



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

MINUTES

**Infrastructure, Climate Change, and
Emergency Management Committee
Meeting**

27 February 2020

Order Of Business

1	Apologies	3
2	Declarations of Interest	3
3	Reports to Committee	3
3.1	Waste Minimisation Advisory Group Unconfirmed Minutes - 23 January 2020	3
3.2	Escalating Costs to Collect and Recycle Fibre and Plastics.....	4
3.3	Parking Controls - Amendment to parking controls on St Hill, Drews Avenue, Taupo Quay and Wilson Street.....	6
3.4	Emergency Management - 1 December 2019 to 28 February 2020.....	6
3.5	Infrastructure Activity Report - February 2020.....	7

**MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 101 GUYTON STREET, WHANGANUI
ON 27 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 1.00PM**

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

APOLOGIES: Cr Charlie Anderson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Hughes (General Manager Infrastructure), Kate Barnes (Senior Democracy Advisor), Justin Walters (Policy Analyst – Legislative and Performance), Stuart Hylton (Contractor), Angus Murray (Communications Officer), Michael Fermor (General Manager Finance)

1 APOLOGIES

Apology

Committee Resolution 2020/1

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Helen Craig

That the apology received from Cr Anderson be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Crs Vinsen and Chandulal-Mackay declared an interest in item 3.2 and indicated they would not participate in voting.

3 REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

3.1 WASTE MINIMISATION ADVISORY GROUP UNCONFIRMED MINUTES - 23 JANUARY 2020

Author: Stuart Hylton - Contractor

Authoriser: Leighton Toy - General Manager Property

Discussion

Mr Hylton summarised his report. Cr Vinsen asked Mr Hylton to elaborate on current issues affecting recycling and rural rubbish collection. Mr Hylton advised members of a public recycling trial taking place at sites in the central business district. This trial is being impeded by the high rate of contaminated material. He noted that new signage was being developed in the hopes of increasing public awareness. Also under consideration was the range of recyclable material that would be collected at these sites.

The rural bag collection system has been running for approximately 15 years but in recent times has encountered issues. Mr Hylton suspected the increasing cost of rubbish disposal in town was a factor. The rural bag and bin collection contract was to expire from July 2020 and was currently being reviewed to ensure it was fit for purpose. He acknowledged that there was also an issue of rubbish dumping in Castlecliff, noting that community assistance in identifying dumpers would be helpful.

Committee Resolution 2020/2

Moved: Cr Rob Vinsen

Seconded: Member Michael Dick

That the Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Committee receive the report – Waste Minimisation Advisory Group Unconfirmed Minutes - 23 January 2020.

CARRIED

3.2 ESCALATING COSTS TO COLLECT AND RECYCLE FIBRE AND PLASTICS

Author: Stuart Hylton - Contractor

Authoriser: Leighton Toy - General Manager Property

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

Discussion

Mr Hylton acknowledged that the cost of recycling was increasing. Many providers were no longer accepting fibre (paper, card) and therefore Council was considering other options. However these new options would take some time to determine and then get up and running.

Councillors discussed capping the funds dedicated to the shortfall. Mr Hylton considered the shortfall a legitimate cost for ratepayers and was wary of limiting the amount. The Resource Recovery Centre is also collecting non-recyclable plastic, stockpiling them in anticipation of a future market shift. In response to Cr Craig asking if the waste minimisation levy could be used to fund the costs of stockpiling, Mr Hylton acknowledged that it was not ideal but not unheard of. The levy is allocated to territorial authorities to enhance local waste minimisation initiatives and it not supposed to be used for business-as-usual operational services although some councils flouted this. Mr Hylton advised that the levy could be used for funding recycling shortfalls in this instance if Council treated the situation as a short term crisis fix. Mr Hylton was loath to stop collection of fibre and plastic as it may dent community confidence in engaging in recycling.

Cr Reid asked if not accepting fibre at the Centre was a possibility. Mr Hylton expected that it would have a negative effect on the Centre's reputation. He noted that commercial fibre was making up an increasing proportion of fibre dropped off at the centre as businesses opted not to

pay for commercial collections. The Mayor asked if collaborations with neighbouring councils was an option – Mr Hylton said these conversations were ongoing. Cr Vinsen pointed out that the issue for the Centre was as simple as income versus expenditure, and the Centre may need to consider other ways to minimise costs.

Members discussed the level to which the shortfall should be funded, and arrived at a figure of \$96,000.

Committee Resolution 2020/3

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Jenny Duncan

1. That Whanganui District Council funds, up to \$96,000, the 2019/20 shortfall to recycle fibre at the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre from Council's Waste Levy Fund.

CARRIED

Crs Vinsen and Chandulal-Mackay abstained.

Discussion

Members discussed the vagaries of the market on which the Centre is dependent for recycling services. It was acknowledged that inaction would move costs, not eliminate them. Members considered that there is a short term issue needing to be addressed, but in the long term innovative solutions would be required.

Committee Resolution 2020/4

Moved: Mayor Hamish McDouall

Seconded: Cr Jenny Duncan

2. That Whanganui District Council consider funding fibre recycling shortfalls in 2020/21 through its Annual Planning Process.

CARRIED

Cr Reid voted against. Crs Vinsen and Chandulal-Mackay abstained.

Discussion

Cr Reid asked Mr Hylton what alternative fibre recycling options were available. Mr Hylton noted some local recycling options were in development, including converting fibre to compost.

Committee Resolution 2020/5

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Hadleigh Reid

3. That Whanganui District Council continues to look at alternative recycling/repurposing uses for collected fibre.

CARRIED

Crs Vinsen and Chandulal-Mackay abstained.

Cr Baker-Hogan left the meeting at 1.49pm.

3.3 PARKING CONTROLS - AMENDMENT TO PARKING CONTROLS ON ST HILL, DREWS AVENUE, TAUPO QUAY AND WILSON STREET

Author: Justin Walters - Policy Analyst Legislative & Performance Management

Authoriser: Stephanie Macdonald-Rose - Policy & Governance Manager
Mark Hughes - General Manager Infrastructure

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

Discussion

Members asked Mr Walters to engage specifically with Mainstreet Whanganui. In response to questions regarding considerations of accessibility, Mr Walters noted no specific engagement with disability representative groups but was open to feedback. He noted the presence of wheelchair parks in Drews Ave.

Cr Joblin left the meeting at 1.57pm.

Committee Resolution 2020/6

Moved: Cr Alan Taylor

Seconded: Cr Graeme Young

That the Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Committee:

- (a) confirms changes to the parking controls in the following locations.
 - (i) St Hill Street
 - (ii) Drews Avenue
 - (iii) Taupo Quay
 - (iv) Wilson Street
- (b) confirms the Draft Parking Controls 2017 - Updated February 2020 for public notification.
- (c) recommends that the Council adopt the changes to the parking controls if no written objections are received by Council within 14 days of Council publicly notifying the proposed changes to the Parking Controls.

CARRIED

Cr Joblin returned to the meeting 1.59pm.

3.4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - 1 DECEMBER 2019 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2020

Author: Tim Crowe - Emergency Manager

Authoriser: Bryan Nicholson - Chief Operating Officer

Discussion

Mr Crowe outlined recent exercises that he had participated in with other lower North Island agencies. He felt that Whanganui District Council compared favourably to other Councils, and noted in particular the high quality flood mapping tools. He summarised recent development in regards to coronavirus and noted that staff efforts around council business continuity were well underway. The Ministry of Health has a large stockpile of masks to distribute if required.

Committee Resolution 2020/7

Moved: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

Seconded: Cr Hadleigh Reid

That the Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Committee receive the report – Emergency Management - 1 December 2019 to 28 February 2020.

CARRIED

3.5 INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITY REPORT - FEBRUARY 2020

Author: Hannah Bailey - EA to GM Infrastructure and GM Strategy

Authoriser: Mark Hughes - General Manager Infrastructure

Discussion

General Manager Infrastructure noted that despite hot weather and high demand, potable water supplies were not under threat, as lack of rain does not affect Whanganui water supply. Water is sourced from significant aquifers, and Whanganui takes approximately 10% of total flows. Reservoirs store about 48-72 hours of water.

GM Infrastructure noted major works at the Glasgow Street and Victoria Avenue intersection. Various communication channels were being used to update road users however he pointed out that misinformation spreads quickly on social media.

Cr Vinsen asked if there was a start date set for works to extend Fitzherbert Avenue. Council has negotiated land swaps and it is anticipated that works will start in the next 2 to 3 months, and should take approximately 9 months total.

Cr Craig asked about new subdivisions. Council role is generally quite small, mainly in regards to infrastructure connections. GM Infrastructure noted that brownfields subdivisions were his preference.

Committee Resolution 2020/8

Moved: Cr Kate Joblin

Seconded: Cr Helen Craig

That the Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Committee receive the report – Infrastructure Activity Report - February 2020.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 2.41pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2020.


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CHAIRPERSON