
Environment Committee

Komiti Taiao

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held via audio-visual link on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr M Forsyth
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr S Thomson
Heamana Tuarua

Members: Cr M Bunting
Cr A O’Leary
Cr K Naidoo-Rauf
Cr D Macpherson
Mayor P Southgate (Ex Officio)
Maangai N Hill

In Attendance: Cr Martin Gallagher
Cr Maxine van Oosten
Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy and Communication
Charlotte Catmur – Sustainability and Environment Advisor
Robyn Denton – Operations Team Leader
Kelvin Powell – City Safe Unit Manager
Julie Clausen – Unit Manager Strategy and Communications
Sandra Murray – Consultant Business Support
Manaaki Nepia – Waikato-Tainui
Jennifer Nickel – Waikato Regional Council
Blair Dickie – Waikato Regional Council

Governance Staff: Amy Viggers – Governance Team Leader
Carmen Fortin – Governance Advisor

The meeting began with karakia from Maangai Hill.

1. Apologies – Tono aroha

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Thomson)

That the apologies for partial attendance from Mayor Southgate and Cr Bunting are accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)

That the agenda is confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaa*

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

No members of the public wished to speak.

5. Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 1 December 2020

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 1 December 2020 as a true and correct record.

6. Waikato-Tainui Climate Change Update

Manaaki Nepia (Waikato-Tainui) introduced the report, noting the key climate change principles, including whenua, wai, and whanau and explained how these principles were developed to inform the action plan. She also noted the impact of Covid-19 on the plan's progress. She responded to questions from members regarding water and river quality, development barriers within the district plan, community benefits, and education strategy for behaviour shift.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee receives the verbal report.

Cr Bunting joined the meeting (10.09am) during the discussion of the above item. He was present when the item was voted on.

7. Waikato Regional Council Climate Action Roadmap

Blair Dickie and Cr Jennifer Nickel (Waikato Regional Council) provided an update on the WRC Climate Action Roadmap, noting that the roadmap is not a regulatory or financially binding document. They spoke to specific pathways of the roadmap in which the Councils could work together, including biodiversity, transport, and energy considerations. They responded to questions from Members regarding transport investment, ability for the Waikato Regional Council Climate Committee to submit to their own transport plan, restoration work planned by Waikato Regional Council within Hamilton, consideration of Maatauranga Maaori within the roadmap, and the communication strategy.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

8. Submission to the Climate Change Commission on draft advice to Government

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor introduced the report, noting a change to the submission due date.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) delegates the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee, Chair of Infrastructure Operations and Chair of Strategic Growth (and deputy Chairs as alternates) to work with staff

- to develop the submission;
- b) delegates final approval of the submission to the CE;
- c) notes the approved submission will be sent to the Climate Change Commission by 28 March 2021; and
- d) notes that the approved submission will be uploaded to the Hamilton City Council website.

The meeting was adjourned from 10:54am – 11:10am.

9. Hamilton Open Air Burning Bylaw Review *(Recommendation to the Council)*

The Consultant Business Support introduced the report, noting the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2019 included burning of rubbish, so was not included in the Open Air Burning Bylaw Review. She responded to questions from members regarding safety concerns, Central Government regulation, nuisance behaviour, definition of firepit or outdoor cooking device, area requirements to operate fire, and inclusion of fire services.

Resolved: (Cr O’Leary/Cr Forsyth)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) recommends that the Council:
 - i. determines a bylaw **is not** the most appropriate means of controlling the issue of open air burning in Hamilton; and
 - ii. approves consultation on the revocation of the Hamilton Open Air Burning Bylaw 2015 (**Option 3** of the staff report) and the Statement of Proposal (**Attachment 2** of the staff report).

Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (11.12am) during the discussion of the above item. She was present when the item was voted on.

10. Environment Principles

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor took the report as read responded to questions from Members regarding the intention behind word choice (semantics) within the Environment Principles.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) approves the six high level Environment Principles:
 - (i) Restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of our waterways;
 - (ii) Protecting and enhancing our natural taonga, whenua and biodiversity;
 - (iii) Embracing the sustainable use of resources;
 - (iv) Promoting a circular economy;
 - (v) Transitioning to a low carbon future;
 - (vi) Build our resilience to climate change;
- b) notes that an Environment Policy will be developed to further support the implementation of the principles; and

c) notes that these Environment Principles will replace the Sustainability Principles.

11. General Manager's Report

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor introduced report, noting the reduction of Carbon emissions in Hamilton, and that an additional report will come to the June 2021 Environment Committee regarding the Climate Action Plan. She responded to questions from Members regarding measurable actions taken to reduce carbon, reporting of costings and data, environmental impact of reported projects, level of significance and media communication, tree planting data, advocacy plan for environmental concerns to be budgeted within other programmes, and inclusion of climate mitigation data.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Macpherson)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

The meeting closed with karakia from Maangai Hill.

The meeting was declared closed at 12:13pm.