

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE MOTUOAPA FISHING AND BOATING CLUB, 8 ARATAHA STREET, MOTUOAPA
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023 AT 2.01PM**

PRESENT: Cr Sandra Greenslade (in the Chair), Ms Melanie Albert, Cr Karam Fletcher, Ms Ngaire Grainger, Mr Dave Potaka, Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager People & Customer, Resource Consents Manager, Acting Infrastructure Manager, Acting District Parks & Reserves Manager, Policy Team Leader, Communications Specialist, Policy Advisor, Iwi Engagement Partner, Policy Advisor, Resource Consents Planner, Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner, Team Leader Customer Support – Tūrangi/Mangakino, Committee Advisor, Senior Committee Advisor

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: One member of the public

- Notes:
- (i) Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade opened the meeting and encouraged all present to recite the karakia.
 - (ii) An urgent late item 5.7: Annual Plan submission was added to the agenda by Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade.
 - (iii) Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade advised that Mayor David Trewavas had asked Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor to attend the meeting in his place. The Deputy Mayor could exercise all of the Mayor's powers.
 - (iv) Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade asked members to encourage their communities to speak at public forum. The Communications Specialist advised that this would also be advertised on social media.

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TRG202305/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Ngaire Grainger

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

That apologies from Mayor David Trewavas be received and accepted.

CARRIED

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

URGENT LATE ITEM

Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade advised that there was one urgent late item for consideration at the meeting, being a recommendation for the Tongariro Representative Group to make a submission to the Annual Plan 2023-24. She sought approval to add this item to the agenda to be dealt with at the meeting.

TRG202305/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

That, pursuant to section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the following item be added to the agenda and dealt with at the meeting as it was not available at the time the agenda was circulated, and consideration of the item is a matter of urgency, requiring a decision without delay.

- Annual Plan 2023-24 Submission

CARRIED

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**4.1 TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 15 MARCH 2023**

Members asked why the past tense was used for minutes and why staff names were not listed, only their job titles. The General Manager People and Customer explained that minutes for local government committees were always written in the past tense for the purpose of the future reader. The Acting Infrastructure Manager explained that job titles were important for context of what was being discussed and that staff names would not be meaningful to future readers.

The minutes were amended in the following manner:

Item 5.6, Members' Reports: Replace "communal buildings" with "commercial buildings" in the member report from Mr Dave Potaka.

TRG202305/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Mr Dave Potaka

That the minutes of the Tongariro Representative Group meeting held on Wednesday 15 March 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record, as amended.

CARRIED

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS**5.1 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade recommended that the Committee used system B for determining the election process for a deputy chairperson.

Cr Karam Fletcher was nominated as the Deputy Chairperson and accepted the nomination.

TRG202305/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Ngaire Grainger

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

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

CARRIED

TRG202305/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Ms Ngaire Grainger

Seconded: Mr Dave Potaka

That the Tongariro Representative Group elects Cr Karam Fletcher as the Deputy Chairperson of the Tongariro Representative Group.

CARRIED

5.2 PUBLIC FORUM

Item **withdrawn**.

5.3 ROAD NAME CORRECTION - HIUHIUAWAI STREET IN KURATAU

The Resource Consents Manager introduced herself to the Group and explained that a spelling correction to a road name was not an extensive process. An update would be made to Council's systems; Land Information New Zealand and emergency services would be informed; and landowners on the street would be informed by letter. She clarified that if it was for a new name or a change of name, consultation with landowners would need to be carried out as part of the process. She agreed to share the Te Reo meaning of the name with landowners to give them context when notifying them of the name correction. The name would be corrected to Huihui-a-Wai (meeting of two waters) to reflect where the stream meets the lake.

TRG202305/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Karam Fletcher

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the information provided by the Resource Consents Manager regarding correcting the spelling of a road name.

CARRIED

5.4 PROJECT AND OPERATIONS UPDATES

The General Manager People and Customer introduced the Acting Infrastructure Manager and Acting Parks and Reserves Manager to members, as well as the Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner.

The General Manager People and Customer summarised the project updates and members commented that the blessing on 13 May of Te Mataapuna had been auspicious with the beautiful morning stars and moon followed by sunshine.

In answer to questions from members regarding the Tūrangi Transfer Station, the Acting Infrastructure Manager clarified that recycling from the Tūrangi Tongariro ward was sorted at the conveyer in Taupō. General waste fees would be calculated using the weighbridge but the green waste would be calculated differently.

Omori Slip

The Acting Infrastructure Manager advised that two tenderers had requested time extensions which had been granted. The tender would close on 16 June and after evaluation it would be awarded and contractors would be onsite. The Council was aware that the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 had put pressure on consultants and contractors all over New Zealand.

The site was currently stable and it was noted that there were a few slip sites further along Omori Road. One of these undermined a walkway leading to a reserve. While this walkway was rarely used, caution tape had been added. A geotechnical assessment would be carried out to check repair options along Omori Road and following this, a tender would go out to complete necessary works.

Omori Erosion

The Acting Infrastructure Manager advised that it had been a difficult year in terms of erosion. The living wall at the rivermouth had failed completely. The river had changed course, and the ground levels were now 500-700 millimetres lower than they were previously. After the earthquake on 30 November 2022 there was an under the lake landslide at Wharewaka so this may have also happened there. Environmental and Engineering Consultants Tonkin and Taylor would review the site the following day to provide options for solutions. There was loose geotechnical material in the lake which would have to be cleaned and removed. Following these works, more sediment would be added and bigger beach and foreshore maintenance carried out when conditions stabilised. It was hoped that the cabbage trees could be saved.

Tūrangi Events Centre

In answer to a question, Cr Sandra Greenslade clarified that the Tūrangi Events Centre design was in the early stages and being dealt with by the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee.

TRG202305/07 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Karam Fletcher

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the progress updates on projects and operations as at 17 May 2023.

CARRIED

5.5 TONGARIRO - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HOT TOPICS

Community Engagement and Development

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner echoed the earlier comments regarding the blessing and opening of Te Mataapuna and thanked all those that played a part.

There had been an Annual Plan 2023-24 session held in Tūrangi on 12 April 2023 which had been well attended. Supporting staff and Elected Members were able to answer questions from members of the public.

Te Kapua Park was blessed on 1 May 2023 and there was a great turnout of students from the Tūrangi schools. The kids were excited about the progress and asked a lot of questions to the developers.

Safe Tūrangi had committed to giving up to 10 car seats to families in need, for their toddlers.

In July 2023, the Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner and community volunteers would engage the community to seek their aspirations.

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner thanked member Mel Albert for her assistance with adding flags in Tūrangi town. ANZAC flags were purchased with funds left from Christmas in the Park, and funding from Taupō District Council. In addition, Tongariro and Pihanga flags had been rediscovered in the old depot and displayed around town to add colour.

An Emergency Management Advisor – Community Resilience had been appointed and would be responsible for the framework to assist with regional emergency management plans for rural communities, including the Tūrangi Tongariro ward. After Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023, it was evident that there was a requirement for a plan to be put in place.

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner identified a number of different entities for hui and networking that were working to strengthen and grow the town as a bigger group.

Tree replanting as part of the Tūrangi Revitalisation Project would commence the following week in Noni Street with assistance from school groups.

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner thanked the Team Leader Customer Support – Tūrangi and Mangakino for his willingness to accommodate the growing number of Council staff working out of the office space in the Tūrangi Customer and Visitor Information Centre.

Policy – Upcoming Consultations

The Team Leader Policy introduced herself and explained her role and the policy team's role at Council. The team consisted of 11 staff who coordinated the Annual Plan, Long-term Plan and District Plan. They also worked on housing, climate change, recreation and sport, and bylaws.

The Team Leader Policy was leading the housing strategy work which was responding to the community asking for Council to be more involved. A framework had been developed around the opportunities and five focus areas had been identified and had actions to be completed. These were facilitating affordable housing, enabling the development of Māori land and papakainga, improvement of Council-owned housing for the elderly, facilitating social housing development, and encouraging and enabling healthy and sustainable homes. In June and July the community would be asked to provide feedback and comment on this approach.

The Policy Advisor introduced himself and explained that he was leading the work to review the Alcohol, Freedom Camping, and Cemetery bylaws. The Alcohol Control bylaw had proposed to extend the ban area in Taupō town to include the area between Ruapehu and Tītīraupenga Streets. This was a result of concerns raised by Taupō police.

The Cemetery bylaw review did not affect private cemeteries or urupā. The proposed changes would be simpler for customers when burying a loved one.

The Freedom Camping bylaw changes would align with potential central government reforms. The Whakamaru Domain in Mangakino would be removed as a Freedom Camping site.

The Policy Advisor asked the Tongariro Representative Group to give their feedback on these bylaws. He confirmed that he had engaged with Safe Tūrangi and was interested in feedback from the Group. The final statement of draft changes would go to Council at the end of June to be adopted. After this a formal community consultation would be carried out in July and August 2023.

Resource Consents

The Resource Consents Manager introduced herself and explained that her team worked on consents for subdivision proposals and land use. The District Plan stated how big a building could be on a site and if any parameters were not met, a resource consent would be required to be applied for which her team would assess.

In response to questions from members, the Resource Consents Manager advised that the proposed subdivision on State Highway 41 for 28 sections on rural land had been paused because it required approval from Waka Kotahi. While under current rules it was compliant, there was an upcoming Rural Plan Change to the District Plan. Once a hearing for the District Plan had taken place, the proposed subdivision would be publicly notified. The current provision for cluster sections included a group of 10 small lots in a balance over 100 hectares. The proposed changes to the District Plan were for big sections so there was tension between the current and new direction. Submissions closed for the changes to the District Plan in April 2023 and a hearing was expected to be held in early July, followed by another in September 2023. This was for numerous plan changes within the District Plan, particularly to the rural chapters. Any appeals would go to the Environment Court.

The Resource Consents Manager clarified that the application for development on D2 and D3 in Pukawa had come to Council two years prior but had been paused following a public notification. The applicants and Waikato Regional Council needed to agree on the ecological value of the native bush, and how this could be offset by planting in other places.

The Tongariro Representative Group asked to receive information regarding consents that had been granted and applied for in the Tūrangi Tongariro ward.

Water meters at Marae

The Acting Infrastructure Manager explained that district wide rates were based on pan charges so if marae put in toilets they would be charged for this. In the upcoming Long-term Plan there was the opportunity to look at how rates were calculated, and these rules. The General Manager People and Customer added that concerns regarding particular marae could be discussed with the Iwi and Co-Governance team at Council. Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor encouraged groups and individuals to make submissions to future District Plan changes that would be coming up. The proposed replacement to the Resource Management Act would move operations to regional levels and remove the local control. This included the current direction of Three Waters Reform, now referred to as Affordable Water Reform.

TRG202305/08 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the information contained in the Tongariro – Community Engagement and Hot Topics report.

CARRIED

5.6 MEMBERS' REPORTS

The following member reports were received:

Ms Mel Albert was part of the same committee as the Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner and had been engaging with whānau at marae, and attending marae hui. They hoped to be able to add car parks at marae. She was also hoping to get bus shelters installed on State Highway 46 and State Highway 47 for kids waiting for the bus.

Ms Ngaire Grainger expressed concern that the Omori Kuratau Ratepayers Association, of which she was also a member, were unable to meet with Council staff now that she was part of the Tongariro Representative Group. The Acting Infrastructure Manager clarified that messages should be channeled via the Tongariro Representative Group by members to reach the wider community. He confirmed that he and his team were available outside of meeting dates for any technical or operational issues.

Mr Dave Potaka advised that progress had been made on the sewage leak at Pukawa Stream. Smoke tests had been carried out and several places were identified where seepage was occurring. He was pleased that the entire coastline of Lake Taupō at Pukawa would be assessed for erosion to achieve a good outcome.

TRG202305/09 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Mr Dave Potaka

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the reports from members.

CARRIED

5.7 ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade asked the Group to consider the particular questions that Council was seeking feedback on as part of the Annual Plan 2023-24.

Investment of \$7.6 million to develop a 6ha area within the East Urban Lands

The Group supported this investment. It supported positive outcomes for the district and affordable housing. It suggested that Council use the model used by Tūwharetoa Settlement Trust which recently opened five affordable rental homes in Tūrangi.

Postpone funding a portion of depreciation for this coming financial year and spread that cost over the following 1-2 years

While the Group preferred for the average rates increase to be lower than 10%, it acknowledged that infrastructure and assets should still be maintained and repaired. Most of the Group did not support postponing funding a portion of depreciation.

TRG202305/10 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Dave Potaka

Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That the Tongariro Representative Group:

1. makes a submission on Taupō District Council's draft Annual Plan 2023-24; and
2. delegates authority to Mel Albert to sign this on behalf of the Tongariro Representative Group.

CARRIED

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 4pm with a karakia from all those present.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Tongariro Representative Group Meeting held on 19 July 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON