
Environment Committee

Komiti Taiao

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held via audio-visual link on Thursday 10 September 2020 at 9.33am.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr M Forsyth
<i>Heamana</i>	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr S Thomson
<i>Heamana Tuarua</i>	
Members	Mayor P Southgate Cr M Bunting Cr A O'Leary Cr K Naidoo-Rauf Cr D Macpherson Cr E Wilson Maangai N Hill

In Attendance:

Sean Hickey - General Manager Strategy and Communication
Andy Mannering – Manager Social Development
Julie Clausen - Unit Manager Strategy and Corporate Planning
Charlotte Catmur - Sustainability and Environment Advisor

Governance Unit:

Becca Brooke - Governance Manager
Carmen Fortin and Narelle Waite - Governance Advisors

- 1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***
Resolved: (Cr Wilson/ Cr Forsyth)
That the apologies from Cr Bunting and partial apologies from Mayor Southgate and Crs Macpherson and O'Leary be accepted.
- 2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***
Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/ Cr Wilson)
That the agenda is confirmed.
- 3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***
No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.
- 4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero***

Rex Bushell (representing Kirikiriroa Restoration Forum) spoke to item 9 (General Manager's Report). He indicated that the Forum believed that major changes would be required, including the co-management partnership of gully groups and Council, and implementation of the Environment

Court rulings. He responded to questions from Members concerning inclusion of an independent panel.

Hannah Huggan (representing Student Environment Leaders) spoke to item 7 (Climate Action Plan). She spoke in support of some of the previous actions, including the inclusion of environment within the wellbeings and the inclusion of Mana Whenua in environmental decision making.

Andrea Gray spoke to item 6 (Chair's Report), in support of the consideration of lighting and the impact on wildlife. She responded to questions from Members concerning the consent application which was made and surveying done.

Timi Barabas (representing Student Environment Leaders) spoke to item 7 (Climate Action Plan), in support of the Climate Action Plan, and emphasised the need to take action.

Lynne Garnham (representing Tui 2000) spoke to item 9 (General Manager's Report), in support of Rex Bushell's submission, and emphasised the partnerships and co-management with community groups.

Roderick Aldridge spoke to item 9 (General Manager's Report) in support of co-operation between different groups to ensure the best outcome for wildlife.

Anna Casey-Cox and Jo Wrigley (representing GoEco) spoke to item 9 (General Manager's Report) in support of the collaboration with community groups and the impact that Council communication can have. They indicated some frustration in terms of lack of climate action, noting that they understood the planning time behind it. They responded to questions from Members in regards to a potential independent panel, and logistics around this, indications to reports which were meant to be published by community groups, communication with maaori and Mana Whenua groups in regard to the work of the community groups.

Cr Gallagher joined the meeting (10.02am) during the discussion of the above item.

5. Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 4 June 2020

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/ Cr Thomson)

That the Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 4 June 2020 as a true and correct record.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair took the report as read and responded to questions from Members concerning environmental surveying around sports parks.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to circulate information to Elected Members on status of Environment Court application, process, and decision relating to bat habitats in Peacocke. Elected Members have indicated a particular interest into what consideration had been given to bat habitats in relation to sports park applications.*

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/ Cr Wilson)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

Item 8 (Enviroschools 2020 report) was taken after the above item 6 (Chair's Report) to accommodate external presenters.

7. **Enviroschools 2020 Report**

The Manager Social Development introduced the report and Dominique Thurlow, Chris Langley, and Adrian Grant from Waikato District Council, as well as Alastair Kerr and students from Rhode Street School. Chris Langley provided background to the function of the Enviroschool programme. Alastair Keer and the students from Rhode Street School described the activities and values within the school. They responded to questions from Members concerning next projects for Rhode Street School, how eco-friendly practices are being brought into the home, opportunities to include more schools in the programme within Hamilton, existing awards or recognition to encourage school participation within the programme, link between enviroschools and gardens in community spaces, and student numbers and student transport data.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/ Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

Cr Macpherson joined the meeting (10:42am) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the item was voted on.

The meeting was adjourned 11.03am to 1.03pm.

Item 9 (Information Only Reports) was taken after the conclusion of the above item due to availability.

8. **Open Information Only Reports**

The General Manager Strategy and Communication took the General Managers report as read, noting that the focus on the Nature in the City Strategy. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the summary of feedback from engagement from the Nature in the City strategy, and Mana Whenua input into the Nature in the City Strategy.

Staff responded to questions from Members concerning advances or progress in incentivising businesses to recycle, cost for Greenstar accreditation, and Greenstar requirements for smaller developers.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/ Cr Wilson)

That the Environment Committee receives the General Manager's Report.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/ Cr Wilson)

That the Environment committee receives the following information only reports:

- a) Update on 2018-2024 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Actions;
- b) Building Sustainability and Energy Efficiency and Green Star Building Practices; and
- c) Smart Water Programme Update

Cr Macpherson rejoined the meeting (1:11pm) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

9. **2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan**

The Unit Manager Strategy and Corporate Planning provided background to the report and introduced the Sustainability and Environment Advisor. She noted that this action plan indicated the plan for the year, and indicates longer term plans, which will be included within the Long Term Plan. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the inclusion of transport data,

Committee influence on the development of the upcoming LTP without full Climate Action Plan in place, available resourcing, clarification between HCC carbon emissions and carbon footprint.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to make amendments to the 2020/21 Climate Action Plan in relation to transport, with the amendments to be approved by the Environment Committee Chair, Strategy and Communication General Manager, and CE.*

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/ Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan, noting the above staff action in relation to transport amendment; and
- c) notes that the 2020/21 Climate Change Action Plan includes the setting of the following emissions reduction targets - a 50% reduction in gross greenhouse gas emissions (except for biogenic methane) by 2030 from 2018/19 levels and a 25% reduction in emissions for biogenic methane levels by 2030 from 2018/19 levels.

Cr O'Leary retired from the meeting (1:26pm) during the discussion of the above item. She was not present when the matter was voted on.

Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (1:27pm) and retired (1:41pm) during the discussion of the above item. She was not present when the matter was voted on.

14. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/ Cr Wilson)

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. Planning Guidance Unit - Vegetation Clearance) 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 legal professional privilege	Section 7 (2) (g)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)

The meeting went into a public excluded session at 1.45pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.18 pm.