



# **MINUTES**

**Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City  
Council Committee meeting  
Wednesday, 9 October 2024**

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL  
TANGATA WHENUA / TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE HANGARAU MARAE, 217 BETHLEHEM ROAD, TAURANGA  
ON WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2024 AT 9.30AM**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr Anthony Fisher (Chairperson), Cr Hautapu Baker, Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Ms Matire Duncan, Mr Puhirake Ihaka, Mr Nathan James, Ms Destiny Leaf, Mr Whitiora McLeod, Mr Buddy Mikaere, Cr Kevin Schuler, Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Rod Taylor
- ALSO PRESENT:** Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Members: Pare Kuka, Kura Martin, Irene Walker, Luke Whare, Cheryl Hayes, Arthur Flintoff
- APOLOGIES:** Nil
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** Cr Mikaere Sydney
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Marty Grenfell (Chief Executive), Christine Jones (General Manager: Strategy, Growth & Governance), Stacey Mareroa-Roberts (Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement), Leonie Cairns (Kaiarahi Maori), Anahera Sadler (Pou Matauranga), Karen Hay (Manager: Network Safety & Sustainability), Monique Etherington (Senior Advisor: Elected Members), Sanjana France (Senior Advisor: elected Members), Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy & Governance Services), Anahera Dinsdale (Acting Team Leader: Governance Services), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor).

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

## **1 OPENING KARAKIA**

Mr Tawharangi Nuku opened the meeting with a karakia.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Nil

## **3 PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil

## **4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

## **5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**

Nil

## 6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

## 7 RECEIPT OF MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

### 7.1 Receipt of Minutes – Tangata Whenua/TCC Committee meeting held on 12 June 2024

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW4/24/1

Moved: Mr Whitiara McLeod

Seconded: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

That the minutes of the Tangata Whenua/TCC Committee meeting dated 12 June 2024 be received.

**CARRIED**

## 8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

## 9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

### 9.1 Presentation - Ngāti Hangarau

**External** Ngāti Hangarau - Tawharangi Nuku and Cheryl Hayes

#### Mr Tawharangi Nuku

- Mr Puhirake Ihaka was acknowledged as mentor to Mr Tawharangi Nuku and all his work for Tauranga Moana was recognised.
- At the Waitangi Tribunal hearings in 1999, the tribunal was informed that Ngāti Hangarau strongly objected to the railway that was proposed to run along the waterfront because it would go through the hapū's burial site. The original whare had also been situated there. The railway was nevertheless put through along the waterfront.
- Ngāti Hangarau was one of the original iwi of Tauranga Moana and were here before the arrival of Takitimu waka in the thirteen hundreds. Its mana whenua, mana moana status had been in place for over 700 years.
- The new whare was built around 1927. In the mid 1960's it was discovered the whareniui was damp and a fundraising campaign was undertaken to build a new one. A stipulation was that the hapū wanted a fully carved whareniui with all ancestral connections to the various hapū and iwi throughout Aotearoa. The pou and weaving in the current whareniui represented this and acknowledged those connections.

#### Mrs Cheryl Hayes

- This land given back to hapū in 1916. This was a very special whenua and mana whenua felt very fortunate to live on this whenua/land and be able to raise whanau here. However it had not been easy and there had been numerous difficulties.
- A lot of the land did not have whare/houses. There had been issues with the right to return and live on the land. The whenua/land did not have a monetary value to iwi, however, it was rated as monetary value.
- The land had no infrastructure, no sewerage or gas lines and the power supply was at maximum use. Expensive resource consent and building fees were stopping whanau from returning to their land.

- There was no accessible public transport within two kilometres of the marae, no road upgrades or lighting and no footpaths.
- A recent leaflet drop from Tauranga City Council (TCC) advised that footpaths would be installed on either side of Bethlehem Road/Bethlehem Shores Retirement Village which would affect at least 12 properties belonging to Ngāti Hangarau. None of these property owners had been consulted with. It was understood that the wider footpath would be placed on the side of properties belonging to Hangarau Marae and would take some of that land. It raised the question as to why the extra land was being taken from the Ngāti Hangarau properties.
- The proposed pedestrian crossing for 130 Bethlehem Road was situated on whanau land that intended to be built on next year. The crossing was mapped to go across the driveway access. To date there had been no consultation on this with Ngāti Hangarau.
- Ngāti Hangarau had been asking for footpaths along Bethlehem Road for a very long time. Tamariki and residents were forced to walk on the road as there was no footpath, even though traffic had increased.
- There should be speed bumps at the corners as motorists drove too fast at these spots. These were safety issues and there was real concern that someone/tamariki would get hit by a car. Ngāti Ngāti Hangarau had been asking former Borough Councils and City Councils for this to be addressed for a very long time, but nothing had been done.
- Ngāti Hangarau would like to discuss the ratable valuations that were due in December 2024. There had been no new builds or improvements within the Ngāti Hangarau community zone in the last 24 years. However, the rating valuation was very high, in line with the retirement village which was a multi-million dollar complex. Ngāti Hangarau did not rate or value its land in this way and would like to talk with Council about this.

### In response to questions

- There were whanau wanting to return back to their whenua to live but it was impossible today to get enough funds to get things such as power supplies and sewerage systems set up. This was a big issue now as more whanau were wanting to return so that their children could grow up on the whenua but they could not afford it, or the banks would not loan money as it was Māori land.
- A neighbouring subdivision had sewerage and gas systems that went down past Ngāti Hangarau whenua which could not be accessed. It was felt Ngāti Hangarau was always treated as a 'second stage'. It would help if resource consents could be eased so that whanau could come back and build on their whenua.
- Papakāinga development and a collective resource consent had been look at, however, this had come to a standstill.
- Bringing whanau back to the marae was needed to help them to feel more grounded and connected to the whenua and to help to look after the marae.

### Discussion points raised

- Ms Matire Duncan would take these matters back to TCC for more engagement around the issues raised today.
- Mr Whitiora McLeod expressed his sadness at the lack of development in terms of infrastructure at Ngāti Hangarau and would raise these issues at the 'Reconsenting of the Municipal Water Take and 'TCC Wastewater Programme Business Case' forums. This was another example of infrastructure running through, over or around Māori land blocks.

## 10 BUSINESS

### 10.1 Appointment of Deputy Chairperson of Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee

**Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Growth & Governance  
Coral Hair, Manager: Democracy & Governance Services

**Key Points**

- The Chairperson provided a summary of the report.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW4/24/2**

Moved: Mr Buddy Mikaere

Seconded: Mr Whitiora McLeod

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Appointment of Deputy Chairperson of Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee".
- (b) Appoints Mayor Mahé Drysdale as the Deputy Chairperson of the Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee.

**CARRIED**

**10.2 Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee - Chairpersons Report October 2024**

**Chairperson** Anthony Fisher

**Key Points**

- The Chairperson took his report as read, noting that his creation narrative was to draw on inspiration, encouragement and progress for the Committee, to build on what had already been achieved.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW4/24/3**

Moved: Ms Matire Duncan

Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

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

**CARRIED**

**10.3 Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report - October 2024**

**Staff** Ms Matire Duncan – Chairperon, Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana

**Key Points**

- Ms Duncan took the report as read and provided a summary of some highlights.
- Key priorities were Tangata Whenua representation on Council committees and the retention of Te Awanui Ward.

**Discussion points raised**

- Mr Buddy Mikaere advised Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana had expressed concerns about the Fast Track Approvals Bill and what it meant for Tangata Whenua. It was not known at this stage what could be done but to be made aware there was concern.
- Mayor Drysdale acknowledged the discussions had with Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana on the above topics, assured the Committee their request had been understood and that how to deal with it was being considered.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW4/24/4**

Moved: Mr Buddy Mikaere

Seconded: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Te Rangapu Mana Whenua o Tauranga Moana Report - October 2024".

**CARRIED**

**10.4 Tangata Whenua Presentation Updates - October 2024**

**Staff** Christine Jones, General Manager: Strategy, Growth & Governance  
Stacey Mareroa-Roberts, Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement

**Key Points**

- Since the last hui, the Takawaenga team had supported more information sharing and knowledge around enabling housing. 15 houses in the Peterehema Marae zone had been enabled by Global Consent. The korero today about housing had been heard.
- There had been a lot of engagement with Ngamanawa which had been an enabling relationship.
- Two years ago there were 3,787 visitors to Nga Manawa falls. Since that time there had been more supportive infrastructure added to the area and last year there were 21,563 visitors, with over 2,000 people completing the full loop. This was a promising short term trial and an extension being looked at.
- The transportation issues were acknowledged and would be taken back to Council and put on the update report for the next hui.
- The road noise at Wairoa Marae had been significantly reduced by erecting a noise wall. Other issues were being addressed by Council and were ongoing.
- A gate had been installed at Whareroa Marae and Ngāti Kuku where there had been a lot of noise and disturbance down towards the jetty. There was also exploration of succession planning and safety measures around the back of the airport in terms of health and safety.
- There was an engagement plan for the Hairini cycle lane trial period that included managing support for mana whenua.

**In response to questions**

- Staff would follow up on the proposed new footpath, lighting and speed management along Waimapu Pā Road, in particular in terms of time frames.

**Discussion points raised**

- It would be good to have korero with the Climate Change Commission on what may be able to be done in terms of environmental concerns around Marae situated in coastal areas.
- Thank you to staff for the refurbishment of quite a few of the pou around the city. This was an excellent job and looked great.
- Ms Irene Walker expressed her concerns regarding the next phase of the Hairini bus stop. It was felt there had been no partnership in this process, and Ngati Ahi wanted to be included in the discussions. This was not something to be decided by Council alone.

It was agreed that the Takawaenga Team would follow up on the Hairini Bus Stop matter and report back to Ngati Ahi.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TW4/24/5**

Moved: Ms Destiny Leaf

Seconded: Ms Matire Duncan

That the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Tangata Whenua Presentation Updates - October 2024".

**CARRIED**

**11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS**

Nil

**12 CLOSING KARAKIA**

Puhirake Ihaka closed the meeting with a karakia

**The meeting closed at 11.44.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Tangata Whenua / Tauranga City Council Committee meeting held on 4 December 2024.**

.....  
Anthony Fisher  
**CHAIRPERSON**