



Te Kārearea Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 15 November, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Co-Chairperson)
Jared Pitman (Co-Chairperson)
Cr Crichton Christie
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Sue Glen
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Sharon Morgan
Cr Anna Murphy
Allan Halliday
Merepeka Henley
Violet Sade
Taipari Munro
Takiri Puriri

Not in Attendance

Deborah Harding
Delaraine Armstrong
Kaile Nahi-Taihia

Also in attendance: Janelle Beazley, Hona Edwards, Huhana Lyndon, Kristi Henare, Jill McPherson, Alan Adcock, Rob Forlong, Alicia Lawrie, Tony Horton, Debbie Taylor, Merryn Stratham, Jason Marris, Ann Midson, Alison Puchaux and Jennie Thomas.

1. Open Meeting

- 2. Karakia/Mihi** - Takiri Puriri offered a Karakia and Taipari Munro acknowledged. Acknowledgement was made of the sad loss of two young people from our community.

Her Worship the Mayor also expressed her sadness for the loss and advised of the 24-Hour Helpline available by phoning 1737.

3. Apologies - Sharon Kaipo, Deborah Harding and Delaraine Armstrong

The apologies were accepted by consensus.

4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)

5. Previous Minutes

Moved by Taipari Munro

Seconded by Cr Morgan

That the minutes of the Te Karearea Strategic Partnership meeting held on 18 October 2017, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

6. Reports:

6.1 Hapu Mandating Update November

Updates will be provided as the meetings progress.

6.2 Treaty of Waitangi Settlements November Progress from Hapu

Andrew Little, Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, has indicated he will attend at least two meetings before the end of the year with Ngapuhi rangatira, commencing with a hui on 18 November 2017.

Huhana Lyndon was asked to provide an update on the Waitangi Tribunal's urgency hearing on the recognition of the Ngatiwai mandate. A favourable inquiry report has been received and is being evaluated by legal counsel.

6.3 Action Log November 2017

Jill McPherson, General Manager Strategy and Democracy, provided a verbal update on various items from the Action Log.

Due to the Resource Legislation Amendments 2017, Māori participation under the RMA, WDC has formed a working group relating to Mana Whakahono a Rohe. The group includes Murray McDonald - Manager RMA Consents, Melissa McGrath - Manager District Plan, Jill McPherson - General Manager Strategy and Democracy and when available Jared Pitman. The working group will collaborate with the Northland Regional Council.

A workshop on Mana Whakahono a Rohe held jointly with Council's Legal adviser was suggested for the new year.

The MfE are facilitating workshops throughout NZ with Councils and Iwi. The FNDC are facilitating a workshop on the 5th December in Kaikohe. Council and hapu/iwi are welcome to attend.

The response regarding the registering of Waahi Tapu and other sites of significance to Māori was queried. The invoices detailed by the contractor for payment to some hapu groups were questioned. Te Kārearea Action log to be amended. There will be further investigation to examine the full details of what has happened.

Taipiri Munro provided an update on the Winstones Quarry Development. He advised that the Ruarangi trustees met with Winstone's managers to discuss a Tonkin and Taylor report. Cultural monitors observed rising water levels on one site and are still not satisfied the area is sturdy enough to take the overburden. The trustees have queried what other options Winstones have considered to dispose of the overburden.

Winstones have indicated the desire to rebuild the relationship with the Trust and local hapu. Progress is being made and the content of the relationship memorandum is still being considered.

There was a query in relation to the Raumanga Heights Block subdivision. Jill McPherson will enquire and confirm to the meeting whether the consent lapsed on 7 November 2017 due to a lack of survey plan being submitted to Council.

Kristi Henare addressed the meeting in relation to the safety at the Whangarei Falls. She advised of concerns in relationship to buses illegally parking at the Falls carpark and wandering dogs.

She also advised that she had contacted Council's contractors in relation to wandering dogs on numerous occasions and had not been satisfied with the response.

She expressed concerns over the rubbish bins not being emptied sufficiently. Other concerns she wished noted were around the safety of Reed Street, particularly in regards to children accessing sports facilities, and the safety of the Totara School pedestrian crossing for tamariki.

Hona Edwards advised that Andre Hemara had been able to confirm that there was a paper road which would allow access to the land on Rewarewa Road.

6.4 Whangarei City Centre Plan

Alicia Lawrie, Urban Designer took the meeting through the presentation on the Whangarei City Centre Plan and along with Tony Horton, Manager Strategy, asked for feedback on the proposed Whangarei City Centre Plan.

Alicia provided some background to the process undertaken so far. The development of the Whangarei City Centre plan has stemmed from the need to address the development plan that had lacked a collective vision for property owners and business in the city centre.

There has been a team effort from across Council including staff from Roading, Economic Development, Planning, Parks and the Commercial Property divisions. Workshops have been held and the team have been working with business and property owners of the CBD. A collective vision has been sought from owners, businesses, staff and Councillors. Other groups consulted include the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) and the Disability Advisory Group (DAG).

More detailed design work will be undertaken in the future. Some of the tools used will include tactical urbanism – quick, temporary and inexpensive projects will be trialled to bring fun and vibrancy to urban spaces.

There will be more in depth engagement later in the process. A design palette will be developed for signs, furniture etc. The theme will be developed with consultation.

The outcome that we are wanting to achieve is a city centre which promotes experience, connectivity, living, economic development and education, and good quality design.

From the feedback received the qualities in our City Centre included our shopping, green space and the waterfront – including the loop. Weaknesses emphasised were our commercial sprawl outside of our City centre, vacant spaces and the lack of inner city living. The lack of connectivity and walkability is seen as one of our greatest weaknesses.

The qualities and weaknesses were then used to develop our opportunities.

The following transformational moves highlight how we are going to get to where we want to be in 30 years:

- City core - develop and entertainment and hospitality focused, pedestrian friendly City Core.
- Movement corridors – Create movement corridors along Dent Street, Walton Street and Cameron Street to promote connectivity for pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles and buses. Okara is perceived as disconnected from the City Centre – establish a connection for pedestrians.
- Strategic sites – working with the private sector to identify strategic development.
- Inner city living – enable inner city living to create a vibrant, urban community. Seen as a key tool to bring people into the city.
- Quality design – ensuring quality design is delivered across public spaces and encouraging it in private development.
- Waterfront – maximising this key asset continuing the building on the success of the Hatea loop.
- Entranceways – establishing attractive entranceways at key locations.

There are several short, medium and long term plans relating to each transformational move.

The draft Whangarei City Centre Plan has been completed and a final document will be presented to Councillors in December.

Opinions and queries regarding the City Centre plan from the meeting included:

- Discussion on adapting Cameron Street to allow for better pedestrian access to Okara park.
- Improving the inner-city parking.
- There was a query on the feedback received from Have Your Say hui regarding empty shops in the CBD. Have Your Say feedback has been captured and recorded. Some of the feedback will be incorporated in the draft LTP consultation documents. Part of the intent of the plan is to encourage a vibrant city centre which will influence businesses in the CBD.
- There are a lot of issues with connectivity around the city. The plan will contribute to creating a balanced movement network for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles along Walton, Dent and Cameron Street. One of the key drivers is about making it easier for people to move around the city by foot, cycle and car.
- The difficulties of pedestrians crossing Dent Street and the divide this creates between the Town Basin and the City Centre.
- Global warming has been considered in relation to the City Centre Plan regarding possible rising sea levels and storm events. This has also been considered in the Blue Green strategy in regards to improving water ways and flood mitigation.
- It was noted that the plan needs to consider the less able bodied. Some parking at present is isolated and toilets need to be accessible for all.
- More engagement will be undertaken regarding design etc.

The meeting adjourned at 10.38am for a break and reconvened at 10.55am.

Presentation on the 2018 Ngapuhi Festival

Anaru Kaipo project manager and Tio Taiaki from the Ngapuhi Festival committee gave a presentation to inform the meeting on the Ngapuhi Festival to be held 25-28 January 2018 at Toll Stadium.

A brief history of the Ngaphui Festival was given. This year the 10th Ngapuhi Festival will be held in Whangarei for the first time. The Festival and arts exhibition will be held at Toll Stadium.

The theme of the Festival is “Kō au te wai, kō te wai kō au” – “I am the water and the water is me.”

The theme is significant to us all and to our future generations. The theme has been articulated in a number of ways.

There will be water activities for children and water safety educational stalls. The exhibiting artists were asked to create art that symbolises what water means for them. There is a waka ama challenge and digital virtual experiences of marine

biology. Educational support has been provided from NorthTec. There will emphasis on fun and enjoyment but also education on preserving our water ways.

There will be a youth focus at the Festival and there will be both local and international acts performing. There will be over 100 craft and information stalls. The arts exhibition showcasing 70 Māori artists will be held on the second floor of the Toll stadium.

Toll Stadium provides a purpose built controlled safe venue. The festival will be smoke, drug, alcohol and fizzy free – water will be provided. Mobility, kaumatua and huia parking in front of Toll Stadium has been organised. A traffic management plan has been put in place with the road closed between the roundabouts.

There were expressions of pride that Whangarei has in hosting this festival. There was sympathy expressed for Kaikohe but understanding around the logistical reasons for it not being held there this year.

Acknowledgement was made of all the support that has been provided with the organisation of the event.

Taipari Munro advised Anaru and Tio that the Whangarei Elders are eagerly awaiting the organising committee to come and speak to them regarding the festival. The Whangarei venue will be beneficial economically but also as an event to bring the communities together. Whangarei has a melding of tribes. He advised that consideration must be given to the timing of the pōwhiri.

An invitation will be provided, including to the official opening.

6.5 Engagement on Long -Term Plan 2018-2028

Merryn Stratham, Council's Consultation Adviser, spoke to the meeting on engagement for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP). Merryn provided a brief summation of the early engagement process undertaken so far using Māori networks and attending various events. She thanked the members for the input provided.

Planning for formal engagement on the 2018-28 LTP is now underway and Council is seeking input on ways to promote awareness of this engagement specifically with members in the community.

The formal engagement phase is tentatively set for 7 March - 6 April 2017. A Council meeting is set in February specifically for the adoption of the consultation and supporting documents. To meet audit requirements there are constraints on time frames.

There was discussion on the quick time frame proposed for consultation and the importance of the kaupapa and engaging with the communities.

The pre-audited draft document will be available in December. It won't at that point have formal status but the essence of the document will be correct. It was suggested that a hard copy of the document could be provided for the 7 December Te Huinga meeting. It was made clear that this is not the final document and there could be minor amendments to the document before its adoption and audit.

It was suggested that a link to the electronic documents be sent to Te Huinga secretariat.

The meeting was reminded of the length of the early engagement phase of the consultation. Council has undergone a long process, including 19 public briefings to date.

Audit New Zealand will be here for a week in January and three weeks in February. The audit report becomes part of final document.

There was a request for staff to attend a community meeting at the Pakotai hall in the month of formal engagement. It is also hoped, if resources allow, for quick presentations to be provided to businesses with large number of employees.

The general feedback reflected from the meeting was to use a similar approach as was used in the early engagement phase.

6.6 Rates Review

Alison Puchaux, Revenue Manager, led the presentation on the Rates Review and assisted by Alan Adcock, General Manager Finance and Corporate answered queries and noted feedback from the meeting.

The purpose of the briefing was to discuss Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and to consider if WDC's policies meet it. It was also to provide an overview of rating for Māori freehold land, Council policy and arrears.

The objectives of Schedule 11 are:

- Supporting the use of the land by the owners for traditional purposes.
- Recognising and supporting the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands.
- Avoiding further alienation of Māori freehold land.
- Facilitating any wish of the owners to develop the land for economic use.
- Recognising and taking account of the presence of waahi tapu that may affect the use of the land for other purposes.
- Recognising and taking account of the importance of the land in providing economic and infrastructure support for marae and associated papakainga housing.

- Recognising and taking account of the importance of the land for community goals relating to –
 - i. the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment
 - ii. the protection of outstanding natural features
 - iii. The protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna
- Recognising the level of community services provided to the land and its occupiers.
- Recognising matters related to the physical accessibility of the land.

Current Policy Rates Remission on Unoccupied Māori Freehold Land:

Objectives:

- To recognise situations where there is no occupier or no economic or financial benefit is derived from the land.
- Where only part of a block is occupied, to grant remission for the portion of land not occupied.
- To encourage owners or trustees to use or develop the land.
- Where the owners cannot be found, take into account the statutory limitation of time for the recovery of unpaid rates.

Criteria:

- Multiple ownership
- Land not used (or portion)

Both criteria need to be met and remissions need to be applied for.

Current Policy Rates Postponement on Māori Freehold Land

Objective:

- To encourage the development and use of Māori i freehold land where Council considers the full payment of the rate arrears would be a disincentive following the transfer of ownership or occupation.

Criteria:

- New owners or occupiers must agree to meet all future rates.

If landowners cannot be located Council applies on their behalf. There is a statutory limitation of time of six years for the recovery of unpaid rates.

Other Northland Councils have different remission policies at present. We are working with other councils to try and align policies on remissions.

There was discussion on working with other councils to meet with communities to discuss further. It was suggested that staff from both WDC and FNDC could come to community meetings to further explain their policies around remission and postponement of rates.

There was a request from Te Huinga members for this kaupapa to be presented to their forum - next available date 7 December 2017.

7. General Business

- Merepeka Henley requested that a summary of Te Karearea meetings be revived as it has been helpful in the past to inform their respective hapu clusters and communities of matters that are being discussed at Te Karearea.
- Allan Halliday provided an update on the Russell State Forest Initiative. There are nine hapu represented in this forum. The forum is planning an 18-20 year health plan for Russell State Forest. There was mention of a controversial 1080 poison drop undertaken some time back.
- Allan also raised a concerning issue of fly-tipping and queried who would be best to approach in Council. Please phone Council (09) 430 4200 regarding any incidences of fly-tipping.

8. Closure of Meeting – Karakia

The meeting concluded at 1.35pm with a Karakia.