
Environment Committee

Komiti Taiao

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber and Audio-Visual Link?, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 1.05pm.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr M Forsyth
<i>Heamana</i>	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr S Thomson
<i>Heamana Tuarua</i>	
Members	Cr M Bunting Cr A O’Leary (Audio-visual Link) Cr D Macpherson Cr E Wilson (Audio-visual Link) Maangai N Hill Mayor P Southgate (Audio-visual Link)

In Attendance:

Cr Gallagher
Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy and Communication
Lance Vervoort – General Manager Community
Eeva-Liisa Wright – General Manager Infrastructure Operations
Rebecca Whitehead – Unit Director Business and Planning
Maria Barrie – Unit Director Parks and Recreation
Michelle Hawthorne – Legal Services Manager
Nick Chester – Social Development Advisor
Laura Thomson – Consents and Monitoring Lead
Jamie Sirl – Team Leader City Planning
Grant Kettle – Planning Guidance Unit Manager
Charlotte Catmur – Sustainability and Environment Advisor
Martin Parkes – Transport and Urban Mobility Programme Delivery Lead
Emily Botje – Facilities Unit Manager
Frances Cox – Policy and Bylaw Lead
Martin Parkes – Transport and Urban Mobility Programme Delivery Lead
Amanda Banks – Policy and Strategy Advisor

Governance Staff:

Becca Brooke – Governance Manager
Amy Viggers – Governance Team Leader
Carmen Fortin and Narelle Waite – Governance Advisors

Maangai Hill opened the meeting with a Karakia.

1. Apologies – *Tono aroha*

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth / Maangai Hill)

That the apologies for absence from Cr Naidoo-Rauf, and for partial attendance from Mayor Southgate, Crs Pascoe, Wilson, and Bunting (Council business) be accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth / Cr Thomson)

That the agenda is confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga*

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

Maeroa School Students spoke to item 8 (Draft Nature in the City Strategy). They outlined actions that their school had undertaken in order to improve the gully around their school, including planning and pest control. They spoke in support of the Nature in the City Strategy and the impact that it could have on the areas around the city. They responded to questions from Members concerning the next stage of planned work in the gully and the naming of proposed pou.

Kiri Wallace spoke to item 8 (Draft Nature in the City Strategy). She noted her support of the proposed Nature in the City Strategy, as well as the incorporation of greenspace in the city, the positive impact that more greenspace can have on mental and physical space and reducing crime rates.

Hauaura Brown and Harvey Aughton (representing GoEco) spoke to item 8 (Draft Nature in the City Strategy) in support of the Draft Nature in the City programme. They noted Go Eco's support of the funding for this initiative through the annual plan and commented on the positive impact that the funding had on the gullies and encouraged further funding for nature initiatives within the Long Term Plan. They also noted that it was their desire to have further bat monitoring through the Nature in the City strategy. They responded to questions from Members concerning immediate benefits in work being done.

Martin Toop spoke to item 10 (Climate change programme update) noting his support for a focus on tree planting to help reduce the carbon emissions. He also noted that an increase of park staff and sequestration would help in a reduction of carbon emissions. He responded to questions from Members concerning the impact of a work force moving further out of the city which would then increase the amount of cars required.

Wiremu Puke (representing Ngati Wairere) spoke to item 8 (Nature in the City Strategy) in support of the work which Council had done in the Waiwhakareke area and noted that he would like to see more support with Kowhai events. He also noted his interest in making Lake Rotoroa a freshwater sanctuary through water cleaning and reintroduction of natural fish.

Shepherd Issac spoke to item 8 (Nature in the City Strategy) and showed an animation video which highlighted some of the positive impacts of nature in the city. He responded to questions from Members concerning support that Council could offer, and what he would like to see in the future.

Roderick Aldridge spoke to item 8 (Nature in the City Strategy) in support of the nature in the city and planting of native trees, as well as the need to support community groups in native planting efforts. He noted that a fuller understanding of ecosystems needed to be considered, including waterway management and surface water permeability. He mentioned the need of Council to work with other local authorities, community groups, businesses, and other government organisations in order to ensure maximum benefit for the environment.

Cr Macpherson joined the meeting (1.13pm) during the above item.

Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (1:54pm) during the above item.

Cr Bunting left the meeting (1:57) during the above item.

5. Confirmation of the Open Environment Committee Minutes - 10 September 2020

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth / Cr Thomson)

That the Committee confirm the open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 10 September 2020 as a true and correct record.

6. Chair's Report

The report was taken as read.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth / Cr Thomson)

That the Environment Committee receives the report.

7. GM Report

The report was taken as read. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the bat strategy, funding requirements, connection of the bat strategy to the Micro Spatial Plan, inclusion of the ongoing University of Waikato bat migration pattern data, and engagement with Waikato River Authority and Ministry of Environment.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) appoints the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee and Maangai Hill to form a working group to develop a set of Environmental Principles for the organisation.

8. Draft Nature in the City Strategy

The Policy and Strategy Advisor introduced the item and thanked everyone who had helped develop the strategy. Committee Members asked questions in regards to a cross boundary collaboration with neighbouring councils and working with other organisations, and biodiversity strategy from Department of Conservation.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson / Cr Forsyth)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the Draft Nature in the City Strategy 2020-2050; and
- c) approves the Strategic Implementation Plan.

The meeting adjourned from 2:37pm to 2:48pm.

Cr Wilson retired from the meeting during the above adjournment.

Cr Bunting re-joined the meeting during the above adjournment.

9. Waikato Local Authority Shared Services (WLASS) Energy and Carbon Management Programme

Kelvin French WLASS CEO and Martin Lynch (Energy Advisor) introduced the report, noting that the purpose of the report was to provide a view of local government greenhouse gas emissions in the Waikato, as well as monitoring energy use and energy efficiency. He described the change of energy use of ratepayers, cost changes in the past 8 years, and changes which had been implemented in order to reduce costs. They responded to questions from Members concerning individual moves within Council progress reporting of the changes implemented, Council's ability to become leaders in terms of electric vehicle fleet use, trial and use of electric buses, the change of focus of other organisations, capturing emissions data made by contractors, environmental or economic benefits through this programme, and ability of WLASS to make recommendations in addition to providing data.

Staff Action: *Staff undertook to provide a report to a future the Environment Committee in regards to hydrogen fuel use.*

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth / Maangai Hill)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) thanks Waikato Local Authority Shared Services for their verbal report.

Cr O'Leary retired from the meeting (3:27) during the above item. She was not present when the item was voted on.

10. Climate change programme update

The Sustainability and Environment Advisor took the report as read. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning ramifications of Central Government claiming a climate emergency, inclusion within the Long Term Plan and guidance for the programme.

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Macpherson)

That the Environment Committee:

- a) approves that 'Climate Change' is classified as a strategic risk and is included on Council's Strategic Risk Register
- b) recommends that the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee notes a) above; and
- c) notes that the Council will receive a future information report concerning progress on the Climate Change programme and with respect to climate change being classified as a strategic risk.

11. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: (Cr Forsyth/Cr Thomson)

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 Public Excluded Environment Committee Minutes - 10 September 2020) 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 moved into a Public Excluded session at 4.00pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 4.02pm.