



# **MINUTES**

**Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City  
Council Committee Meeting  
Monday, 29 March 2021**

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL  
TANGATA WHENUA / TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 91 WILLOW STREET,  
TAURANGA  
ON MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021 AT 10.30AM**

**PRESENT:** Mr Huikakahu Kawe (Chairperson), Commission Chair Anne Tolley, Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston, Commissioner Stephen Selwood, Commissioner Bill Wasley, Mr Puhirake Ihaka, Mr Whitiora McLeod, Mr Buddy Mikaere, Ms Irene Walker, Ms Matire Duncan, and Mr Nathan James

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Marty Grenfell (Chief Executive), Paul Davidson (General Manager: Corporate Services), Susan Jamieson (General Manager: People & Engagement), Nic Johansson (General Manager: Infrastructure), Gareth Wallis (General Manager: Community Services), Carlo Ellis (Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement), Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy Services), Keren Paekau (Team Leader: Takawaenga Māori), Cynthia Hamel (Kaiarahi Māori), Robyn Garrett (Team Leader: Committee Support), Jenny Teeuwen (Committee Advisor), and Raj Naidu (Committee Advisor)

## **1 OPENING KARAKIA**

Mr Puhirake Ihaka opened the meeting with a Karakia.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

## **3 PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil

## **4 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

### **4.1 Chairperson's Verbal Update Report**

**Chairperson** Mr Huikakahu Kawe

#### **Key points**

- Chairperson welcomed the Commissioners and Nathan James to the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee.
- He urged the new members and the committee to work in partnership for the betterment of all communities that call the Bay of Plenty their home.
- The Otamataha Trust had been instrumental in the Anglican Church apology and work was progressing on the next steps towards commitment to iwi empowerment under the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Tauranga City Council's contributions in working towards alleviating Tauranga's homelessness crisis was acknowledged; however, significant levels of work were still required.
- The ongoing concerns from Whareroa Marae regarding commercial and industrial activities in the area were reiterated.

- Addressing the impacts to iwi health by these activities should be prioritised given that the marae preceded all modern development in the area.
- Historically, the Māori King could not get an opportunity to address Her Majesty the Queen in England and that struggle had continued until the present day where Māori were still struggling to get an audience with the Crown to air their grievances and concerns in a safe space.
- The Poukai 70th year celebrations would be held on 3rd April 2021 at 9.30am and the Chairperson was going to send out invites.

**Discussion points raised**

- Some members of the community were homeless by choice and some were homeless without choice.
- Tauranga was in a housing crisis and there needed to be concerted effort by all stakeholders to come together to address and alleviate it.
- Central government needed to be proactive by buying houses for rental by low income earners or those in crisis housing rather funding motels as homeless shelters.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW1/21/1**

Moved: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

Seconded: Mr Buddy Mikaere

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the Chairperson's Verbal Update Report.

**CARRIED**

**5 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

**6 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**

Nil

**7 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Nil

**8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- 8.1 **Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 22 October 2020**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW1/21/2**

Moved: Mr Whitiara McLeod

Seconded: Ms Matire Duncan

That the minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 22 October 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

**9 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

## 10 BUSINESS

### 10.1 Māori Wards

**Staff** Coral Hair, Manager: Democracy Services  
Carlo Ellis, Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement

#### Key points

- A lot had changed in terms of legislation and requirements regarding Māori wards since the previous Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee meeting.
- A number of options were provided in the report which took into consideration the amendments to the Local Electoral Act (LEA) 2001 by the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021 (Amendment Act).
- The Amendment Act had revoked binding poll provisions in the LEA for Māori wards and stopped the process for any valid demands for polls received by councils and enabled councils who had resolved to establish Māori wards to either let the resolution stand or to revoke it by 21 May 2021. A further option was to hold a non-binding poll.

#### In response to questions

- The number of Māori members for each council was determined by a complex formula set out in the LEA. The Māori electoral population of the district included not only those enrolled on the Māori roll but a portion of the Māori population residing in the City.
- Statistics New Zealand provided this demographic data and their calculations were available on the Local Government Commission website for all councils.
- A new decision on Māori wards was not required because the previous Council had made a decision and therefore the Committee only needed to recommend to the Council that the original decision be confirmed.
- Referendums were no longer binding for Māori wards; however non-binding referenda could be held.
- The Council had received a valid demand for a poll; however, this was cancelled when the Amendment Act 2021 came into force.
- The next steps were listed on page 20 of the report (points 40-43 in page 26 of the agenda).

#### Discussion points raised

- Ms Irene Walker thanked and acknowledged the Committee, staff and stakeholders for the achievements that had been made in terms of establishing a Māori ward and requested that Tangata Whenua continue to be involved and engaged in the processes.

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW1/21/3

Moved: Mr Whitiara McLeod

Seconded: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the report on Māori Wards; and
- (b) Recommends to the Council that the decision of 25 August 2020 to establish a Māori ward for the 2022 elections be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

### 10.2 Meeting dates for 2021

**Staff** Coral Hair, Manager: Democracy Services  
Carlo Ellis, Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement

**Key points**

- The report was taken as read and direction was sought from the Committee regarding meeting dates for 2021.

**Discussion points raised**

- Thursday was recommended for Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee meetings because Tangata Whenua members had already confirmed the schedule in 2020; Commissioners were happy to continue with Thursday as the preferred day for the meetings.
- All Informal meetings were pending confirmation which had been provided in this meeting and Te Pou Takawaenga would make arrangements with maraes accordingly.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW1/21/4**

Moved: Commission Chair Anne Tolley

Seconded: Ms Matire Duncan

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Provides feedback on the meeting dates proposed for the Committee for 2021 and chooses to retain dates as had been scheduled for 2021.

**CARRIED**

**10.3 External Report | Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report**

**Member** Ms Matire Duncan, Chairperson Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana (RMW)

**Key points**

- The RMW requested to re-establish roles for Tangata Whenua representatives who were on committees that had been disestablished and to retain the positions of Tangata Whenua representatives Dr Wayne Beilby, Marcia Murray, Te Pio Kawe and Emily Gudsell.
- The RMW reiterated the desire to make the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee become a committee of the whole.
- It was requested that Commissioners show support for the establishment of a Māori ward because it had been a long journey to get to this point.
- The RMW thanked members and staff for the various workshops and information sessions on a number of key policies, topics, and issues as it had assisted them to make informed choices and decisions.
- The key priorities for the RMW in the next coming months were discussed; these were: Strategic Planning workshop, 3 Waters reforms hui organised by Department of Internal Affairs, Resource Management Act 1991 repeal workshops, and Tauranga City Council's Long Term Plan workshops.

**In response to questions**

- A new proposed standing committee of Council was in discussions which would potentially include Tangata Whenua members from disestablished committees.
- The voting process for the proposed standing committee needed to be discussed in detail due to a membership imbalance with now only four commissioners rather than eleven elected members.
- For Tauranga City Council's Long Term Plan workshops, the Chairperson of Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana would be involved in the process.
- The Acquisition and Disposal policy (including Right of First Refusal) was out for public consultation and submissions closed on 15 April 2021.

**Discussion points raised**

- The report had raised questions of further engagement with Tangata Whenua so that relationships could be enhanced, and to explore what other opportunities existed to assist with holistic decision-making as well as to streamline processes to reach mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) invitation to the 3 Waters reform hui in Rotorua was received well and gave Tangata Whenua a glimpse into the complexity and sheer magnitude of the reforms.
- The 3 Waters Reform needed to have wider community involvement and it was the RMW's view that the DIA should organise another hui in Tauranga.
- Courageous decisions were required when dealing with Tangata Whenua concerns and issues; the relationship between Tangata Whenua and the Commissioners was critical.
- Māori land infrastructure should be a top priority in discussions for reforms and city plans; the LTP and similar processes should also take it into account.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW1/21/5**

Moved: Ms Matire Duncan  
Seconded: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives Te Rangapū Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report.

**CARRIED**

**11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS**

- An update was provided on Te Ranga Memorial Reserve upgrades; the Battle of Te Ranga celebrations were to be held in June.
- The upgrade funding of approximately \$360,000 was part of the Caring for Communities Grant package.
- It would be prudent to have a united voice between Tangata Whenua and Tauranga City Council during the 3 Waters reform; and should be included in the agenda of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Informal Committee to be held on 15 April 2021.
- Tangata Whenua Collective was formed in 2002 and after some discussions the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee was formed thereafter. The whakatauki in the Terms of Reference required updating because of changes to the committee over the years.

**12 CLOSING KARAKIA**

Mr Puhirake Ihaka closed the meeting with a Karakia.

**The meeting closed at 12.00pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 17 June 2021.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**