

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE RANGITAIKI COMMUNITY HALL, RANGITAIKI SCHOOL ROAD, RANGITAIKI, TAUPŌ
ON THURSDAY, 4 MAY 2023 AT 11.04AM

PRESENT: Cr Kylie Leonard (in the Chair), Mr Patrick Hart, Mayor David Trewavas, Mr Mark Wynyard, Cr Danny Loughlin

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Executive, Three Waters Manager, Policy Team Leader, Governance Quality Manager, Iwi and Co-Governance Advisor, Policy Advisor, Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District, Communications Advisor, Senior Committee Advisor

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: Nil

Notes: (i) Cr Danny Loughlin opened and closed the meeting with a karakia.
(ii) Chair Cr Kylie Leonard noted Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor's apology. He had intended to attend the meeting but was unable to.

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TERR202305/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Patrick Hart

Seconded: Mr Mark Wynyard

That the apologies received from Cr John Williamson and Ms Evelyn Forrest be accepted.

CARRIED

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

TERR202305/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kylie Leonard

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group confirms that System B be used to determine the election process for the Deputy Chairperson.

CARRIED

TERR202305/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Patrick Hart
Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group elects Mark Wynyard as the Deputy Chairperson of the Taupō East Rural Representative Group.

CARRIED

5.2 WELCOME TO THE TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Three Waters Manager summarised the report and highlighted that he was the Enterprise Team Leader contact for this Group. Members agreed that it was valuable that the Committee met in different parts of the ward for its meetings, and encouraged members of the public to attend. Council staff would contact the schools in the ward to ask if upcoming Taupō East Rural Representative Group meetings could be published in their newsletters. It was noted that links to Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Trust should be added to the Members' Resource Library.

TERR202305/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Patrick Hart
Seconded: Mr Mark Wynyard

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

CARRIED

5.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS 2023

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District introduced herself to the Group and outlined her role. She aimed to connect the rural communities in the Northern Taupō District, learn their aspirations and make sure they understood what Council was doing. She would focus on two way communication and finding a positive way forwards. She would continue to make positive connections with communities by sharing information about the Taupō District Council representative groups, including their meeting agendas and minutes. This had begun with a recent Annual Plan public meeting where a member of the public had asked for a new access track for bicycles and pedestrians in Wairakei which was added to the Taupō East Rural Representative Group submission. Going forward, she was looking at a community get together for River Road and White Road residents to learn their aspirations, and also encourage them to use the River Road Community Hall.

The Rangitaiki Community Hall & School Association had recently applied for funding for fire alarm repair but had been declined as the request did not meet the criteria. However, a positive connection had been made with Pāmu Farms of New Zealand.

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District advised that the Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor had been unable to attend the meeting. She advised that her role managed the community grants process, working with groups to distribute funding on behalf of Council. She also worked on tools for enabling groups to access funding, including Generosity New Zealand. This was a database which held funding information across all of New Zealand and allowed groups to filter information to find available grants. She confirmed that it could also be used for individuals and was free of charge.

The Communications Advisor advised the Group that website updates were in progress regarding funding, including promoting the grants well in advance of when they opened.

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District highlighted that there were many grants to support a variety of ideas and activities. She listed the grants which were opening again later in 2023 and asked members to make people in their community aware of these grants.

The Acting Chief Executive added that another part of the Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor's role

was to support Council to find funding for projects and keep rates down.

TERR202305/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Patrick Hart

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group notes the 2023 opening and closing for community grants.

CARRIED

5.4 PAPAKAINGA UPDATE - MĀORI PURPOSE LAND

Member Evelyn Forrest was not able to attend so this would be presented again at the following meeting.

The Group were informed that some papakainga housing had been completed on the Taupō side of Mihi Bridge near Waimahana Marae as well as on Te Toke Road past the Te Toke Marae.

Six papakainga houses were also being built near Ohaaki Marae for those working on the nearby power station.

TERR202305/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the update on Māori Purpose Land.

CARRIED

5.5 ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Three Waters Manager summarised the report.

Starlink

Members commented that Starlink was a good option to help rural children doing school work and homework, and also for added safety on farms. The long-term desire was for all community halls in rural areas to have access to Starlink.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that from an Emergency Management standpoint, Council was working on a reconciliation to see where Starlink was already present in the emergency services.

Wairakei School Hall Repairs

Following discussion, the Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District advised that she would follow up with Wairakei School regarding records of ownership so that the school could move forward with repairs and maintenance.

Upcoming Consultation – Housing Strategy

The Policy Team Leader introduced herself to the group and gave a description of the policy team's role at Council. This included corporate and Reserve Management planning, and coordinating a number of pieces of work including strategies and bylaw reviews. The team had increased in size over the last two years given the increase in reforms.

Cr Kylie Leonard left the meeting at this point (11.56am).

The Policy Team Leader advised the Group that she was working on Council's Housing strategy. This involved looking at Council's role in the housing space and understanding that the community wanted Council to play a bigger role. Research showed that there was a gap in affordable housing so they were looking at ways to resolve this such as using regulatory functions.

Cr Kylie Leonard returned to the meeting at this point (11.57am).

Council was looking at partnership opportunities such as the proposed development of the East Urban Lands, and using the District Plan to facilitate papakainga housing.

In answer to a question, the Policy Team Leader advised that a hearing would be held in August 2023 for the changes to the District Plan. Commissioners had been appointed at the last Council meeting on 27 April. Following deliberations and decisions, there may be appeals. Hopefully the changes would be adopted before the end of 2023.

Upcoming Consultation – Review of Bylaws: Cemeteries, Alcohol Control and Freedom Camping

The Policy Advisor introduced himself to the Group and outlined the upcoming bylaw reviews. The cemetery bylaw review looked to make it much simpler for customers by providing useful information in a handbook. The review was only for cemeteries on Council land, not urupā. In response to a comment from a member, The Policy Advisor would follow up with the Cemeteries Team Leader regarding seating at the Taupō cemetery.

The alcohol bylaw proposed an extension to the ban area in Taupō town as requested by the Police. This was to extend it to include the area between Ruapehu and Tītiraupenga Streets.

The freedom camping bylaw review proposed to change the definition of self-contained to align with changes being made by central government. It was also proposed to remove the site on the Whakamaru Domain in the Mangakino ward. The Policy Advisor clarified that while freedom campers could camp anywhere unless a bylaw was in place, campers were also governed by the Reserves Act 1977. The proposed review would make the legislation and rules clearer for public and staff to interpret.

The Policy Advisor encouraged members to submit feedback when these bylaw reviews went out for consultation to the public.

TERR202305/07 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Patrick Hart

Seconded: Mr Mark Wynyard

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the Items of Interest information provided.

CARRIED

5.6 TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS

Following discussion, members agreed to the following aims and aspirations for the Triennium:

- Improve communications and connections with members of the community to better represent the ward's aspirations; and
- Recognise rural communities appropriately.

At future meetings in 2023 they expressed the desire to invite representatives from Pāmu Farms of New Zealand and Lochinver Station in order to hear about their operations. This would also provide an opportunity for the Group to share what they did.

For the remainder of 2023, members asked for the following for their future meetings:

- A report detailing the process around maintenance for rural roads, in particular Broadlands Road;
- Written reports including pictures and/or maps where appropriate, in order to process the information ahead of the meeting; and
- The opportunity to make recommendations to Council for the Long-term Plan on behalf of the Taupō East Rural ward.

In general, members advised that they would like to focus on support and understanding for rural communities and businesses.

TERR202305/08 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the Taupō East Rural 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

5.7 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Item **withdrawn**.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 12.37pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group Meeting held on 22 June 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON