

MINUTES	MEETING	TIME
KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL	THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2012	11AM

Minutes of an additional meeting of the Kāpiti Coast District Council on Thursday 12 April 2012, commencing at 11am in Auditorium 2, Meadows Church, 1 Realm Drive, Paraparaumu.

PRESENT

Mayor	J	Rowan	Chair
Cr	D	Ammundsen	
Cr	M	Cardiff	
Cr	R	Church	
Cr	P	Ellis	
Cr	P	Gaylor	
Cr	K	Gurunathan	
Cr	T	Lloyd	
Cr	T	Lester	
Cr	H	Wooding	

ATTENDING

Mr	D	Moselen	(Chair, Ōtaki Community Board)
Ms	J	Holborow	(Deputy Chair, Paekākāriki Community Board)
Ms	L	Jensen	(Chair, Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board)
Mr	T	Daniell	(Member, Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board)
Mr	P	Dougherty	(Chief Executive)
Ms	A	Kenna	(Communications Unit Leader)
Ms	T	Evans	(Group Manager, Community Services)
Ms	B	Lucan	(Kapiti Coast Older Persons' Council)
Ms	B	Van Gaalen	(Grey Power, Kapiti)
Mrs	V	Starbuck-Maffey	(Democratic Services Team Leader)

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and recited the Council Blessing.

KCDC 12/04/193

APOLOGIES

MOVED (Mayor/Church)

That apologies be accepted from Cr Roger Booth and from the Chair of the Waikanae Community Board Michael Scott.

CARRIED

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KCDC 12/04/194

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1. Betty van Gaalen spoke on behalf of Grey Power Kapiti (submission circulated) concerning Greater Wellington Regional Council's invitation to join the independent review panel. She considered that if amalgamation proceeded the Kāpiti Coast District would lose, not its identity, but its unique strategies, groups (for example, the Youth Council) and town centre development plans. Grey Power would support any effort by this Council to protect Kāpiti's identity.
2. Richard Halliday spoke in support of Council joining the independent review panel, as he thought it was more advantageous to be part of the panel than outside of it. He considered the preservation of local democracy was important and that amalgamation may bring with it a decrease in representation and therefore a loss of power and community-owned assets.

KCDC 12/04/195

MEMBERS BUSINESS

- (a) Responses to public speaking time – the concerns expressed during Public Speaking Time would be addressed when the agenda item was discussed.
- (b) Leave of absence – none was requested.
- (c) Matters of urgent nature – there were none.
- (d) Declarations of interest – none were declared.

KCDC 12/04/196

GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL (GWRC) INVITATION – INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN THE WELLINGTON REGION

The Mayor introduced the item commenting that she believed there would be changes to shared services arrangements. She said the GWRC Chair Fran Wilde was already campaigning for a unitary authority model.

Confirmation was pending on whether the new Minister for Local Government David Carter would be keeping to the reform timetable devised by his predecessor Nick Smith.

The three Wairarapa Councils had already engaged their own consultant to examine possible future governance arrangements and would not be joining the GWRC panel, nor would Hutt City Council. The Wellington City Council would not be debating this matter until early May. The Porirua City Council would be joining the panel. The

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Kapiti representative on the Regional Council Cr Wilson had made it clear that he supported a supercity model, and it was felt this would compromise the panel process.

The Mayor said that the Regional Council would proceed with the panel process whether Kāpiti Coast District Council participated or not. The issues to consider and debate today included whether or not to accept GWRC's invitation to join the panel, and whether that answer was yes or no, what the implications were.

Some time ago when amalgamation was first mooted, the members of the Mayoral Forum had decided to go down the path of shared services including joint funding of regional amenities. She acknowledged that the regional Mayors were in a challenging place given the intentions of the Regional Council Chair.

The Mayor felt local government had been unfairly criticised by central government in recent times and that the government was positioning local government as inefficient and ineffective and this was unfair and inaccurate.

Other points emerging during the ensuing discussion included:

- The mixed success of the shared services initiative was considered, with the Chief Executive pointing out it was difficult to make rapid progress in this area, but given time and other constraints the project had achieved some real success and could do even better over time. For example, tens of thousands of dollars had been saved by taking a shared approach to local government purchasing, good prices had been obtained with leasing and purchasing photocopiers. While it was difficult to get all nine councils to agree in certain areas, the discussions had been very positive with a lot of work happening behind the scenes in different areas eg waste management and water supply systems.
- The government's timeframes for reform/amalgamation were generally agreed to be unfair and unrealistic. The plan was too rushed and deadlines unlikely to be met, or if they were there would be mistakes or repercussions surfacing later. If this Council joined the GWRC panel this would mean being locked into their timetable. On the other hand if the government was determined to make this happen within the timeframes it would.
- Although some Councillors supported a centralist approach there was concern about timeframes and being centralised under someone else's rules, and that panel members would be presented with a fait accompli. There was also considerable disquiet expressed about Cr Wilson's stance – how was he demonstrating that he was representing the Kapiti community?
- It was noted that GWRC had allocated funding of \$150,000 towards this project and as this was partly Kāpiti ratepayers' money Kāpiti should have a say in how it was spent.
- Councillors recalled the previous statement by the government that other councils would not be coerced into amalgamating like Auckland. The GWRC resolution to hold a referendum on any draft reorganisation scheme was not

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seen as an effective means of consulting with the community and there was no indication whether such a referendum would be binding or non-binding.

- Councillors were not against local government reform as such but did not believe it should be carried out in such a hasty fashion. It was not considered that the panel would be truly independent and impartial and there was much in the proposed reforms (eg the augmented power of the Mayor) that required a more thorough approach and greater community involvement.
- During public speaking time it had been suggested that Council would be better off being 'in the tent' and joining the panel, but it was felt that this would not be the case. The Council's role would be limited to providing information, not being a full partner in any decision-making. It would be expected to accept the panel's recommendations.
- There was some discussion around options for an alternative process to engage with the Kāpiti community and neighbouring councils. Councillors were keen to explore the issues and what was best for this community and where efficiencies could be achieved. There was no confidence in the independence of the panel;
- Council believed that the Kāpiti community did not understand the full implications of amalgamation: there seemed to be a belief that amalgamation would see rates decrease but this wasn't true – they were likely to increase. It was critical to get all the facts and information out to the community. Would it be possible to hold our own referendum on this matter? The Chief Executive outlined the statutory timeframes and costs of holding a referendum.
- Councillors agreed that it was important to focus on the word 'reform' instead of 'amalgamation'. It was suggested that the Mayoral Forum and the CE Group make submissions to GWRC on the matter and engage the community in the process as well. The Council would be making its own submission which would hopefully be supported by other councils in the region.

MOVED (Lester/Gaylor)

That the elected representatives of Kāpiti Coast District Council acknowledge Greater Wellington's letter dated 27 March 2012 and accompanying material but decline to participate in the process and partner with Greater Wellington in their initiative at this moment.

CARRIED

MOVED (Lester/Gaylor)

That the Council notes and expresses its disappointment with the predetermined view on amalgamation that our current Kāpiti Coast Regional Councillor displays without any consultation with this Council.

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CARRIED

MOVED (Lester/Cardiff)

That the Council distributes information and undertakes a professionally-designed survey of our residents to determine what approach and timeframe our community wishes us to take on any local government reform.

CARRIED

MOVED (Lester/Ammundsen)

That this Council continues to work with Mayoral Forum urgently on future opportunities for shared services that would improve efficiencies, such as payroll, financial reporting systems and any other appropriate functions.

CARRIED

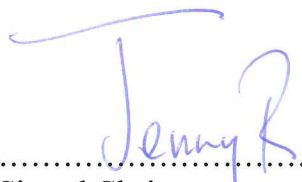
MOVED (Mayor/Lloyd)

That the Council authorizes expenditure from the contingency fund this financial year to fund any work required to support the Council's development of governance models for the region for consultation by 30 June 2012.

CARRIED

- The Chief Executive advised that the cost of the authorised work was estimated to be less than \$40,000.
- Next steps – a workshop would be held with elected members and a consultant, with a view to getting information out to the community in July 2012 following the conclusion of the LTP process.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

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 Signed Chair

10/05/12
