



Te Kārearea Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 18 April, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangārei

In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Co-Chairperson) Julian Reweti (Acting Co-Chairperson) Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Greg Innes Cr Sharon Morgan Cr Anna Murphy Allan Halliday Merepeka Henley Violet Sade
Not in Attendance	Delaraine Armstrong Cr Crichton Christie Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Sue Glen Deborah Harding Takiri Puriri Taipari Munro

Scribe: **Jennie Thomas (Democracy Adviser)**

Also in attendance: Janelle Beazley, Rob Forlong (Chief Executive), Jill McPherson (General Manager Strategy & Democracy) Aperahama Edwards (Manager, Māori Relationships), Andre Hemara (Māori Engagement Officer), Simon Weston (General Manager Infrastructure), Tim Conn (Manager Communications), Tristan Tuckey (Consultant – Big Fish), Debbie Taylor (EA to General Manager Community and Strategy & Democracy), Jared Pitman and Waimarie Kingi.

1. Open Meeting

Her Worship the Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed Jared Pitman as an observer to the meeting. Gratitude was expressed for Jared's service given as Co-Chairperson of Te Kārearea and Her Worship the Mayor expressed best wishes on behalf of Te Kārearea for this future. She welcomed Julian Reweti as Co-Chair for the meeting.

2. Karakia/Mihi

Opening Karakia – Aperahama Edwards
Mihi – Julian Reweti

3. Apologies

Councillors Vince Cocurullo, Crichton Christie and Sue Glen.
Joanne Midwood, Takiri Puriri and Taipari Munro.

The apologies were accepted by consensus.

4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga) – Introductions and pepeha were given by attendees.

5. Previous Minutes

5.1 Minutes Te Kārearea Meeting 21 March 2018

Moved by Cr Sharon Morgan

Seconded by Janelle Beazley

That the minutes of the Te Kārearea meeting held on 21 March 2018, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting subject to the following amendment:

Janelle Beazley being noted as in attendance at the 21 March 2018 meeting.

Carried

6. Reports:

6.1 Hapū Mandating Update April 2018

Julian Reweti has been confirmed as a member for Te Orewai hapū of Ngati Hine. Delaraine Armstrong advised there were not many in attendance at yesterday's (17 April) Te Huinga meeting. They are still awaiting confirmation from Whangaruru regarding mandated representatives. Unfortunately, unable to progress this further until there is a more complete hui.

There was discussion on the hapū representation mandate and allowing two representatives from each hapū.

Her Worship the Mayor advised there was a parallel to how Council representation worked. There are certain Committees run with specific Councillors but other elected members were welcome to attend. Councillors are elected in their wards but are speaking for the whole district not just the ward.

6.2 Treaty of Waitangi Settlements Progress from Hapū - April 2018

Janelle provided the meeting with a copy of the report to Tuhoronuku on the meeting with Minister Little. Delaraine Armstrong advised that the report presented was only part of the perspective. Hui are ongoing and a full report will be coming out very soon. The Kotahitanga position still needed to be reported. A full update will be able to be provided when decisions have been made.

6.3 Action Log - April 2018

Jill McPherson provided a verbal update of the Action Log.

She advised the Crown has purchased the rights of the water bottling at Poroti Springs.

The GBC Winstones hearing is being heard by a Resource Consents Commissioner at the present time.

Jill advised that the Revenue Manager, Alison Puchaux, is happy to meet any hapū on request regarding rates and this includes discussing arrears. To organise a hui regarding rates, please coordinate with Andre Hemara. It was advised that the rating structure is part of Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation being undertaken at present. Any discussion regarding rates needs to be tempered with the uncertainty of what is adopted in June. There is a process being undertaken to develop a package of information regarding rates. This is in an early draft form and will not be finalised until after the LTP is finalised.

Delaraine Armstrong noted a situation regarding previous trustees to a trust with rates arrears. These trustees worked with a Council staff member to have the debt forgiven. The new trustees have now been advised the staff member was not authorised to have that discussion.

Merepeka Henley discussed coastal rates and how kaumatua brought a case to Council to review coastal rates for the elderly. There have been hui since 2010 to look at changing the rating structure. Merepeka noted these kaumatua are all gone now but there was hope for improvements for future generations.

Jill advised that it had been requested to reopen the environmental hub request at the fernery. An item has gone to the Infrastructure Committee where a decision was supported to upgrade the nursery facilities at the back of fernery. The nursery supports ecological restoration.

Andre is updating the contact list for Marae. Janelle is working with Andre to update this list. There was a request to provide paper copies of items. Postal addresses would be helpful for dropping material off to. The internet connection is not always good in some regions and cannot be relied on for communication.

6.4 Whangārei District Council Branding

Tim Conn advised that he would lead the presentation on the Council Brand Elevation and provide background to the project and that he was seeking input from Te Kārearea. Council has recognised this as an opportunity to leverage positivity and optimism in the district.

Tim advised there was a wish to elevate the Council brand and put things in context. We need to respect the past, understand the now and look to and prepare for the future. Tim advised that elected members challenged them on a name change and asked us to talk to the people of the district. When we asked the people, we heard that they love Council events but most people can't recall a positive brand association with Council. 70% of people surveyed said that the thing they love the most about the District is the outdoors and beach lifestyle. During the engagement process they met and talked to Taipari Munro, Aperahama Edwards and Te Warihi Heteraka.

During the process, there was a realisation that Council's brand reputation is a mixed bag but the negativity was mainly in the past. We as a district are maturing – we have values. A brand is more than a logo. It is our personality and what we stand for. Our brand speaks to the hearts and minds of our community and custodians of this place. We are respectful of the environment and love this place. We are the Whangārei District Council and in effect we are the brand.

Tristan Tuckey continued with the presentation and discussed how to elevate the Whangārei District Council brand. He advised that the first stages of mainly research has been completed.

Part of the research came up with three examples of councils who dropped the word 'Council' from their brand. If we drop the word 'Council' from our brand we will be making more of an association with the origins of our place. We can develop a modern inclusive brand that tells our story. We carry on doing the good work with the positivity more aligned to the district rather than the Council.

At present, we have a stable of 40 odd brands with little or no relationship with each other. Our well-loved events have no clear association with Whangārei District Council.

Rebranding would be a transitional process. Rather than replacing all signage, brochures etc, rebranding would occur as and when it needs replacing. Our legal entity would still be Whangārei District Council.

An appropriate Māori interpretation for Whangārei District was researched. Whangārei Takiwā is the yet to be confirmed interpretation. Tristan asked for input on the three different themes developed which included:

- The Poor Knights Lily which is unique to our area.

- Mount Manaia the main ancestral mountain for the tribes in the Whangārei area.
- The Twin Birds – Reitu and Reipae the twin sisters from the Waikato whose lives intertwined with the story of Whangārei. Te Tauwhanga-a-Reipae = The Place where Reipae married Tahūhūpotiki.

Some of the difficulties of the design process came from the form of Manaia which is difficult to translate to a form that could be used. The appropriateness of this for certain branding was also an issue raised.

The favoured option of the Twin Birds (Twin Sisters) is a story becoming better known in the district. Tristan advised that this option is not finished or confirmed but it is the leading form from a favourite theme. He advised it was interesting to note that Te Warihi and Taipari saw different things in the twin bird form. They also saw two whale forms which has significance as the meeting place and maunga as well. Either by design or happy accident different people see different things.

The colour theme that Council has explored further is reflective of our physical environment. The colour palette comes from the bush, the coast and our rural landscape. It provides a lot more diversity than what we have had in the past and provides a more reflective element.

Any Council communication will have the specific teams from Council added. This assists with bringing the human element to the fore but communications will always display the parent brand. The new theme of colours from nature will bring an affinity to the Whangārei District brand.

Feedback from the meeting included:

Members liked the branding and pristine colours. They thought the colours gave an association to clean and green, also Papatuanuku and Tangaroa.

Members were asked what they felt about dropping 'Council' from branding and whether it felt like a loss of ownership. Feedback received included "I get a district feeling..." "It feels more inclusive..." "Makes the district not just the Council more responsible. We may not be elected members but we all have a part to play."

Other comments included that it would be good to see more inland projects on posters promoting the district e.g. tuna projects. That we should look at the positives. We can focus on all of us being the district and how we then lift our district. We are not separate parts we and Council are working towards that positive lift.

It was stated that leaving 'Council' out of branding and using Whangārei District indicates it is not just exclusive to Council. You are going to empower everyone - Arohatia is empowering. The word Council does not empower. It takes out the bureaucracy of council - it is softer.

The entity will always be Whangārei District Council and the Council subtlety there.

The meeting was advised that the rebranding was still a work in progress but it was great to hear the positive feedback.

6.5 Infrastructure Operations Update - April 2018

Simon Weston, General Manager, Infrastructure ran through the presentation on the Infrastructure Operations update:

- There were heavy rainfall events between 8-15 February.
- Waste and Drainage – The Hatea pumping station has a treatment system which enables, when there are heavy rainfall events, for treatment to take place at the Hatea station rather than pumping to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWPT). Two UV reactors treat flows above 1000 cubic metres and this can then be pumped back into the Hatea River. A similar treatment system is being built at Tarewa.
- Matapouri beach replenishment – this project has recently been peer reviewed. The peer reviewers had a different view on the design of this project. The difference in design is being worked through presently. Community consultation is planned for later in the year.
- Seawall renewals to commence soon for Taurikura, Princes Road Ruakaka and Ritchie Road, Parua Bay.
- Some construction work has already begun on Ngunguru seawall renewal stage.
- Stage two is working with the local community and Landscape Architect Simon Cocker on how best to do coastal protection work.
- Hikurangi Hardcourt - finished but lights need to be installed.
- Ruakaka Sports Park – there is an intention to construct two new fields. Removal of the sand ridge and vegetation will be part of the project. Construction cost is approximately \$1.3m. There were no expressions of interest during the tendering process to remove the sand so will have to go back out to tender.
- Parks and Recreation tracks – A kauri dieback disease hygiene station has been established at AH Reed.
- The Maunu Cemetery has been awarded the Green Flag Award, only one of two awarded in New Zealand. In the last 2-3 years, there has been a focus on projects improving the way the cemetery looks.
- Hayden Parr, Senior Cemetery Operator, has received an individual excellence award for innovation at the Cemeteries National Convention.
- New playgrounds have been built at Amber Place and one at Ruakaka. The Parks department work with local schools on designs for the playgrounds. They research with suppliers what can be provided for a set amount of dollars then go to the relevant schools and get the pupils to use a voting system. The playground is constructed around this result. Themes are common in relation to the age profile of the school.

- Water Services - Whau Valley Water Treatment Plant. Pine removal around the Whau Valley dam has commenced.
- Pavement rehabilitation – chip sealed 100km of road. Seal extensions at Wright Road have been completed. Bridge repairs have been undertaken at Doctor's Hill Road. Timber decks are systematically being replaced on all bridges.
- LED street light conversion is underway across the whole district. There will be some carry forward into the next financial year due to the supply of the bulbs.
- Walking and cycling projects underway in Kamo – Kamo Cycleway.
- Fatigue stops – 4 stops on SH1, 287 drivers took advantage of these stops for a break in their trip.

There was a query on how long the coastal protection work being undertaken would last. Simon advised that the expectation for the hard structures would be at least 50 years. The soft structures are more problematic. They can last up to 10-12 years or a bad storm can decimate them quickly. In Matapouri sand from the estuary was relocated and planted approximately 12 years ago, the soft structures need to be replenished. Local communities tend to prefer the softer options but this requires more maintenance. There are discussions around the merits of a mix of soft and hard structures.

There was a query regarding the extreme weather events we are experiencing and whether the Matapouri beach replenishment project, if it included soft structures, was a realistic option and would the maintenance be too high. Simon advised that when the coastal specialists have come to a final agreement he would bring this solution back to discuss the merits and challenges of both.

Allan Halliday discussed the Hikurangi swamp flood management scheme and the wish to work with all stakeholders to improve the pump and sediment issues. He spoke of how sediment going into water ways kills water life and advised he believed a consent should be required for digger work cleaning the drains.

Nga Kaitiaki o Nga Wai Māori have suggested an invitation to key stakeholders for a hui to bring people along with the relevant expertise to collectively submit to the Provincial Growth Fund. Stakeholders include Living Waters\Fonterra, NRC/FIF Wairoa Project, WDC, farmers, Reconnecting Northland and Northpower. Andrew Carvell has offered to provide the venue.

Allan queried how we would overcome the issues caused by the pumps and sediment. He spoke of the need to eliminate the loss of eels to pumps during flood events.

Simon advised that various options to reduce tuna deaths had been trialled including electrical barriers on the pumps which were not successful. The solution may require replacing pumps with fish friendly Archimedes type pumps which would cost millions of dollars. Simon later checked the pump replacement programme and

advised that the first replacement with an Archimedes style pump was scheduled for 2027 with a 30-year full replacement time frame.

Allan noted that where fish friendly pumps had been installed in the Waikato, there were reports that eels were surviving the pumps but still being bruised. Simon expressed an interest in this information and advised that this needed to be explored further.

Her Worship the Mayor advised that the Hikurangi Flood Scheme is a ring funded scheme paid for by the scheme beneficiaries. She advised that a project to replace existing pumps with tuna friendly pumps could be an employment and economic benefit opportunity for the district. This project may be of interest to Minister Shane Jones for the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF). Jill McPherson made note of the suggestion and advice to link this possible project to future economic and environmental benefits.

There was agreement that an outcome is what leads to solutions. A strong integrated approach is needed.

7. General Business

Cr Innes noted the planning award received for Best Proactive Non-Statutory Planning for the Papakainga Toolkit. He acknowledged Jared Pitman's and David Badham's contribution to the process. He noted that this is one step in a journey. He related the work completed on the Papakainga Toolkit to previous discussion on empowerment and being a step towards removing some of the bureaucracy out of the process. Cr Innes spoke of the Papakainga pilot scheme that some of the elected members visited at Mangakahia. He stated that the award is an acknowledgement from peers but we would only be as successful as the results it helped to produce.

Delaraine Armstrong noted that at yesterday's Te Huinga meeting it was agreed to bring to this forum, a proposal to allow members the ability to be more effective in the role of working with Council. The proposal will seek for control of a budget to assist with this. Delaraine was advised to email the proposal to Jill McPherson.

There will be North Island Climate Change Conference in June.

8. Closure of Meeting – Karakia - Julian Reweti

Meeting closed at 11.13am.