



# **MINUTES**

**Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City  
Council Committee meeting  
Wednesday, 12 June 2024**

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening karakia</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public forum</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Acceptance of late items</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confidential business to be transferred into the open</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Change to order of business</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Confirmation of minutes</b> .....	<b>4</b>
7.1	Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 10 April 2024 .....	4
<b>8</b>	<b>Declaration of conflicts of interest</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Deputations, presentations, petitions</b> .....	<b>4</b>
9.1	Ngati Tapu / Ngai Tukairangi Presentation .....	4
<b>10</b>	<b>Business</b> .....	<b>8</b>
10.1	Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairpersons Report June 2024 .....	8
10.2	Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report .....	9
10.3	Tangata Whenua Presentations Updates .....	10
<b>11</b>	<b>Discussion of late items</b> .....	<b>11</b>
11.4	Hairini Street Bus Lane .....	11
<b>12</b>	<b>Closing karakia</b> .....	<b>12</b>

**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL  
TANGATA WHENUA / TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE WAIKARI MARAE, 61 WAIKARI ROAD, MATAPIHI, MOUNT MAUNGANUI  
ON WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2024 AT 9.30AM**

**PRESENT:** Mr Anthony Fisher (Chairperson), Commission Chair Anne Tolley, Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston, Commissioner Stephen Selwood, Commissioner Bill Wasley, Mr Puhirake Ihaka, Mr Whitiara McLeod, Mr Buddy Mikaere, Ms Matire Duncan, Ms Destiny Leaf, Mr Nathan James.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Barbara Dempsey (Acting Chief Executive), Carlo Ellis (Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement), Keren Paekau (Team Leader: Takawaenga Māori), Leonie Cairns (Kaiarahi Māori), Shawn Geard (City Infrastructure Lead), Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy & Governance Services), Anahera Dinsdale (Acting Team Leader: Governance Services), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor).

**EXTERNAL:** Te Pio Kawe, Irene Walker

The Committee began with a powhiri and light refreshments before moving into the official meeting.

## **1 OPENING KARAKIA**

Mr Puhirake Ihaka opened the meeting with a karakia.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

## **3 PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil

## **4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**

### **ACCEPTANCE OF A LATE ITEM**

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW3/24/1**

Moved: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

Seconded: Commissioner Bill Wasley

That the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee:

Accepts the following late item for consideration at the meeting:

- 'Hairini Street Bus Lane' report

The above item was not included in the original agenda because it was not available at the time the agenda was issued, and discussion could not be delayed until the next scheduled meeting of the Committee because a decision was required in regard to this item.

**CARRIED**

## 5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

## 6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

## 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 7.1 Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 10 April 2024

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW3/24/2

Moved: Mr Whitiara McLeod

Seconded: Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston

That the Minutes of the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 10 April 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

## 8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston noted his interest in relation to item 9.2 and that he was providing advice to the Crown on the Resource Management reforms.

## 9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

### 9.1 Ngati Tapu / Ngai Tukairangi Presentation

#### 1. Mr Puhirake Ihaka – Ngāti Tapu Hapū

- Mr Puhirake Ihaka acknowledged ancestors of the wharenuī and provided an introduction to the presentation.

#### 2. Ms Emily Gudsell – Ngāti Tapu Hapū

##### Waikari Marae Project

- The formal and informal hapū structure was as follows, beginning from the top:
  - The taumata kaumatua, who oversaw the tikanga, kawa and operations taking place on the marae.
  - The Ngāti Tapu Hapū Trust, established for the hapū's raupatu settlement claims.
  - The Waikari Marae Committee, working alongside kaumatua and the Trust, was a working party responsible for the operations of the marae.
  - The recently established Kahumoeangi Trust was to enable the hapū to look at other avenues for funding to further enhance the marae.
- Ms Gudsell was the secretary for the Ngāti Tapu Hapū Trust, the Chairperson of the Kahumoeangi Trust (soon to be a charitable trust) and was on the Marae Committee.
- Everyone was involved at all levels within the hapū structure for the betterment of the marae. It was very rewarding work and was important in terms of learning about culture and identity.
- The building and property upgrades being undertaken at Waikari Marae were an ongoing dialogue. Marae were humble places where whānau came to mourn the loss of loved ones,

to celebrate and learn, and were a safe place for Māori.

- Strategies had been put in place to improve the property, starting with a comprehensive building condition inspection of the wharekai, completed in October 2023. This helped to settled whanau's thoughts around the building, as the assessment revealed it had good foundations but was also in need of a refurbishment. This provided a basis for what was required and how to move forward. Next steps were to engage contractors to provide quotes for work and to apply for funding to help realise this project.
- Another project was the rebuild of the garage in the car park which would also have an office for Hauora. The HbU Mobile Health Waka operated at Waikari Marae from six o'clock to nine o'clock every Monday night, providing a free doctor and nurse walk-in clinic. The new office would provide a warm and dry environment when needed for an overflow of patients.
- The marae had a monthly maintenance schedule in place where whanau assisted with urupa upkeep, and the overall upkeep and care of the wharenuī, other buildings and gardens on the marae. This enabled a continuous connection with whanau and the marae.
- The wharenuī restoration project was more long term and was a very comprehensive plan around its care and protection.

### 3. Mr Puhirake Ihaka

#### Waikari Marae Project

- Ngāti Tapu Hapū had been wanting to do the wharenuī restoration project for a very long time. There were po that had not been carved.
- Some aspects of this wharenuī were original carvings thought to be dated at around 3 to 4 hundred years old.
- The original location and pa site of this wharenuī was at the bottom of Matapihi Road next to the railway bridge, called Te Mania.
- The poutoko manawa (carved post found at the centre of the wharenuī) was moved from the original pa site to Waikari. Everything else had been built between 1870 and 1881.
- The carvings on the front exterior of the wharenuī were done in 1960/1970 by a local carver. However, the project was never finished due to the carver's passing.
- A significant part of this project was to carve the po inside the wharenuī and was very important for the hapū. It was hoped this would start soon. There was good resourcing around carvers needed for this job.

#### Papakāinga

- In 2008 and 2009, hapū had a 'Matapihi Land Use Plan' that covered designated Papakāinga areas. This plan was not fulfilled but it was now time to revisit this.
- In 2015 a Hapū Management Plan was established. This would now be combined with the Matapihi Land Use Plan, both would be upgraded and would become the 'Matapihi Community Plan', to be used jointly alongside Ngai Tukairangi hapū/Hungahungatoroa Marae.
- Discussions had started between the two hapū, with a combined committee to be formed.
- The purpose of the Matapihi Community Plan was to fulfil the aspirations of its people by being able to come home and live on their land. It was up to hapū members to realise these aspirations.

#### Southern Pipeline Update

- Expansion of the pipeline to reach new housing development, zoning and costs had been discussed at the last meeting.
- There were certain stations along the pipeline where extensions could be added. In order for these extensions to be activated, there had to be more houses.
- When the pipeline was upgraded, the kura, the two marae and the houses within that corridor were connected to the pipeline.
- Planning needed to start now between the two hapū to realise the ambition of more housing.

#### 4. Ms Ngareta Timutimu - Toitu te Moana – Toitu te Whenua – Toitū te Mokopuna

- This was a Māori led project to empower the Matapihi community to navigate the challenges of climate change and was the culmination of 14 months' work.
- This report came out of thinking about the future of our Matapihi mokopuna, and the future of the taiao. It seemed that not enough was being done about Matapihi, in particular about the mangroves and the black swans embedded in Waipu Bay.
- Mr Hayden Henare and Ms Kiamaia Ellis were kaitiaki taiao and did the mahi for the marae, hapū, whanau and Tauranga Moana.
- Whareroa Marae/Ngāti Kuku hapū, who were leading the way in terms of climate change challenges, was acknowledged.
- This Kaupapa was a culmination of intensive consultation of the three marae communities and had been opened to the hapori.
- This was an opportunity for the Matapihi community to bring back its mana motuhake.
- Matapihi could be seen as a community that had been suffocated by the Port of Tauranga, and other entities, but had not spoken out or participated strongly enough as tangata whenua.
- Many of the strong, skilled leaders of Matapihi filled important positions at a local, regional and national level. They carried the voices of the Matapihi community.
- The question arose as to who was looking after the Matapihi whenua, the mangroves, the puna that had almost disappeared from Matapihi, the soil that had been some of the best in the country and the health of our whenua and moana, our oranga whenua, oranga taiao and oranga tangata.
- The Covid-19 lockdown period in 2020 raised an awareness of how important it was for the Matapihi community to be connecting and sharing within their Papakāinga, and to strengthen activities such as food growing that the parents and grandparents of Matapihi had survived on. Soil and puna were key to this.
- This report was written by Ms Elva Conroy of Conroy/Donald Consultants, who was provided with all the information gathered at the wānanga that included pictures, films and interviews.
- Hei Mataphihi ki te Ao could be called a 'kiwaha' (a special group of words put together). This connected cultural practice, taonga and values as a way of expressing the māori world view.
- Hei Mataphihi ki te Reo was to express the importance of Reo. Te reo was a window to the Māori world and provided a foundation for going out into the world and to contribute, learn and share. All three marae needed to be a part of this.
- It was important that whanau and the whole community had an opportunity to share their views on this Kaupapa.
- The challenge was what counted as matauranga (knowledge) and tikanga within the Matapihi community in today's world. These were challenges for many marae, often due to earlier generations not growing up speaking Te Reo.
- The report included a summary and pictures of the four wānanga that were held at Hungahungatoroa Marae, Whareroa Marae, Waikari Marae and Hungahungatoroa Club.
- Artists impressions provided in the report supported the connection to whenua.

#### In response to questions

- The most pressing matter that Council could assist the Matapihi community with was the mangroves. The area around Oruamatua was filled with them, and would eventually extend out to Rangataua Bay. Waipu Bay was special to the two hapū because it was the pathway to the wairua of the people. At a particular hikoi held at Whareroa Marae, there were conflicting views about mangroves and their effect on the environment. More knowledge was needed and more stories needed to be heard about how some communities were successfully managing mangroves.
- The return of puna in Matapihi was another matter that Council could help the community with perhaps by looking at the water table in Matapihi. It was about looking at how orchard

- spraying affected the quality of water, but also ensuring the community had quality water.
- A project coordinator or similar resource would be needed to implement the recommendations as set out in 'Next Steps' in the report.
- Whanau were not connected or involved enough in communication and were therefore not contributing when they actually had a lot to contribute. Hapū had to take responsibility for themselves or no progress would be made. Mana motuhake and tirohanga tikanga were extremely important.
- This report belonged to the community and it was important that the community continued to seek connections and partnerships with Tauranga City Council as its number one kaitiaki. The Matapihi community needed to reach out to TCC as its first port of call. Bay of Plenty Regional Council had also been involved in this project.
- A kaumatua had advised that the puna found in Matapihi in earlier times filtered pollutants out of the water before it entered the moana, but because the puna had disappeared, this filtering process no longer happened.

### Discussion points raised

- The report was a great piece of work and was to be congratulated.
- It was agreed that the mangroves were a matter that needed attention, however, this was just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the many other aspects that came into it such as run-off from orchard, land use, birds and fish.
- To note was that when the mangroves were taken out at Pirirakau, the water became muddy and kai was lost.
- This was a very good piece of work and would contribute greatly to the Matapihi Land Use Plan in terms of informing the plan of places that were susceptible to the impacts of climate risk and land changes that included erosion, inundation, rainfall and flooding. It also provided a base layer for where and how to plan and develop housing for the future.
- It was noted that a resource consent was needed to enable the removal of mangroves.

### Mr Carlo Ellis - Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement

- The Takawaenga Māori Unit at TCC were discussing ways in which it could get involved and support this kaupapa and find support from other departments such as the sustainability team.
- Thank you to all the teams and people from other councils who came to the four wānanga.
- There was definitely a debate to be had as to whether or not the mangroves should be removed.
- TCC's Stormwater Team could be approached to see what could be done regarding the puna in Matapihi.

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW3/24/3

Moved: Ms Matire Duncan

Seconded: Mr Buddy Mikaere

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the Ngāti Tapu and Ngai Tukairangi presentations.

**CARRIED**

## ACTIONS

1. That Council's Sustainability Team investigate ways in which the Matapihi community could be assisted in addressing the issue of the Mangroves.
2. That the Council's Stormwater Team investigate ways in which the puna in Matapihi could be activated.

## 10 BUSINESS

### 10.1 Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairpersons Report June 2024

**Staff** Mr Anthony Fisher

#### Key Points

- The report acknowledged the foundation that had been laid for a positive relationship going forward between tangata whenua and TCC, and paid tribute to the Commissioners for the role they had played in leading this work.
- It was hoped the incoming Council would pick up on this work and continue to build on the relationships and foundations that had been put in place.

#### Discussion points raised

##### Commissioner Anne Tolley

- Commissioner Tolley thanked the Chairperson for his report.
- Part of the relationship was trying to maintain some of what was previously in place in terms of the committee structure, but to have the voice of mana whenua sitting at the decision making table.
- The Strategy Finance and Risk Committee (SFRC) included three members from Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana (Te Rangapu) which included the Chairperson of Te Rangapu, and an independent audit and finance person.
- At the last SFRC meeting yesterday, a series of recommendations to continue these practices were carried to be put through to the incoming Council. This was alongside the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Standing Committee which had its own place in this relationship.
- There had been great benefit having mana whenua at the decision making table as experts and members of the community, particularly when talking about strategy, finance and risk and the development of the vision and values for the city, and its direction and outcomes.
- It was hoped that the incoming Council would build on the relationships that had been established during the Commissioners tenure.

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW3/24/4

Moved: Commission Chair Anne Tolley

Seconded: Commissioner Stephen Selwood

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairpersons Report June 2024".

**CARRIED**



## 10.2 Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report

**Staff** Ms Matire Duncan

### Key Points

- The agenda report was taken as read.

Ms Duncan provided the following as a supplement to the agenda report: Reflecting on the past two and a half years with the Commissioners:

Highlights:

- The appointment of the Commissioners.
- The adoption by the Commissioners to start or continue working towards the Maori ward for Tauranga City Council.
- The inclusion of tangata whenua representation on Council committees and council-controlled organisations.
- Robust consultation and engagement with tangata whenua, in particular with Te Rangapu, with the Commission and Council staff to discuss and co-design policies, reforms, the Long Term Plan and local issues that affected tangata whenua.

Improvements and aspirations

- The implementation of the Te Aupikitanga Strategic Plan.
- The elevation and adoption of the draft Maori Engagement Framework for all areas of Council projects.
- The development of meaningful relationships with the incoming Elected Members.
- The retention of tangata whenua representation on Council committees.

Further comments

- Ms Duncan expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners for their contribution, dedication, their specific skills, experience, logic, thoughtfulness and mana in taking the city forward. Their spouses were also acknowledged.
- Thank you to Council staff for their input and support towards engaging with Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana and to the Takawaenga Māori Unit for their foresight, support, engagement, commitment, navigation and keeping us on track.
- Thank you to Mr Anthony Fisher for his chairmanship. It was hoped he would remain in this position going forward.

### Discussion points raised

- Ms Duncan's comments were endorsed. It felt quite sad that this was the last formal meeting today with the Commissioners.
- What the Commission had done was give confidence to mana whenua that they did have important things to say in terms of the future of the city. This work would continue.
- It was appreciated that the Commissioners had taken the approach of working together with tangata whenua on many important issues and projects.

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW3/24/5

Moved: Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston

Seconded: Commissioner Bill Wasley

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the report 'Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report'.

**CARRIED**

### 10.3 Tangata Whenua Presentations Updates

**Staff** Carlo Ellis, Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement

#### Key Points

- The report was taken as read.
- There had been further discussion and development of the opening of the Hairini Street Bus Lane.
- The barrier arm was now up at Rawhakaupari Way.
- Dedicated resourcing for hapū to interact directly with staff was a large programme of work ahead. This would become more prevalent as the work programme at Council increased. Hapū were still relying on retrospective fees for them to be able to participate in processes. One idea would be to have an iwi/ hapū member resourced as a kaiārahi within Council which would prove to be a worthwhile investment.
- On behalf of waka wairua, thank you to Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana for their kind words, the Commissioners, Barbara Dempsey, the acting Chief Executive and Marty Grenfell as Chief Executive.
- Mr Ellis provided a karakia for the Commissioners about attracting and inspiring people around them, casting light on things and putting themselves out in the community, being able to think and work together with others, and being brave enough to bring all of this together as decision makers, all the while showing compassion.
- It was important to be positive about the upcoming election and the people who would continue to work towards the advancement of the city. It was recognised that the Commissioners had provided the incoming Council with their support.
- It was up to tangata whenua members to normalise that this was how Tauranga was run, together and in good spirit. Tough conversations would be had but whatever the decision was, the community should be included, good outcomes would result from this and the right thing would be done.
- The Takawaenga Māori Unit had been proud to stand alongside the Commission and had never felt separated in any way. Tough conversations had taken place and opinions expressed, and then conversations had moved on. Thank you for this.
- It was important to recognise that the Commissioners had been to every marae during their time at Council. Waimapu Marae had been opened up and made available for this as well.

#### In response to questions

- Whareroa marae would be added back into the table of works/tangata whenua action list.

#### Discussion points raised

- Commissioner Anne Tolley thanked the Takawaenga Māori Unit for their support during the time the Commission was in office. Some tough conversations had taken place but the opportunity to have these conversations had been appreciated. The community was now richer for this. It was good to see so many people putting their names forward in the election to run the city.
- Commissioner Bill Wasley advised that when the Committee came together it was decided to have the action list which was particularly important in terms of the issues and matters that tangata whenua wanted to see Council involvement in.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW3/24/6**

Moved: Commissioner Bill Wasley

Seconded: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the report 'Tangata Whenua Presentations Updates

**CARRIED**

**ACTION**

1. That Whareroa Marae be added back into the table of works/tangata whenua action list.

**11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS****10.4 Hairini Street Bus Lane**

**Staff** Shawn Geard, City Infrastructure Lead

**Key Points**

- Based on the Slip Lane Assessment report provided to staff, the proposal was for a short term trial during minimal traffic times. The trial would allow the time period to be moved to expand the time frames when traffic could use the lane.
- The intention was to implement this trial as soon as possible and review it in December of this year.

**In response to questions**

- Part of the overall plan was to have regular meetings with Hairini Marae in particular to obtain information from them regarding traffic behaviour along the lane.

**Discussion points raised**

- The lane was being developed for the Hairini/Turret Road project which was part of the 30 year plan. However, in the short term, there was a desire to open and share the road to provide access outside of peak traffic hours, taking into consideration safety issues.
- The 'Land Transport Rule: Street Layouts' provided for trials to be carried out over a period of two years. This was being used to implement the Hairini Street Bus Lane trial in order for staff to make changes/expand traffic times without the encumbrance of a having to go through a statutory process. The results of this trial would then be fed into the long term business case.

**Mr Te Pio Kawe:**

- This was a big issues for the Hairini community. It was felt there needed to be better communication with this kaupapa.
- It would be appreciated if Council could meet with the Hairini community regarding the issues raised in the report and the opportunity to create recommendations that would be of benefit to everyone in the community.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW3/24/7**

Moved: Commission Chair Anne Tolley

Seconded: Ms Destiny Leaf

That the **Error! No document variable supplied.:**

- (a) Receives the report "**Error! No document variable supplied.**".
- (b) Endorses the proposed trial to open up Hairini Street bus slip lane, with the details to be confirmed at a meeting with Hairini marae and the community.

**CARRIED**

**12 CLOSING KARAKIA**

Mr Puhirake Ihaka closed the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 12.31.**

As per Standing Orders 28.4 , these minutes are confirmed by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive.

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Anthony Fisher  
**Chairperson**

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Date

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Marty Grenfell  
**Chief Executive**

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Date