

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE TŪRANGI CUSTOMER AND VISITOR CENTRE, 1 NGAWAKA PLACE, TŪRANGI
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2023 AT 2.00PM**

PRESENT: CR SANDRA GREENSLADE (IN THE CHAIR), MS MELANIE ALBERT, MS NGAIRE GRAINGER, MR DAVE POTAKA

IN ATTENDANCE: GENERAL MANAGER PEOPLE AND CUSTOMER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, SOUTHERN LAKE TAUPŌ ENGAGEMENT PARTNER, SENIOR FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS ADVISOR, IWI ENGAGEMENT PARTNER, CO-GOVERNANCE MANAGEMENT PARTNER, DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR, GOVERNANCE QUALITY MANAGER

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Chairperson Cr Sandra Greenslade welcomed everyone to the meeting and member Mr Dave Potaka recited an opening karakia.

1 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TRG202303/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade
Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That the apology received from His Worship the Mayor, David Trewavas be accepted.

CARRIED

As this was the inaugural meeting of a new group, at the invitation of Chairperson Cr Greenslade, members introduced themselves and the following points were noted:

***Mr Dave Potaka** was a resident of Omori and had lived there since 2014. He was responsible for maintenance at the marae. Involved in various Trusts and in the community. His reason for joining the group was to get things done, together. He was representing Māori, but the whole community too. He recognised the need to understand issues, before figuring out how to approach them as a group.*

***Ms Melanie Albert** introduced herself with her pepeha. She was a resident of State Highway 47 Rotoaira and had been living sustainably off-grid there for around eight months. Prior to that had lived in Tūrangi for 20 years. In that time, was involved in the community as an early childhood teacher, forming valued connections with local whānau. Expressed love for her marae and others in the rohe. Had been a butcher in the past too and continued to use her butchering skills at marae around the Taupō district. Her reason for joining the group was to be a voice for whānau living in the rohe. She wanted to be a voice in the right space to bring about positive change.*

***Ms Ngaire Grainger** introduced herself with her pepeha. A resident of Kuratau, she was a member of the Omori-Kuratau Ratepayers Association. She had joined the group because it was important for the local voice to be heard at the Council level. There were a lot of issues in her area needing to be addressed.*

***Cr Sandra Greenslade** had been elected to Council in October 2022. Her public life journey had begun 10 years ago, when she was part of a group of people who challenged The Lines Company and won. She had been associated with the wider King country all her life, as her mother was born in Ōtorohanga and her father was associated with the Tongariro project. She recalled staying at the Tongariro Motel and travelling around the Taupō district as a child. Together with her husband Denis, she had built a house in Tūrangi in the early '90s and retired there in 2015. She outlined her current memberships on community organisations and concluded that she wanted to do more for the district, to make a difference and support people so that*

their voices could be heard. She thanked members for putting their names forward to make a positive difference.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

3 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

4 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

In answer to a question, Cr Sandra Greenslade explained that the Mayor had appointed her as the Chairperson of the Tongariro Representative Group. The General Manager People and Customer added that this was one of the Mayoral powers set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

Members agreed to let the item **lie on the table** until the next scheduled meeting of the Tongariro Representative Group.

5.2 WELCOME TO THE TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

The General Manager People and Customer introduced herself. She summarised the report included on the agenda and provided an overview on how the Tongariro Representative Group committee had come into existence, noting that geographically there were two sides to the Group's rohe. She passed on an apology from the Environmental Services Manager, Jessica Sparks, who would be the liaison officer for the Group.

The Governance Quality Manager introduced herself and tabled the documents referred to in the report as attachments, being reference material for members and the terms of reference and delegations from Council to the Tongariro Representative Group. She advised that a map of the Tongariro Representative Group's area would be provided in due course.

Members agreed that it would be beneficial to include a public forum at the start of future Tongariro Representative Group meeting agendas.

TRG202303/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Mr Dave Potaka

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the information provided to support members in their role for the 2022-2025 Triennium.

CARRIED

5.3 TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS

Members expressed their aims and aspirations for the Tongariro Representative group.

Ms Ngaire Grainger

- Aiming to support local concerns being heard at Council level.
- The Omori-Kuratau Ratepayers Association had in the past felt 'stone-walled' and the Tūrangi-Tongariro Community Board did not work that well, so it was hoped that the new structure would support better representation and people having their say.
- Would like to see things happening in the Tongariro area and feel supported in the way that Taupō is supported.

- Would like to motivate and generate action within communities.

Ms Melanie Albert

- Would like to feel more included in the Taupō district.
- Would like to see more vibrancy in the Tūrangi town and surrounds, creating a nice place for people to stop and an inclusive place for families and communities.
- So many things happen in Rotoaira, it would take time to work out aims and aspirations for that particular area.
- It was hoped that Tūrangi would become a 'one-stop-shop', with more colour, more vibrancy. Bring community pride back.

Mr Dave Potaka

- There was a need to be heard, but there was also a need to be consulted on what Council was doing and was planning to do in the Tongariro area. Council's actions impact communities, and it was important to prioritise things needing to be done in the outskirts too.
- Water, land and people were the key things to focus on. Water issues were a priority for everyone.
- Improve things as far as our environment is concerned.

Cr Sandra Greenslade

- Acknowledged members' involvement in the community, and their passion.
- A privilege to take things to Council on behalf of the Tongariro Representative Group.
- Aspirations included advocating for free entry to the Turtle Pools for children.
- Looked forward to ideas coming through to Council from the Tongariro Representative Group and also the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee.
- A two-way flow of information would be key to effective consultation and the sharing of ideas.

TRG202303/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the information generated as part of the members' discussion about aims and aspirations for the 2023 calendar year and the Triennium ending October 2025.

CARRIED

5.4 COMMUNITY GRANTS 2023

The Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor introduced herself, summarised community grants available and answered questions. The following points were noted:

- \$600k was distributed each year via partnership agreements. Council currently had 14 partnership agreements in place. These agreements were reviewed on a three-yearly cycle to align with the Long-term Plan.
- A recommendation would be sought later in the year for a Tongariro Representative Group member to be appointed to the Tūrangi Tongariro Community Grant Distribution Committee.
- Funding amounts for the various grants were capped, for example the community sports grant distributed by the Sports Advisory Council was currently capped at \$40k *per annum*.
- There was some cross-over between the funds, i.e. some projects may be eligible for funding via more than just one fund.

Chairperson Cr Greenslade noted that people sometimes needed help filling out grant application forms. The Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor was available to assist individuals and groups to apply.

TRG202303/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That the Tongariro Representative Group notes the 2023 opening and closing dates for community grants.

CARRIED

5.5 TONGARIRO SNAPSHOT

The General Manager People and Customer introduced the item, explaining that it would appear on all agendas to provide an opportunity for members to receive updates on what was happening in the Tongariro area; to consider opportunities for the Group to be involved in consultation processes; and to support members' aspiration to facilitate two-way kōrero with the community.

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner, Marama Isherwood introduced herself and addressed the Group. The following points were noted:

- The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner was based in Tūrangi most of the time.
- Christmas in the Park had been re-named Christmas in the Tūrangi Town Centre. The previous organisers, Safe Tūrangi had handed over the event management to a committee formed by locals. Committee members took the project on at short notice and with a small budget. In spite of this, the event was attended by an overwhelming number of people and very well received. The committee had been 'blown away' by the fantastic feedback about the event.
- Due to bad weather and erosion, the Waitangi Ki Pukawa festival was moved to the Tūrangi town centre. With Ngāti Tūrangitukua's blessing, the park was used and the event was really successful. A lot of mahi had gone into the event; it was well organised; and would be back in Tūrangi 2025.
- Planning for Matariki celebrations was underway, with the same group who worked on the Christmas committee joining with Mr George O'Connor-Patena to organise a week-long celebration in Tūrangi and Tokaanu 10-14 July 2023. The committee had presented to the Ngāti Tūrangitukua Marae Committee. Safe Tūrangi was backing the committee up and supporting applications for funding.
- Tūrangi revitalisation programme tree planting – tamariki from te kōhanga reo; te kura; and the high school as well as kaumātua were all involved in the replanting of trees. Little tamariki had starred in videos with their special trees, in response to some vandalism, it was all about people taking ownership and looking after their environment.
- Safe Tūrangi – provided an update on personnel changes; this was an awesome group to belong to.
- Western Bays community – the Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner was looking forward to becoming more involved, for example by attending Omori-Kuratau Ratepayer Association hui and meeting with whānau. She had also attended meetings with locals from Pukawa and Whareroa. Regular hui would keep everyone feeling connected.
- Motuoapa water treatment upgrade was progressing well, with an engagement person available to respond to anyone raising issues.
- Advocating for waiata and Te Reo classes in Tūrangi for staff and committee members.

In response to questions, the Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner advised that:

- She was happy to be a conduit between the Tongariro Representative Group and other community groups, for example in Pukawa and Omori, Kuratau. Some concerns raised would be addressed via service requests or referred to Council staff members and would not therefore need to come to the Group.
- She was also happy to attend all Tongariro Representative Group meetings.

Chairperson Cr Greenslade thanked the Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner for her work on events, connecting with community (including ratepayer) groups, and supporting elected and appointed committee members.

The General Manager People and Customer then spoke to the project updates outlined on the agenda, with additional points noted as follows:

- Tūrangi Events Centre – the Long-term Plan had indicated the Tūrangi Events Centre would be built next financial year, however that would not now happen. Work was continuing on the project and the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee and the wider community would be involved in next steps.
- Annual Plan 2023/24 – because of the economic climate, the proposed average rates increase for the 2023/24 year was higher than the increase signalled in the Long-term Plan. Council was consulting on this via the Consultation Document for the Annual Plan 2023/24. The two main questions being asked were: Should Council fund depreciation at a lower rate than the usual 100% to keep the rates increase down; and should Council invest in consenting, design and earthworks on the East Urban Lands (EUL) with a view to making a profit from development of that land. The consultation period would run throughout April. A video would be sent to Council’s representative groups explaining what was being proposed and the process involved.
- Recreation and Sport Strategy – Council was currently consulting on this and the closing date for submissions was the following week.

Hot topics discussed included:

- Erosion on the southern shores of Lake Taupō. Discussions were underway with interested parties.
- Sewage leaks into the lake, including via the Pukawa stream. Council staff had been notified and would do smoke testing to identify where leaks were coming from.
- New proposed subdivision above Pukawa. Members requested information on zoning and consent processes.
- Kuratau subdivision. Members requested information on zoning and consent processes.
- The road to Omori.
- Request to correct road name spelling to reflect the ‘meeting of two waters’ at the Kuratau stream which should be Huihui-a-Wai but was currently Huihuiawai. Next steps and information on road naming processes would be included on the next Tongariro Representative Group meeting agenda.

The General Manager People and Customer encouraged members to lodge service requests by contacting Taupō District Council, whenever they noticed activities of concern out in their communities.

TRG202303/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Mr Dave Potaka

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the information contained in the Tongariro Snapshot report.

CARRIED

5.6 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Ms Ngaire Grainger reported that the Omori-Kuratau Ratepayers Association had held a meeting recently. The group was dealing with most matters in-house.

Ms Melanie Albert advised that on a recent trip to Levin, she had noticed marae around the area had eye-catching red signs up signposting directions to marae to assist road users. She asked if something similar could be implemented around the Taupō district? The General Manager People and Culture advised that the red signs were erected by Waka Kotahi on state highways, but officers could investigate what could be done on local Taupō district roads.

Mr Dave Potaka raised a concern about Council staff installing water meters on marae, as they were classed as “communal buildings”. The issue was around consultation processes and communication about why water meters were required.

TRG202303/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the reports from members.

CARRIED

5 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed with a karakia recited by Mr Dave Potaka at 3.42pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting held on 17 May 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON