***
There were no apologies.
- 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 Panel declared a Conflict of Interest.
- 4. Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Open Minutes 21 February 2024**
Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Bydder)
That the Dog Control Hearings Panel confirm the Open Minutes of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Meeting held on 21 February 2024 as a true and correct record.
- 5. Objection to Dangerous Classification – Thompson**
Ms Thompson spoke to her objection of the classification of her dog Kaiwhai as Dangerous. She outlined the incident in question from her point of view and explained the history she had with a neighbour and their barking concerns. She explained that she has taken steps to block the view from the driveway and that she has seen a reduction in her dog's barking. Elected Members asked questions around ownership history, the day in question, confirmation of a barrier that has been added at the bottom of the gate and additional online training provide for the dog.

The Animal Education & Control Manager took their report as read. They highlighted the previous history of the dog which led to the menacing classification being given. They responded to Elected Member questions concerning the history of the dog, the classification and the behaviour the dog displayed on the day in question.

6. Objection to a Menacing classification – Hockley

Mr Hockley spoke to his objection of the classification of his dog Marlin as Menacing. He outlined the events that led up to the day in question. He spoke to the poor treatment that the dog was subjected to by a previous owner and how this contributed in his view to the aggression the dog displayed to Animal Education & Control Officers on the day in question. Elected Members asked questions around the dog's previous history and owners and what efforts have been done to socialise the dog.

The Animal Education & Control Manager took their report as read. They highlighted the aggression that was displayed towards the officer and the history of roaming behaviour the dog has. Elected Members asked questions concerning the ownership of the dog and requirements of a menacing classification.

7. 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
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C1. Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Public Excluded Minutes August 2023	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
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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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Meeting moved into public excluded session 10:20

During the Public Excluded session of the meeting the following was resolved to be released to the public:

Item 5

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel:

- a) receives the report;
- b) confirms it has considered the mandatory matters specified under the Dog Control Act 1996, and other matters relevant to the objection;
- c) 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; and
- d) upholds the dangerous classification.
- e) approves the release of the above resolution to the public via the open minutes of the meeting.

Item 6

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel:

- a) receives the report;
- b) confirms it has considered the mandatory matters specified under the Dog Control Act 1996, and other matters relevant to the objection;
- c) 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; and
- d) upholds the menacing classification because of the observed or reported behaviour of the dog pursuant to section 33A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
- e) approves the release of the above resolution to the public via the open minutes of the meeting.