



**WHANGANUI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

**MINUTES**

**Council Meeting  
11 February 2020**

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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 101 GUYTON STREET, WHANGANUI  
ON 11 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 1.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hamish McDouall, Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan, Cr Charlie Anderson, Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan, Cr James Barron Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay, Cr Helen Craig, Cr Brent Crossan, Cr Kate Joblin, Cr Hadleigh Reid, Cr Alan Taylor, Cr Rob Vinsen, Cr Graeme Young.

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Grant Skilton (WRCB Chairperson), Leighton Toy (General Manager Property), Mike Fermor (General Manager Finance), Kym Fell (Chief Executive), Rob Goldsbury (Legal Counsel), Sarah Pomeroy (Communications & Marketing Manager), Kate Barnes (Senior Democracy Advisor), Karyn Turner (Senior Governance Services Officer).

**1 OPENING PRAYER / KARAKIA**

Cr Kate Joblin read a prayer written by Archbishop Oscar Romero.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

**3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cr Baker-Hogan declared a conflict of interest in Item 8.3: Appointments to External Organisations – February 2020

Mayor McDouall, Crs Craig, Chandulal-Mackay and Reid declared a conflict of interest in Item 14.1: Whanganui Heritage Restoration Trust – Building Purchase.

**5 CORRESPONDENCE / LATE ITEMS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Resolution 2020/1**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Kate Joblin

That the additional information is tabled with the relevant items:

- Item 8.9: Mayor's Report – January 2020
- Item 14.1: Whanganui Heritage Restoration Trust – Building Purchase
- Item 14.2: Chief Executive Report – February 2020.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution 2020/2**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That Council considers the following item when the public is excluded – Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited Verbal Update, noting:

- this item was not on the agenda as notification from an external person was received after publication
- this cannot be delayed as the information to be discussed is time sensitive

**CARRIED**

**6 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

No registrations for Public Engagement Forum were received.

**7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****7.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2019**

**Author:** Anna Palamountain - Democracy Advisor

**Authoriser:** Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

**Discussion**

Cr Craig said although not in attendance at Council's meeting held 10 December 2019 she had circulated a submission to elected members to be considered during discussion on Item 8.3: Whanganui Community Awards. Cr Craig requested that this information be included in the minutes.

**Resolution 2020/3**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That the amended Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2019 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

Corrections:

- Item 8.4 – Mayor McDouall voted in favour of the unsuccessful motion.
- Item 8.3 – Addition to the discussion – A submission by Cr Craig was circulated to elected members and discussed. Her suggestions were to be taken into account by staff working to develop this project.

**CARRIED**

## 8 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

### 8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

#### Discussion

Mayor McDouall acknowledged and thanked the members of public in attendance for this item, particular noting the presence of a number of young people.

Cr Taylor responded to Elected Members' questions of clarification.

Speaking to his motion, Cr Taylor referred to the resolution passed on 13 August 2019. This had acknowledged that a climate change was impending in order to generate community engagement following the release of a discussion document on climate change. Cr Taylor said his current Notice of Motion was a statement of urgency that would place a further layer of seriousness over how the Council would react and how fast. Its intent was important as urgency had increased since the original resolution seven months ago. The magnitude of the issue continued to increase and there was considerably more scientific evidence of change. Many countries, including local authorities, had declared climate emergencies since the first global declaration in December 2018. Cr Taylor referred to the Council's 'Leading Edge' strategy and the importance of honouring that pledge. He believed this declaration would go further than just acknowledging climate change existed.

Crs Vinsen and Anderson spoke against the motion. Cr Vinsen said while he had supported the previous resolution that recognised a global crisis was impending, he believed declaring an emergency created alarmism. While not denying climate change, he believed there was nothing wrong with the previous resolution and this covered everything the Council needed to do. Cr Anderson said what was needed for those who did not believe climate change existed was education not scaremongering.

Cr Reid agreed the climate change situation was serious and needed attention. Everyone had a collective responsibility to care for the planet. He was however undecided on a declaration of emergency, considering it could be confusing and scaremongering. A declaration was symbolic and did not hold any legal or statutory weight.

Cr Crossan said the word 'emergency' scared people and this was of concern. He agreed with Cr Vinsen that the ratepayer could not fund 'saving the world'. He was however inclined to vote in favour but considered a close watch would be needed on how this was developed.

Crs Chandulal-Mackay, Barron, Craig, Baker-Hogan, Joblin, Duncan and Mayor McDouall spoke in support of the motion. Cr Chandulal-Mackay said impending meant not here yet, however the emergency had arrived with numerous safety concerns connected to the effects of climate change. Cr Barron elaborated on the meaning of the word 'emergency' with its root meaning 'something with effects that are emerging and require addressing with urgency', originating from Medieval Latin. He said climate change and its effects were emerging and urgent, unlikely to subside or resolve itself and definitely fitted the definition of 'emergency'. Cr Craig believed it was about sending clear messages to Governments here and overseas, that this Council was taking climate change seriously and wanted to see some action. Cr Baker-Hogan did not see this as a 'follow-the-leader' approach and congratulated Cr Taylor on bringing forward the motion. She believed the Council had received a clear message from the community to address climate change. Cr Joblin said given the fact that the Council had been in the middle of its climate change

discussion document consultation process, she had been reluctant to take this approach in August 2019. She agreed it was important to send the right message to the community and sought a unanimous vote from Elected Members to accept this motion. Cr Duncan said discussion at this meeting reflected the community's concerns. An urgent situation was emerging and as a local authority the Council needed to be at the forefront and show leadership. Mayor McDouall referred to concerning incidents occurring worldwide and said the Council had to do its part and show leadership. As Mayor, he believed this was the most important task for him to do.

#### **Resolution 2020/4**

Moved: Cr Alan Taylor

Seconded: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

That the Whanganui District Council declares a Climate Emergency.

In Favour: Mayor Hamish McDouall, Crs Jenny Duncan, Josh Chandulal-Mackay, Helen Craig, Kate Joblin, Hadleigh Reid, Alan Taylor, Philippa Baker-Hogan, Brent Crossan and James Barron

Against: Crs Charlie Anderson, Rob Vinsen and Graeme Young

**CARRIED 10/3**

**CARRIED**

## **8.2 LETTERS OF EXPECTATION: WHANGANUI & PARTNERS; WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL HOLDINGS LTD; WHANGANUI AIRPORT JOINT VENTURE**

**Author:** Marianne Cavanagh - Customer Solutions Manager

**Authoriser:** Mike Fermor - General Manager Finance

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

#### **Resolution 2020/5**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Helen Craig

That Council:

- (a) approves the Letter of Expectation for Whanganui & Partners
- (b) approves the Letter of Expectation for Whanganui District Council Holdings Ltd
- (c) approves the Letter of Expectation for Whanganui Airport Joint Venture
- (d) delegates authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive of the Whanganui District Council to approve minor amendments to the Letter of Expectation prior to the document being signed.

**CARRIED**

### 8.3 APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS - FEBRUARY 2020

**Author:** Anna Palamountain - Democracy Advisor

**Authoriser:** Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

#### **Discussion**

Mayor McDouall introduced Anthonie Tonnon, the Council's new representative on Horizons Regional Council Passenger Transport Committee. Mr Tonnon referred to Whanganui's previous great history of public transport provision and believed Horizons Regional Council could use the public transport corridors to much better effect. In reply to questions, Mr Tonnon said Whanganui's previous system had been effective with a smaller population. While there were new public transport innovations, such as electric buses, the actual transport system itself needed fixing. A first priority would be to get the public to trust the system with increased efficiency and frequency.

Mayor McDouall said Mr Tonnon would report regularly to the Council.

#### **Resolution 2020/6**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Rob Vinsen

That Council

- (a) reappoints Philippa Baker-Hogan to the Four Regions Trust
- (b) reappoints Andrew Collins to the Four Regions Trust
- (c) appoints Anthonie Tonnon as its representative on the Horizons Regional Council Passenger Transport Committee

**CARRIED**

Cr Baker-Hogan did not participate in voting.

### 8.4 APPOINTMENT TO NEW ZEALAND MASTERS GAMES LIMITED

**Author:** Anna Palamountain - Democracy Advisor

**Authoriser:** Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

#### **Resolution 2020/7**

Moved: Cr Alan Taylor

Seconded: Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan

That Rob Vinsen is appointed as a director of New Zealand Masters Games Limited.

**CARRIED**

Cr Vinsen did not participate in voting.

### **8.5 2019-22 MANAWATU-WHANGANUI TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT**

**Author:** Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

**Authoriser:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager  
Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

#### **Discussion**

Cr Craig believed as an over-arching document, the triennial agreement needed to be more specific in naming key areas of concern and co-operation. There was general agreement with her suggestion that in terms of raising profile and importance of the transport network including roads, rail, airports and ports, an additional point be added to section C.2 (Regional Co-operation).

Cr Baker-Hogan's request that more specific wording be included on regional support for individual councils' key infrastructure projects was not supported.

#### **Resolution 2020/8**

Moved: Cr Helen Craig

Seconded: Cr Philippa Baker-Hogan

That Council

- (a) approves the 2019-2022 Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū -Whanganui Region, subject to the inclusion of "Transport infrastructure: roads, rail, airports, and ports" to section C.2.
- (b) authorises the Mayor to sign the 2019-2022 Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū - Whanganui Region on behalf of Whanganui District Council

**CARRIED**

### **8.6 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2020**

**Author:** Justin Walters - Policy Analyst Legislative & Performance Management

**Authoriser:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager  
Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

#### **Discussion**

In response to Cr Taylor's concern, Mr Walters said he did not believe the Council had been compromised because it had not made comment on the Resource Management Review discussion document.



Referring to his disappointment that the Council's remit to 2019 Local Government New Zealand's conference that had sought centralisation for the selection of all independent commissioners had been lost, Mayor McDouall queried whether there was opportunity to further pursue this. In response, Mr Walters suggested this could be addressed at a political level when next in discussion with the Minister for the Environment.

### **Resolution 2020/9**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Rob Vinsen

That Council

- (a) receives information within Government Consultation Update – February 2020.
- (b) notes the Council submission on Reducing waste: A more effective landfill levy
- (c) make a submission on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB).
- (d) make a submission on the Accelerating renewable energy and energy efficiency - Discussion Document

**CARRIED**

## **8.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMIT**

**Author:** Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager

**Authoriser:** Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

**Significance of decision** – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

### **Discussion**

Cr Craig advised she had six possible remits to put to the Council for consideration. It was agreed that a date to lodge possible remits be set and a workshop scheduled to develop remits for consideration at the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Zone 3 meeting in April 2020.

Comment was made on the value of putting through good quality remits to LGNZ and agreed that this was a good vehicle to advocate change in central government policy.

### **Resolution 2020/10**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Kate Joblin

That Council holds a workshop to develop remits for consideration at the Local Government New Zealand Zone Three meeting in April 2020.

**CARRIED**

**8.8 REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2020****Author:** Anna Palamountain - Democracy Advisor**Authoriser:** Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

Item withdrawn.

**8.9 MAYOR'S REPORT - JANUARY 2020****Author:** Eva Osborne - Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Hamish McDouall - Mayor**Resolution 2020/11**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

That the Council receive the report – Mayor's Report - January 2020.

**CARRIED****Discussion**

Mayor McDouall provided a verbal update on Whanganui Community Awards. Planning was underway with categories agreed and a communications plan developed.

**References**

- 1 Mayor's Report - January 2020

**9 MINUTES FOR RECEIPT****9.1 TAMAUPOKO LINK HUI - 20 NOVEMBER 2019****Author:** Anna Palamountain - Governance Services Officer**Authoriser:** Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor**Resolution 2020/12**

Moved: Cr Helen Craig

Seconded: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

That the Council receives the minutes of the Tamaupoko Link Hui held on 20 November 2019.

**CARRIED**

**9.3 WHANGANUI RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES - 4 DECEMBER 2019****Author: Anna Palamountain - Democracy Advisor****Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor****Resolution 2020/13**

Moved: Cr Helen Craig

Seconded: Cr Brent Crossan

That Council receives the Minutes of the Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting held on 4 December 2019.

That Council:

- (a) appoints the following Rural Community Board members, with speaking and voting rights, to each of the Whanganui District Council's three committees of full Council, as follows:

Sandra Falkner – Property and Community Services Committee

David Wells – Strategy and Finance Committee

Michael Dick – Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Committee

- (b) makes alternate appointments of Rural Community Board members, with speaking and voting rights, to each of Whanganui District Council's three committees of full Council, as follows:

David Wells – Property and Community Services Committee

Grant Skilton – Strategy and Finance Committee

Bill Ashworth – Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Committee

**CARRIED***The meeting adjourned 3.26pm – 3.44pm***9.2 YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING - 25 NOVEMBER 2019****Author: Anna Palamountain - Democracy Advisor****Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor****Discussion**

Yth Crs Ahimsha Saravanapavan and Ariana Cronshaw provided a summary of recent Youth Committee activity and responded to questions. At a recent workshop the future steps for the Youth Committee had been considered. Comment had been made that there was a need to regroup and find the right direction. A membership drive was currently underway.

Cr James Barron, Council's representative on the Youth Committee, said for the upcoming year he was keen to see the Youth Committee getting more involved, strengthening its brand and showing its diversity. He also believed the Youth Committee should be part of any consultation process, engaging with youth.

**Resolution 2020/14**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Jenny Duncan

Seconded: Cr Charlie Anderson

That the Council receives the minutes of the Youth Committee Meeting held on 25 November 2019.

**CARRIED**

**10 MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.*

**Recommendation**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely items listed overleaf.

Reason for passing this resolution: good reason to withhold exists under section 7. Specific grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Section 48(1)(a)

**Note**

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the local authority.”

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 are as follows:

ITEM NO.	GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	SECTION	SUBCLAUSE AND REASON UNDER THE ACT	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORTS CAN BE RELEASED
12.1	Confidential Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2019			Refer to the previous public excluded reasons in the agenda for this meeting	
13.1	Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting Minutes - 4 December 2019			Refer to the previous public excluded reasons in the agenda for this meeting	
14.1	Whanganui Heritage Restoration Trust - Building Purchase	s7(2)(b)(ii), s7(2)(h), s7(2)(i)	Commercial Position, Commercial Activities, Negotiations	The Council are being asked to financially support the Trust in purchasing a building. This item refers to purchase price details which are confidential. Also the item contains details of possible seismic upgrade plans which are of commercial value to the Applicant.	
14.2	Chief Executive's Report - February 2020	s7(2)(a), s7(2)(b)(ii), s7(2)(i)	Privacy, Commercial Position, Negotiations	Privacy, Commercial Position, Negotiations	

**Resolution 2020/15**

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Charlie Anderson

That Annette Main, Chair, and Matthew Doyle, Deputy Chair, Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of **Tabled Item: Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited Verbal Update**. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because of their position as Chair and Deputy Chair of Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited.

That Richard Austin and Lyndsay Tait be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of **Item 14.1: Whanganui Heritage Restoration Trust – Building Purchase**. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because of their positions as proposed trustees of the Whanganui Heritage Restoration Trust.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned 4.01pm – 4.05pm*

The meeting reopened to the public at 5.30pm.

**The Meeting closed at 5.30pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 16 April 2020.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**