

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 107 HEUHEU STREET, TAUPŌ  
ON MONDAY, 20 AUGUST 2018 AT 10.30AM**

- PRESENT:** Mayor David Trewavas (in the Chair), Cr Rosie Harvey, Cr Barry Hickling, Cr Rosanne Jollands, Cr Tangonui Kingi, Cr Anna Park, Cr Maggie Stewart, Cr John Williamson
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive, Head of Communications & Customer Relations, Head of Community & Culture, Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues, Head of Regulatory & Risk, Policy Advisor, Democratic Services Support Officer
- MEDIA AND PUBLIC:** Eight members of the public

## 1 APOLOGIES

### TDC201808/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Barry Hickling  
Seconded: Cr Maggie Stewart

That the apologies received from Councillors John Boddy, Christine Rankin and Kirsty Trueman be accepted.

**CARRIED**

## 2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

## 4 POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

### 4.1 REPRESENTATION REVIEW - HEARINGS AND DELIBERATIONS

The Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues outlined the days proceedings proposing that Council decide on how to proceed after hearing from the scheduled submitters. She was unsure if Mrs Sandra Greenslade would attend to present her submission as she had not received a response to voicemail messages left.

Following public notice of the initial proposal and a six week submission period, 28 public submissions were received, with four submitters speaking to their respective submissions as follows:

*Submitter 28 – Omori/Kuratau Ratepayers Association – Mike Bowie (Chairman)*

- Thanked Council on behalf of the community for various works completed to date at Omori/Kuratau such as the realignment of Te Puke, Pihanga and Omori Roads; speed reduction implemented on Omori Road; allocating funds in the Long-Term Plan for erosion management; and entering into a joint venture arrangement for the installation of playground shade sails.
- Commended the Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues for her work coordinating the Representation Review and presenting this information to approximately 40 attendees at Omori. Acknowledged that it was a difficult proposal to present as people generally did not like change, and the majority audience had a natural aversion to what was being proposed. A positive outcome was

- that lengthy debate ensued post meeting however, the majority consensus was to oppose the proposal.
- Referred to wording in relation to fair representation, the plus/minus 10% ratio, and communities of interest as published in the Taupō & Turangi Weekender 21 June 2018 edition (second paragraph, pg 2 of submission). Felt there was two communities of interest or 'hubs', one being Taupō town in the north and Turangi town in the south. The physical barrier between Turangi and Taupō was Motutere, which made Turangi the 'hub'.
  - Started visiting the Taupō district in the late 1950s. Loved the area and was a fourth generation Bowie family member in Omori/Kuratau. Many others came here for what the southern lakes, many bays, and hinterland had to offer.
  - Omori/Kuratau had the largest concentration of permanent residents for the various enclaves – Hatepe, Motutere, Motuoapa, Pukawa, Whareroa – and 991 property owners in total. Less than 8% of property owners (78) were permanent residents. Omori/Kuratau ratepayers made a significant contribution to the local economy.
  - The community unanimously agreed that the proposed South/East rural ward was not reflective of fair representation and communities of interest as if accepted, it would cover an enormous geographical area stemming from Broadlands in Taupō, through to Whareroa. This arrangement would also create a huge disconnect as it could mean someone from Broadlands could end up representing Turangi and equally, someone from Whareroa representing the Broadlands community. A pragmatic solution was to change the boundary of the proposed South East Rural Ward to better reflect the community interest of the Turangi region, and retract the east side boundary to Motutere.
  - Did not believe their proposed boundary change would alter ward population numbers dramatically, but would however go some way to achieve fair representation and recognise Turangi as a community of interest.
  - Understood that Council took seriously their submission and that the proposed arrangements were not final, therefore hoped that their proposals would be approved.

The following was noted during questions, answers and related discussion:

- A member noted their appreciation of the Omori/Kuratau group, in particular that they were very respectful of Council and also liked how they offered solutions. Clarified that Council was hamstrung as representation arrangements were based on census population data and not ratepayer numbers.
- Mr Bowie noted that Motutere was initially part of the Taupō/Kaingaroa ward.
- The Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues clarified that the population figure of 500 used was based on population hence it did not match the 900+ ratepayer figure provided by Mr Bowie.
- The Omori/Kuratau submission would require that more work be done on the mesh blocks.
- Was open to the boundary line including Hatepe.

No. 22 – Tony Ludbrook on behalf of Richard Hoadley, Taupō Residents Group (TRG)

- Two parts to submission. Hoped that Council would agree to set up a standing committee for Taupō Town Ward. There was a standing committee a few years ago which was abandoned, creating a gap for representation of Taupō town.
- Looked at a community board option however, TRG felt this was too formal and restrictive. Also did not like how the members had the same level of authority as councillors who were elected decision-makers therefore preferred to have input only.
- Proposed standing committee could be set up the same way as the current Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group and Kinloch Representative Group. This would create the ability for representatives to sit with councillors and inform them of the community's view so this could be represented at council meetings.
- The proposed membership of the committee would include the Mayor, three ward councillors and five elected community representatives. Meeting frequency would be bi-monthly.
- Representative groups were a less expensive option than a community board but a great way to get community input and feedback. Decision-making would be a lot more easier with community views presented beforehand.

- Would like the standing committee established fairly quickly as there were several issues pending that required community input, eg the civic administration cultural precinct.
- Also felt community boards were outdated, and that the South East Rural Ward would be better represented by a standing committee.

The following was noted during questions, answers, and related discussion:

- A member asked what would be gained by the proposal, noting that public were welcome to attend council meetings and see how decisions were made. Other communication mechanisms for public to talk to council were speaking at public forums, submissions, public consultations, etc. In reply, Mr Ludbrook noted that bi-monthly meetings would provide an opportunity for the community to discuss various issues with the group firstly, then the group could advocate to council on their behalf.
- In reply to a member comment about respect, Mr Ludley noted that there would always be people who would criticise Council. However, felt that providing an opportunity for people to attend standing committee meetings would help develop a more respectful relationship and stop people harbouring views at home and becoming frustrated.
- Would need to sit down with Council and discuss membership options to include tourism, Iwi, and business representation.
- Council were always looking at ways to improve communications. Everyone had a right to express views and participate.
- In reply to a member question in relation community participation, Mr Ludbrook noted that Council tried to inform the community through the Connect newsletter (etc.). However, he suspected that the community did not really take an interest in council affairs unless what was being proposed had a personal financial impact. Communication was a two-way process, as was participation but it was getting people to understand that.

Pg 94 – Aroha Henry

- Gave a mihi in te reo to Council. Intended to talk about a perceived unconscious bias in Taupō District Council in relation to hapu, in particular the non-allocation of hapu wards within the mana whenua. However, had received further information about representation arrangements since lodging of her submission and no longer held this view. Noted that the mana whenua hapu looked forward to engaging with Council within Te Roopu Kanapanapa.

No 27 – Christine McElwee (Mayor, hi to clayton stent

Having read all other submissions and heard some today, hoped all respected her right to present a different view as much as she respected theirs. Went through her full submission which covered three different sections, highlighting key points.

- Discussed elected representation in the bigger picture of New Zealand and where this proposal fitted within that picture
  - Three levels of representation in New Zealand - central, regional and local.
  - Election winners at any level became elected representatives – a prime role in both a moral and legal sense with clear cut responsibilities. All were accountable to those they represented, and required to work within democratic systems that had evolved slowly.
  - Electorate and ward boundaries (to a point) were important to the nations democracy.
  - Central government and Taupō electorate boundaries had changed significantly over the last 40 years.
  - Population data had been remiss of Taupō boundaries, and stretched all ways.
  - There was an imperfect system of boundaries across the country.
  - Had lived in Taupō since 1975 noting that with the exception of the last eight years, local ward boundaries had not made much difference to the service received. However, the current Councils very different internal local representation structures had made a significant difference to the quality of representative services that district residents and ratepayers received.
- It was important to determine that Taupō people got a fair share of representation. Equally important was council's internal structure and how Council worked democratically to service residents and

- ratepayers (further outlined in part 1 of submission).
- Pg 2 of submission made several points in support of what was being proposed, also the abolition of the former Taupō/Kaingaroa ward committee (which had held various names over the years whilst active). Believed the abolition of this committee seriously affected and created inequalities for Taupō/Kaingaroa Ward residents opportunities for democratic, effective and accountable local level representation.
  - Read aloud paragraphs (B i, ii, and iii) in relation to how to get more effective and accountable governance. Based on reading agendas and watching live meetings, felt that much of the leadership was coming from management and staff rather than elected members.
  - Went through paragraphs (a-i) under 'Why Change' (pg 2 of submission), highlighting the perceived inequitable status quo of Turangi/Tongariro and Mangakino/Pouakani ward councillors discussing and voting on Taupō Ward local matters, yet both wards had their own representative bodies – Turangi/Tongariro Community Board and Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group respectively, whilst Taupō Ward had none, nor did it have this same succession system to develop leadership. This was an untenable situation that needed to be changed urgently.
  - In answer to a question from Ms McElwee, Cr Stewart advised that councillors had a district focus. Further, she would undertake due diligence in relation to any Taupō related decisions that she was unsure of as well as take a lead from Taupō councillors and that this was the same for Taupō councillors making decisions in relation to Turangi. Councillors worked together as a team.
  - Delegations to representative groups were significantly different from delegations to a standing committee of elected representatives. If wanted, a standing committee could be provided more powers than a representative group. Suggested that councillors looked at the Taupō/Kaingaroa committee delegations to see how different they were.
  - Significantly concerned about Taupō District Council not currently fulfilling its legal requirements under the RMA, in particular the intention under the current Act to encourage and enable representative and local community input into the development of the District plan, and the decision-making process of Notified Resource Consent applications. In reply, members noted that there were not a lot of notified consents received, and that Cr Jollands was representing Council on hearings for both the upcoming proposed BP development in Turangi and flood hazard plan changes. Other councillors had also participated in the hearings process and understood the process very well.
  - Noted that Chief Executive Gareth Green was extraordinarily competent in RMA matters and therefore a great resource for councillors. Stressed however that with all governance matters, if the knowledge and skill was with staff and not equalled by governance, the checks and balances of democracy were undermined.

*Note: The meeting adjourned at this point (12.03pm) and reconvened at 12.34pm.*

The Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues outlined that submitters would require a rationale as to why Council supported their submission, or not; the Local Government Authority would also require same if Council chose to not support this original proposal. Reiterated that anything outside of the current proposal would be non-compliant. Ward boundaries could be reworked however, she would need direction from Council on this.

Discussions ensued and concluded with members requesting that the Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues adjust the proposed mesh blocks / boundaries and bring back for further consideration. Reestablishing the Taupō Town Ward standing committee would also be reviewed once the outcome of the Representation Review was known.

*Note: The meeting adjourned at this point (1.24pm) and reconvened again at 9.00am on Friday 24 August 2018.*

**PRESENT ON 24/08:** Mayor David Trewavas (in the Chair), Cr Barry Hickling, Cr Rosanne Jollands, Cr Tangonui Kingi, Cr Anna Park (from 9.02am), Cr Maggie Stewart, Cr John Williamson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive, Head of Communications & Customer Relations, Head of Community & Culture, Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues, Head of Regulatory & Risk, Head of Economic Development & Business Transformation, Policy Advisor, Analyst/Developer, Democratic Services Officer

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC:** Two members of the public

#### **TDC201808/02 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Maggie Stewart

Seconded: Cr Tangonui Kingi

#### **APOLOGIES**

That the apologies received from Crs John Boddy, Rosie Harvey, Christine Rankin and Kirsty Trueman (for absence) and Cr Anna Park (for lateness) be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### **4.2 REPRESENTATION REVIEW – FINAL REPRESENTATION PROPOSAL**

The Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues made an amendment to the supplementary report circulated on 23 August 2018 (A2295344), moving Taharua from the Turangi-Tongariro Ward into the Taupō North Ward and deleting the reference to Taupō North in recommendation 3(d), since Taupō North would be compliant under the updated proposal.

*Cr Anna Park entered the meeting at this point (9.02am)*

The Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues showed a map on the screens in the Council Chamber (A2295989), indicating proposed ward boundaries and names. She explained that Option A considered on 20 August 2018 would have resulted in a discrepancy of almost 50% in the south, so another option was presented which combined the Turangi Town and southern areas into one ward. The map on the screens also incorporated three meshblocks from Oruanui into the Mangakino-Pouakani Ward, which represented a reversion to status quo for Mangakino-Pouakani and Turangi-Tongariro.

The Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues explained the proposal further and answered questions. The following points were noted:

- The proposal for the Turangi-Tongariro Community Board was to subdivide the board into two, with four members from Turangi Town Ward and two members from the southern rural area. This would achieve rural and lakeside settlement representation at the Community Board level.

*His Worship the Mayor left the meeting at this point (9.06am)*

- Under the proposal, the Turangi-Tongariro Ward was 25% non-compliant. This was the status quo.
- The majority of councils were going through the representation review process. The Chief Executive added that most councils in the region were compliant and any discrepancies were by a small margin.

*His Worship the Mayor re-entered the meeting at this point (9.09am)*

- In relation to suggestions from submitters that Council should include more representative groups in its committee structure, it was advisable to wait until the final representation arrangements had been confirmed (by mid-April 2019), or after the elections in October 2019, to reconsider these requests.

Members decided to amend the initial proposal so that the four wards of the Taupō district would comprise the Mangakino-Pouakani Ward, the Taupō Ward, the Taupō East Rural Ward (amended at the meeting from Taupō North Ward) and the Turangi-Tongariro Ward, with boundaries as displayed on the screens in the Council Chamber. The Turangi-Tongariro Community Board would also be subdivided into two, to ensure representation from both Turangi town and other areas within the Turangi-Tongariro Ward. It was noted that although some of the ratios did not comply with population percentages, the amendments were in response to submissions received and with a view to providing the best representation possible for the different communities within the district.

In answer to a question, the Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues advised that there would be a one

month period for appeals and objections to be lodged, after which the proposal would be sent to the Local Government Commission for consideration.

His Worship the Mayor thanked the Head of Democracy, Governance & Venues and the Policy Advisor for their work on the representation review, and also the public for their submissions and support.

### **TDC201808/03 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Anna Park

Seconded: Cr Maggie Stewart

That Council:

1. Receives the submissions, including the late submission from Omori Kuratau Ratepayers Association.
2. Resolves, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and following its consideration of the public submissions received to its 2018 review of representation arrangements, to amend its initial proposal to the following final proposal for the 2019 Taupō District Council triennial elections being:
  - a) Taupō District Council comprising 11 councillors elected under the ward system, plus the mayor elected at large
  - b) Taupō District Council be divided into four wards (Attachment 1), these being:

Mangakino-Pouakani Ward 1 councillor comprising Mangakino, Marotiri and Tatua.

Taupō Ward 7 councillors comprising Acacia Bay, Maunganamu, Taupō East, Wharewaka, Rangatira Park, Rangatira, Lakewood, Nukuhau, Taupō Central, Tauhara, Hilltop, Waipahihi, Richmond Heights Waitahanui, Kinloch and the thirteen meshblocks in Oruanui that comprise the area to the south of Poihipi Road.

Taupō East Rural Ward 1 councillor comprising Wairakei-Aratiatia and Oruanui (excluding thirteen meshblocks to the south of Poihipi Road to be included in the Taupō Ward), Broadlands, Rangitaiki and Taharua.

Turangi-Tongariro Ward 2 councillors comprising Turangi, Tongariro, Motuoapa, Tokaanu, Rangipo, Te More, Omori and Kuratau

- c) One community board being;

Turangi-Tongariro Community Board with two subdivisions – Turangi Subdivision (4 members elected) and Tongariro Subdivision (two members elected) plus two councillors from the Turangi-Tongariro Ward.

3. Notes that in considering matters raised by submitters that:
  - a) the total number of councillors is proposed to be 11 (plus the Mayor). Council considers that 11 councillors will best provide effective representation to Taupō District residents and ratepayers and the size of the Council is appropriate for the conduct of the Council's business;
  - b) the Council has extensively canvassed views from the community to establish 'common ground' on where distinct communities of interest exist and although the existing Ward structure is well understood by electors the Council considers the ward boundaries in the proposal will better provide effective representation for the distinct communities of interest;
  - c) further altering of the boundaries of the wards to make them compliant would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest between wards; and
  - d) the relatively minor non-compliance in the Taupō Ward will likely self-correct in the near future if growth occurs as predicted.

- e) there is considerable growth in tourism and holiday home activity in a number of the key but more isolated communities in Taupō District that results in them having much larger population bases during the summer months that needs separate representation for effective representation to be achieved.
- 4. Notes that its Final Representation Proposal does not comply with section 19(V)(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001. The proposal must therefore be treated as an appeal under section 19(V)(5) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and be referred to the Local Government Commission for its determination following the appeal/objection period.
- 5. Notes that the Final Representation Proposal will be publicly notified on 7 September 2018 providing the opportunity for appeals and objections to be lodged in the period 7 September to 7 October 2018.
- 6. Approves the wording of the reasons for the Council's decision, and its acceptance or rejection of submissions received on the Council's initial proposal, as required under section 19N(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (Attachment 2).

**CARRIED**

**5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**The meeting closed at 9.20am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the ordinary Council meeting held on 25 September 2018.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**