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## **Dog Control Hearings Panel**

### ***Te Koomiti Whiriwhiri I Ngaa Take Kuri***

### **OPEN MINUTES**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Dog Control Hearings Panel held in Committee Room 1, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton and via Audio-Visual Link on Thursday 3 October 2024 at 9:47 am.

#### **PRESENT**

**Chairperson** Cr Mark Donovan  
***Heamana***

**Members** Cr Anna Casey-Cox  
Cr Maria Huata

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**1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/ Cr Casey- Cox)

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel accepts the apologies for absence from Cr Andrew Bydder.

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

**Resolved:** (Cr Casey-Cox/ Cr Huata)

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel confirms the agenda.

**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 28 May 2024**

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr Casey Cox)

That the Dog Control Hearing Panel confirm the Open Minutes of the Dog Control Hearings Panel held on the 28 May 2024 as a true and correct record.

**5. Objection to Disqualification from Dog Ownership – Dobson**

The Chairperson noted that staff had made numerous attempts to contact the objector Mr Dobson and that the hearing would continue his absence.

The Safety & Resilience Unit Director spoke to the report in particular the history of the case in relation to Mr Dobson, aggression observed from the dog (Ghost), and the infringements that had led to a Menacing classification and now a Disqualified Owner. He noted that the professional opinion the owner was either unwilling or unable to control his dog.

**6. Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Cr Huata)

**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 28 May 2024	) 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 prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item 5.	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting persons from improper pressure or harassment	Section 7 (2) (f) (ii)

**The meeting moved to Public Excluded session at 9:56am.**

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

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 under the Dog Control Act 1996 that the Dog Control Hearings Panel in determining any objection can only either;
  - i. uphold the classification;
  - ii. bring forward the date of termination of the classification; or
  - iii. immediately terminate the disqualification; and
- d) classifies the dog owner as disqualified until 14 January 2029 (being the date that is 5 years from the date of the third or final infringement offence in respect of which the person is disqualified) and notes the right of the dog owner to appeal to the District Court under section 27 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

**The meeting was declared closed at 10:00am.**