

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE OTŪKOU MARAE, 75-161 OTŪKOU ROAD, OTŪKOU, ROTOAIRA**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2024 AT 2.00PM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), Parks Manager – Town Centres (J Gordon), Team Lead Reserve Rangers – Tūrangi and Mangakino (R Kohiti), Parks Advisor – Planning and Operation (B Vi), Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner (M Isherwood), Team Leader Customer Support – Tūrangi and Mangakino (J Cathro), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)

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

*Notes: (i) All present opened and closed the meeting with a karakia.*

*(ii) Chair Cr Sandra Greenslade acknowledged the mana whenua Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro for their hospitality at Otūkou Marae.*

**1 KARAKIA**

**2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES**

**TRG202404/01 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Karam Fletcher

That the apologies received from Mayor David Trewavas and Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor be accepted.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202404/01 above.*

**3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 TONGARIRO REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 21 FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes were amended in the following manner:

Secretarial note iii – spelling was corrected to Will Shirer (from Will Shira).

Item 5.5 Members' Reports – formatting was corrected to make it clear which was Mr Dave Potaka's report.

**TRG202404/02 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Karam Fletcher

That the minutes of the Tongariro Representative Group meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record, as amended.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202404/02 above.*

## 5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

### 5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Item **withdrawn**.

### 5.2 PROJECT AND OPERATIONS UPDATES

The General Manager People and Community Partnerships added to the project and operations updates on behalf of the Environmental Services Manager.

#### **Omori Rising Water Main**

There was a buzz of excitement in Omori for the work to be commenced. Unbudgeted expenditure had been approved at the 16 April Extraordinary Council meeting and Civtec had been contracted to do the work. Council teams would keep in touch with the community.

#### **Omori Erosion**

The General Manager Strategy and Environment had met with committee member Mr Dave Potaka and other community members recently about this.

The Parks Manager – Town Centres added that the lake levels had lowered so Council's contractor had been instructed to recommence beach nourishment.

#### **Eucalyptus trees at Whiowhio Reserve, Kuratau**

The Parks Manager – Town Centres advised that these trees would continue to be assessed and that the team would work with the Department of Conservation to ensure bat protection if required.

#### **Street sweeping in Tūrangi**

The Parks Manager – Town Centres introduced her team members, the Team Lead Reserve Rangers – Tūrangi and Mangakino Rui Kohiti and the Parks Advisor – Planning and Operation Billie Vi. The Team Lead Reserve Rangers – Tūrangi and Mangakino confirmed that street sweeping of the leaves in Tūrangi streets had begun.

### **TRG202404/03 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Ms Ngaire Grainger

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the progress updates on projects and operations as at 24 April 2024.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202404/03 above.*

### 5.3 TONGARIRO - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HOT TOPICS

The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner updated members about the following:

#### **Youth Engagement**

During the first week of the school holidays, she, Cr Karam Fletcher and the Community Engagement Advisor had met with a number of rangatahi from the Tūrangi Rangatahi Hub. They spoke about who and what Council was and asked the kids to share what they knew about Council. It had been a learning experience for all and was helped by the interactive programme put together by the Community Engagement Advisor giving more detail about what sat under central or local government. The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner stressed that it was important for young people to understand the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan so that they would be comfortable to make submissions in the future. Having Cr Karam Fletcher

present had been beneficial because the rangatahi knew him and listened to what he had to say.

Council's Community Engagement team had been tasked with targetting youth groups around the rohe so the Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner had reached out to the karate club and the badminton club. Council would also be involved in the Youth Week from 20 – 26 May and go into schools around the rohe to give civic education.

### **Motutere Reserve Management Plan**

At Council's March meeting it was agreed that the lease negotiations would be started in parallel with the drafting of the Reserve Management Plan. It was important to note that the proposed lease was not required to go to public consultation.

### **Community events**

The Easter Egg Hunt event had been a huge success and the group was proud of what they had managed to pull together. The same group that had organised the Easter Egg Hunt had also put together an arrangement of ANZAC poppies at the roundabout in the Tūrangi towncentre which were wonderful and made of 570 plastic bottles.

The wider group was now looking at an event for Matariki and had submitted a funding application. Tongariro School was also keen to help and a weekly events calendar would be shared with those that were interested.

### **ANZAC day**

The Department of Corrections had contributed 30 poppies made by prisoners which were about 1 metre high and had been given to the Tokaanu and Tūrangi Returned Services Association (RSA). They would be put in the ground outside the RSA in Tokaanu and after the morning service on ANZAC day would be moved to Omori for the sunset event.

### **Community gardens**

These had been a blessing and were almost set to be cleared and replanted for winter. The Southern Lake Taupō Engagement Partner was super proud and thankful for those that kept it going.

### **Long-term Plan (LTP) engagement**

This would take place over the month of June and sessions had been locked in on 16 June at Hatepe in the morning and at Motuoapa in the afternoon.

Discussion would continue and sessions would also be planned for Whareroa, Pukawa, Omori and Kuratau.

An evening session would be held in Tūrangi, likely at the St John's.

### **Tūrangi Angler statue**

The Tūrangi Angler statue would be relocated outside the Tongariro and Lake Taupō Anglers Club (TALTAC) rather than at the Tongariro Trout Centre. It was understood that Mr Michael Sperry who had worked for Tūrangi Engineers and was part of the team that made the angler was pleased that it was going to be located near the Major Jones Bridge.

### **Te Kapua papa tākaro**

After being nominated for 2 awards, the papa tākaro was a finalist in the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects Awards on 17 May 2024. It would not be known if an award had been won from Taituarā until the Gala Dinner and Excellence Awards in June 2024.

### **Long-term Plan (LTP) update**

The General Manager People and Community Partnerships updated members about the LTP mahi and advised that the Long-term Plan set out the projects that Council would do over the next 10 years. The special consultative period would go from the start of June to the start of July. Following this there would be hearings and then the LTP would be adopted by Council.

Elected members focussed on the essentials – the building blocks for keeping the community running and keeping everyone safe. While everyone wanted what was best for the district it was hard during this time of economic constraints with cost pressures. Current levels of service were being maintained because communities were asking for places to bring people together.

Important decisions would be made for the Long-term Plan and communities had the opportunity to submit their feedback. The consultation document and supporting information summarised what Council had heard and asked for feedback as to whether it was right. Legislatively, Council was required to talk about an issue and then provide the preferred option. An example of this was the rubbish bags or wheelie bins which for

some communities was divided. Other issues that would be covered in the LTP were housing, wastewater, funding from the New Zealand Transport Agency, changes to community funding, and fees and charges. The Consultation Document would have the information and key messages would be provided to members to assist them to answer questions.

The community was encouraged to make submissions to the LTP and it was important to note that a submission on every issue was not compulsory, just those that were important to community members. An online form was available to complete but submissions were also accepted in other ways. Community members were encouraged to attend the hearing as well which could be a powerful way to get a message through. Following hearings, elected members would deliberate and make any changes to the Long-term Plan before it was adopted at the end of September.

Rates could not be collected until the Long-term Plan was adopted which was usually by 1 July. The workplan which came from the LTP would start in October.

The first review of the LTP would be in three years' time. The first two years there would be an Annual Plan each year and this would only be consulted on with the community if there was a significant change to what was forecasted in the LTP. Explanation and education was a focus and people would have access to an online calculator to check what their rates increase was likely to be.

#### **TRG202404/04 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Ms Melanie Albert

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

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202404/04 above.*

#### **5.4 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

The following members' reports were received:

Ms Mel Albert

- Thanked everyone for coming to the Marae today, it was great to showcase the maunga.
- She was on the Tongariro School Board of Trustees and proud to say that Ms Sharlyn Holt who was a young female local person had been appointed as the Principal and would be welcomed at a formal whakatau to be held at Hirangi Marae on Monday 29 April 2024.
- Tongariro School had received approval from Council for the second stage of its build.
- Was concerned about illegal rubbish dumping on State Highway 47.

Ms Ngaire Grainger

- Thanked Otūkou Marae for hosting the meeting. She had done a tour of the marae and learned about the history.
- Thanked Council and staff for proceeding with the Omori Water Main project.
- Was concerned that actions had not been followed up from the previous meeting including a meeting between Council and Margaret Sagar who had presented at the previous meeting's public forum on behalf of the Pukawa Property Owners Association.
- Advised that there would be a sunset service for ANZAC day at Omori at 5pm followed by a cup of tea and ANZAC biscuits.
- A new first response vehicle for Omori Kuratau was currently in Tauranga being kitted out with signage. The first responders had been busy recently with 2 call outs the previous Sunday, it was great to have a good team.
- The Kuratau School rubbish was not being collected and staff were taking it to the transfer station at their own cost.
- Enquired about the WIFI connection at Omori Kuratau Community Centre. The General Manager

People and Community Partnerships advised that Council could put the hall committee in touch with Spark but could not install WIFI because the hall was not a Council owned asset.

- Looked forward to making a submission to the Long-term Plan.

Cr Karam Fletcher

- Further to the civic education to the Tūrangi Rangatahi Hub, he had also visited rangatahi from Taupō schools to provide civic education which had been beneficial for both sides.
- Was focussing on the Long-term Plan 2024-34.

Mr Dave Potaka

- Asked if Council's contractor that culled rabbits could be employed for a longer period. The Parks Manager Town Centres confirmed that the contractor worked for Council, the Department of Conservation and for private clients so was in demand. She asked that residents also did their part as many rabbits were living under private decks.
- Was concerned that there were many freedom campers on the eastern side of Lake Taupō and some were leaving their rubbish behind. He asked that compliance officers be made aware and for signs to be checked in the reserves.
- Was concerned about the erosion at Pukawa and would try to bring people together to address this.
- Enquired into the proposed development at the back of Pukawa. He understood there was confusion as the application indicated that hapū had given consent. He asked for a progress update on this development.

Cr Sandra Greenslade

- Attended the official opening of the bar leaner commemorating the veterans in Asia wars at the Tokaanu-Tūrangi RSA on 23 February 2024.
- Asked for the community to support the two Tūrangi girls Emma Speedy and Grace Hura who were raising money to attend the ISKF World Shoto Cup in London in September 2024 (the world karate championships). Andrew Wood, owner of the Hare and Copper initiated fundraising for these girls who were doing amazingly well.
- The Motutere Recreation Reserve Management Plan review was progressing and it was important to note that the leaseholder would have to comply with the Reserve Management Plan.
- Amplify would be running workshops over the next 10 weeks in the Tūrangi Tongariro area. This was an amazing opportunity for people and minimum numbers were required for it to proceed.
- Supercars were in Taupō the previous weekend which was terrific for the district. The Mayor had indicated that the following year buses would be provided for children from Tūrangi to attend and take part.
- Acknowledged Dulcie Gardiner, a well-loved member of the community who had passed away recently.
- Acknowledged that the following day was ANZAC day which was important to this community as everyone had someone to remember.

#### **TRG202404/05 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Karam Fletcher

That the Tongariro Representative Group receives the reports from members.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Tongariro Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TRG202404/05 above.*

**6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**The meeting closed at 3.33pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Tongariro Representative Group Meeting held on 3 July 2024.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**