

MINUTES	MEETING	TIME
KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL	TUESDAY 17 MAY 2016	10.03 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Kāpiti Coast District Council on Tuesday 17 May 2016 commencing at 10.03 am in Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Kapiti Coast District Council, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu.

PRESENT

Mayor	R	Church	(Chair)
Cr	D	Ammundsen	
Cr	M	Bell	
Cr	M	Cardiff	
Cr	P	Gaylor	
Cr	K	Gurunathan	
Cr	J	Holborow	
Cr	D	Scott	
Cr	M	Scott	
Cr	G	Welsh	

ATTENDING

Mr	P	Dougherty	(Chief Executive)
Mr	J	Cootes	(Chair Ōtaki Community Board)
Mr	K	Currie	(Group Manager Regulatory Services)
Mr	C	Mylne	(Acting Group Manager Community Services)
Mr	K	Black	(Manager, Corporate Planning and Reporting)
Ms	S	Kershaw	(Corporate Planning and Reporting Project Coordinator)
Ms	V	Starbuck-Maffey	(Minute Secretary) – morning
Miss	A	McLaughlin	(Minute Secretary) - afternoon

APOLOGIES

Cr	J	Elliott	
Mr	E	Gregory	(Chair, Waikanae Community Board)

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

KCDC 16/05/509

APOLOGIES

MOVED (Mayor/Bell)

That apologies be accepted from Cr Jackie Elliott and from Mr Eric Gregory Chair of the Waikanae Community Board.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

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KCDC 16/05/510

MEMBERS' BUSINESS

- (a) Leave of Absence – none was requested.
- (b) Matters of an Urgent Nature – there were none.

KCDC 16/05/511

HEARING OF SUBMITTERS TO THE 2016-17 Annual Plan (AP)

AP 33 – Marlene Frost spoke about repairing the duck pond at Paraparaumu Beach, suggesting further investigation of methods and materials which could be used to reinstate it, as it had been such a popular facility. She was keen to meet with council officers to discuss this further.

AP 11 – Andy and Anne Williams are residents living opposite the Meadows Church on Mazengarb Road and complained about the drain adjoining their property. Over the years the drain was unable to cope with the increasing amount of stormwater and runoff that was finding its way there from subdivisions, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and, soon, the Expressway. Their property had consequently been flooded five times, the latest being in May 2015. Despite extensive discussions with Council there had been no resolution of the problem. The drain used to be cleaned out every year but this had not occurred since 1982. The drain was very shallow and narrow and had never been intended to cope with the large amounts of water now running into it. They were sick of being flooded and asked Council to pay for the costs of elevating their house, and divert the wastewater treatment plant water elsewhere. According to the council maintenance programme the drain was due to be cleared in 2027 and again in 2030 but this was too far away.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- How much did the flooding cost to repair and where was the damage?
- Several Councillors had inspected the site and the submitters had also approached the Community Board.
- Had a digger been in recently as the maintenance programme had commenced?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- The garage was flooded and as there was whiteware and furniture stored there, the cost of the damage ran to several thousands of dollars.
- The digger had not appeared.

AP 68 – Nicky Sherriff and Phil Gibbons (68 and 76) representing Sport Wellington spoke about aspects of sport and recreation in the Wellington region, thanking the Council for its previous support and acknowledging its recent work for example in fixing the courts at Te Āti Awa Park and the plans to install a Splash pad at Ōtaki Pool. They also commended Council for maintaining general entry fees to pools at current levels, and for the introduction of casual rates and seasonal rates for sports grounds. Nevertheless they expressed concern over fees increasing, not just here but elsewhere. Cost of entry was the second most prevalent reason given for non-participation in sport and recreation across the region. There was a view that regular users should meet the load to offset council costs, but the submitters reminded Councillors that an active and healthy community brought economic and social benefits. Sport Wellington was an independent advisor for sport and recreation and its interests were complementary to Council's, reflected in their strategic plan. They urged Council to minimize barriers to participation and help organisations build their capability, and leadership. A regional strategy was being developed to coordinate a regional approach to facility development. They were happy to discuss this further with Council over the next 12 months.

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Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- What other barriers besides costs?
- Spatial planning in region – are you involved?
- Regional charging mechanism?
- Receive funding from central government?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- Time and accessibility were also factors. “Snapshot” documents were circulated.
- Not directly involved, although aware. Spaces and places plan should have regional view.
- Need to have a mechanism that allows the discussion to be had, workshops suggested.
- Yes, 45% of funding comes from crown entity Sport NZ.

AP 19 – Doug Fake and Don Day, presenting on behalf of Susan Ansell from Kapiti Living Without Violence, sought ongoing operational funding support and the inclusion of family violence issues in planning. In support of their request they provided a range of statistics both at a national and area level, concluding that the Kāpiti community needed more support.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Closer working relationship with A Safer Kapiti (ASK)?
- The financial position with reference to grants was queried.
- Offering safety programmes? What are the numbers going through these?
- How long has the group been going?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- Have done some lead agency work over financial issues, still work with ASK, but don't have lead role unless we have some clear cut budget. Funding relationship between agency and ASK clarified.
- Budget was always tight, not a lot of scope to do different programmes as much as wished.
- Re participation in safety programmes - usually around 6-10 per group, 2-3 groups run per year. Also groups run through Department of Corrections.
- We've been going 27 years. Our programmes are working; results-based accountability, audited by Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Justice, and Department of Corrections.

AP 21 – Len and Pam Tong appreciated what Council provided by way of services, but complained about the yearly rates increases. They were concerned about affordability and echoed the sentiments of many in the community. They believed that if we can't afford something Council shouldn't be providing it by incurring such high levels of debt. They believed the Long Term Plan (LTP) did not spell out the level of debt and repayments. With reference to a range of statistics they urged Council to work harder to make even more savings and keep rates increases at the rate of inflation.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- The concepts of intergenerational debt equity and the Council's inflation rate were explained. The Council was trying to increase debt repayments so that the debt will come down over a period of time.

AP 74 – Kevin Ranshaw from Mahara Gallery spoke on behalf of Janet Bayly. Amanda Smart, Project Manager for the Development Project was also present. Two issues were raised: the proposal for Council to no longer contribute to the Wellington Regional Amenities Fund (WRAF) and the proposal to reduce community grants by \$150,000. The arts were often seen as a cost rather than a benefit but recent research indicates the contrary – examples were given including

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the achievements of Mahara Gallery. The Gallery relied heavily on volunteers and donors. The submitter urged Council to please consider the benefits the Gallery delivered.

AP 55 – Debbie Mattingley from Te Newhanga Kapiti Community Centre spoke about the Community Centre’s refurbishment and the positive impact this has had on attracting new business and increased clientele. It was important that visitors to the Centre had a positive experience and to this end Council was asked for support in ensuring the building was fit for purpose with respect to air conditioning and adequate heating. Also the Race Relations community event held last year had been very successful but needed more budget to embed it as a regular event.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Plans for the immediate future?
- What proportion of funding from other organizations and if no funding from Council what plans to approach other organisations?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- Almost completed nine engagement plans for different sections of the community including children, youth, family, seniors, commuters, Māori, disabled.
- Also have expos planned (women’s expo) - use of the foyer is a feature now, better use of space. Putting three skylights in the foyer to allow fresh air to circulate.
- Received \$30,000 from Council towards operational expenses. Application for Lotteries Commission was planned but there was nothing in next year’s budget for renewal. \$30,000 was required to upgrade the heating system when it got to the end of its life, but this was separate from air-conditioning.

The meeting agreed to proceed as the next submitter was available at this point.

AP 48 – Peter Ellis spoke about rates and asked the Council not to reduce the funding available through grants to community groups as these groups were finding it increasingly difficult to get funding from other places. Events were really important to the District and bring money into the community. On a more specific note, with regard to the Waikanae Park upgrade of facilities he suggested that as the building was only used for rugby for six months of the year a way to help would be to give the Club \$100,000 and let them do the upgrade and put the extra leftover money into the new park development (Otoraua).

Morning Tea break at 11.36am and reconvened at 12.21pm.

AP 60 – Darren Hunter said he was grateful for the opportunity to speak but disappointed he had to take time off work to address the issue of maintenance of a public park i.e. Maclean Park. He talked about his professional background and use of the Park, said it was a great asset to the community but problems were easily discernible (photos were circulated) and should be remedied forthwith. The pond was a mess and its upgrade had been badly managed and where was the accountability? Things could be quickly rectified to manage the asset better and he suggested that community involvement could assist.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Further details were requested about community involvement.

The Submitter commented as follows:

- A public meeting should be called to canvass and capture ideas.

AP 73 – Ann Lawler spoke about the Tasman Road Reserve, suggesting that the corrugated iron fencing be moved further aside at the access point. She also asked Council to bring the same level

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of planning and consideration to development of parks in Ōtaki as was being applied elsewhere in the District for eg the Howarth Block.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Ideas about what the community would use the area for?
- Was there a Community Outcomes document for Ōtaki?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- There were many potential uses for the area for eg dog walking, a quiet area to sit, archery etc.
- Yes have seen the Ōtaki vision document and not even 50% of this has been implemented, which was discouraging. Council should be doing more and the document should be revised and updated.

AP 52 – Karen Parker and Ralph Roberts from Kapiti Judo Club Incorporated spoke about a feasibility study for the establishment of an indoor community sport centre. Indoor sports should be supported, eg basketball, badminton, yoga, pilates, dancing, martial arts, can only grow as the area does. Outdoor sports were well catered for in previous years. The example of the upgraded Walter Nash project in Taita was cited. There was no dedicated funding for an indoor facility at present but there could be. A site option analysis could be done perhaps combining it with the Civic Precinct?

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- What about Nga Purapura in Otaki? It ticks a lot of your boxes.
- The proposal to develop such a facility is definitely an issue for an LTP-related discussion. Ballpark cost at current prices?
- What is the feasibility cost?
- Operational costs of the Walter Nash upgrade project in Taita?
- Invitation to meet is acknowledged as well.

The Submitter commented as follows:

- Assemble a list of the facilities you have already.
- Indicative figure – \$10.5m for the Taita project, for 3-6 courts around \$15m.
- Feasibility study could take 6-8 weeks, at a cost of \$60-70,000 for specialist advice.
- Don't know operational costs of Walter Nash facility. It ended up as a combination of indoor and library facilities which lowered costs overall.

AP 26 – Shelly Warwick spoke about two issues: using the Ōtaki College pool as an alternative community pool while the Ōtaki Pool at Haruatai Park was being upgraded (new roof etc); and the state of the Waitohu Valley Road. With regard to the first issue she said that the Ōtaki Pool was well patronized and people, especially competitive swimmers of school age would not be able to afford either in terms of money or time to travel to other facilities in the District for the 8 months that the Ōtaki Pool is expected to be closed. A local solution such as using the College pool was best. With regards to the Waitohu Valley Road the problem was the state and design of the road which was not able to cater safely to the increasing number of large trucks travelling along it to and from the quarry. A resolution was being sought with NZTA but this is a longstanding problem. With the Ōtaki Bypass project starting next year the situation was only going to deteriorate.

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Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Was the College pool still operative?
- There would be a need to ensure that the College pool was filtrated and treated properly, that requirements around changing rooms were met in order to satisfy health regulations. The idea proposed was a good one, but the implementation was not simple, and likely to cost much more than \$100,000.
- The Chief Executive explained that public pools lose money, so while closed the Haruatai pool wouldn't be losing money, so the loss of money with Otaki College pool had not been budgeted for in next year's budget.
- Have you talked to the Waikanae Swim Club? Possible use of Waikanae pool?
- Were you living in the area when the quarry started, and when was the resource consent granted, was it notified?
- How many residents do you think are affected by the trucks?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- The pool was still operative but needed some TLC. The College Principal was very happy to open the pool to the public. The College had estimated a cost of \$100,000.
- As pointed out, it would be difficult to get kids to the Pools at either Waikanae or Paraparaumu.
- The quarry been there since the 60s and since then, there had been a lot of building in the area without any upgrading of the road.
- Over 100 residents were affected by the situation.
- Waitohu Valley Road was also a very popular recreational loop for biking, horse riding, walkers etc, and was used as an alternative route for traffic in event of accidents on SH1.

AP 38 – Angela Taylor handed around some photos to support her submission and was concerned about the Waitohu Valley Road as a mother of three school age children, and a resident on road. Both the quarry and drivers were doing their best on these roads, but the submitter couldn't understand the lack of planning for these roads for this usage; the Expressway had been in planning for years, why were roads not upgraded in anticipation of this project? More trucks were using the route than ever before. Can Council be held accountable if an accident happens? She acknowledged that monitoring of traffic was done and that trucks were diverted but the roads were still not wide enough to accommodate them.

Lunch break at 1.17pm until 1.55pm

AP 36 – Guy Burns spoke about the proposed rates increase of 4.3% and compared it to the cost of living. He was wanting to get the rates down below 4%. There were two areas to look closely at where savings could be made: (a) planned Town Centre upgrade – to be put on hold and postponed (b) infrastructure of Council – staff numbers have increased and doubled since 2006. There also needs to be a major review of Council staff costs and massive efficiencies could be found here which could be cut by a third.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- What do you think is acceptable for the rates?
- Do you see the Expressway as being an opportunity or threat to the district?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- A 2% rates increase would be very acceptable.
- The Expressway is an opportunity – would reduce local traffic, resource for the area in the future. To focus on the positive and to see what the true impacts of the Expressway are.

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AP 41 / 42 – Sarah Rusholme from Nature Connection and Wellington Amenities Fund spoke on behalf of two projects she is involved: (a) “150 Years – 150 Buses”, and “Kids to the Capital” Projects (b) Nature Connections Project. There was concern that the Council would be withdrawing the funding and support for the Wellington Regional Amenities Fund (WRAF) from 2016 onwards. Without WRAF support, staff and volunteers for these students and teachers would not have access to these considerable resources, the training, support and benefits. Without WRAF support teachers would not be able to support this initiative. For the small investment that the Council makes in the WRAF, as well as projects such as the Matariki consortium featuring Mahara Gallery and Nature Connections involving Ngā Manu Reserve, its business and residents receive significant return, benefits and profile. By choosing to reallocate this funding, Council will affect cultural and conservation gems and undermine the benefits that flow on to local residents and young learners.

Nature Connections is represented by Ngā Manu Nature Reserve. This small Trust-led operation preserves the largest remaining remnant of coastal lowland swamp forest and provides excellent learning and leisure experiences. Ngā Manu has received access to staff training, onsite mentoring from international experts, presence at events, and participation in a high profile marketing campaign designed to get Wellington families out exploring our natural treasures. In summary, on behalf of the lower decile schools participating in “Kids to the Capital”, and “Nature Connections”, and families participating in “Wild Things”. The submitter asked Council to commit to ongoing support of the WRAF with clear benefits to Kāpiti.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- How much are all these associations influenced or resourced by WREDA?
- If Council pulls the funding, does all of this stop?
- With 56 schools, what sort of feedback do you get?
- Does the Regional Council support with buses?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- None of this is resourced by WREDA. It is a Mayoral fund and money is allocated through that joint committee. The campaign has to mesh with the Wellington story.
- That’s a question for the Mayoral Committee and how far the funding stretches – Mahara Gallery has received direct funding and indirect benefits.
- We have so much feedback from teachers – they are grateful for the opportunity – for lower decile schools funding transport is a huge barrier – benefits children’s learning – gets them into places for them to answer questions. We are supporting the educators from different communities and how are we serving these children.
- Through the “Nature Connections” programme they contribute to that consortium.

For the record and for clarification, the Mayor asked the next submitter, Cr David Scott, if he had a Declaration of Interest as mentioned in the first part of the meeting. Cr David Scott responded he would be making a submission as a ratepayer for 45 years. He would be talking about general topics that relate nationally to our Council. He would not participate or vote on any topics he speaks about today.

AP 34 – Cr David Scott spoke on various topics which related to the community. He had seen over the last 20 years a growing gap between poor and the rich and this gap is increasing. As a Council we are not doing enough. Wellington City Council employees, travelling to Wellington, are getting a living wage and workers here in Kapiti are not. We spend over 50% on staff salaries and that we should look at the range of these salaries. We have increased the number of the Senior Leadership Team and should go back to what we had in 2004 which was four. The socio-economic changes that have taken place and place stresses on an ordinary person on an average or low salary and we can do more than that.

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Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- You mention the future Annual Plan and our booklet – showing what the Gold Coast was doing – are we not presenting properly to the public – what would you do to present our case?
- Did you support the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan consultation process?
- Why do you believe it best to speak as a rate payer rather than as an Elected Member.
- Are you able to remember the ideas that you brought to the table as an Elected Member to make these cost-cuts that you are currently presenting?
- In relation to staff issues and as an employer, how do you see Council competing in an employment sense to recruit good people for those positions? Do you think the Senior Leadership Team salary is higher than the market?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- We would do well to look at what the Sunshine Coast are trying to do – look at the projects they are sponsoring – we are being led by NZTA – we are in a supporting role whereas over on the Sunshine Coast they are running it. Still a lot of areas we are doing ourselves and not doing this very well.
- I did support the Annual Plan – it wasn't the best plan but was the best of what we had.
- Reason I'm doing this - the two topics of socio-economic division – we have not consulted on as a Council – and on staffing, the pay scales - needed to bring it forward to consider – we are not seeing the whole picture.
- As already mentioned today, the Town Centre planning which will cost us \$40m, that this is quite a rash way to move forward – nobody knows how the Expressway will affect our community – we have not considered the negatives.
- There are going to be high and low salaries for people who are skilled. People need a decent wage. Believe under a regional amalgamation we should be similar to other Councils.

The Chief Executive, Pat Dougherty, corrected some inaccuracies. Salaries don't make up 50% of our expenses. Our total salary budget is \$22m out of a total budget of approximately \$70m, which is well under 50%. When he started in 2008 he had five Group Managers and still have five Group Managers.

AP 64 – Statement provided to be read out on behalf of Federated Farmers

A statement was read out as the submitter was unable to attend the hearings. They wanted to raise two topics: roading and economic development rating. Federated Farmers support the Council's use of a hybrid funding model utilizing a fixed charge per property as well as a land value rate, meaning that roading is not disproportionately a burden on rural ratepayers as seen in other districts.

Members have raised concerns about the safety of Mangaone North Road as the last 2km remains unsealed with sharp corners and with the increased logging activity down the road it is unsafe for other vehicles, such as farming vehicles and members of the public who are heading to the reserve for recreation. Federated Farmers are asking that this road please be on the work schedule for improvements.

Economic development is reported to be costing \$5,233,000 in the *Cost of Activity Statements*. Federated Farmers assumed that this was targeted at CBD or tourism/hospitality businesses that directly benefit. However, the targeted rate for economic development was missing from the 2016 Annual Plan list of rates mechanisms. After making an enquiry the Council's Finance team said: *The economic development activity is funded from the General Rate. It looks like there has been a*

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small typo on page 66 of the LTP unfortunately stating it as funded from a targeted rate rather than a general rate. Federated Farmers now oppose the method for funding of this activity. They have grave concerns that land value based general rating which is paid by all ratepayers is being used to fund a particular industry.

Federated Farmers does not consider that tourism provides a public benefit, and therefore tourism should not be funded by general rates. Tourism promotion is not a public good service and should not be funded as such. Those that directly benefit from economic activities can be identified as being in hospitality and retail businesses. Federated Farmers opposes the local government funding of tourism and economic development as it is outside core council functions, and particularly object to the land value based general rating funding. However, Federated Farmers would not oppose a rate targeted at businesses that would directly benefit for the funding of tourism-related expenditure, instead of using rates collected from all ratepayers for an activity that provides unequal benefits. The land value general rate should not be used to fund tourism, as this means that farmers and other land owners are paying to support an industry that does not provide them with direct benefit.

AP 50 – Jill Stansfield spoke about various topics on behalf of the Older Persons' Council.

The Town Centres: it makes good sense to be accessible for toddlers through to the elderly to help enable people of all ages to activity participate in the community. It is the aim to make the district for young and aged people more age-friendly and an accessible district. When planning the upgrade for the Town Centres, it will be important to create adequate parking, especially with disability parking. The Town Planning project needs to reflect this. It would be ideal to create adequate parking for the aged: if passengers and driver could exit their car, on to the pedestrian path without having to cross a vehicular carriage way. It would be great to have some designated "Elder Preferred" parking, as currently found in Porirua.

Older persons in less affluent circumstances could be granted lower charges for services offered, eg libraries and the Aquatic Centre. There is a need to start planning for an older population. New Zealand has the highest poverty rate in the OECD. By trying to level out disparity in levels of wealth the elderly would be encouraged to stay more active and to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. It would be helpful to makes resources available at the community level without red tape. The elderly, receiving only government superannuation, need support eg reducing the fees for Community Service cards.

AP 84 – Trevor Daniell from Grey Power congratulated the Council on producing an Annual Plan as some Councils did not. But despite Council's efforts, the rates increases are still too high. Since 2013 the mean income in Kapiti has declined by 5.4% relative to the national income. During the workshops, some Councillors tried to set a limit on the size of rates increase.

They support parts of the Federated Farmers submission. Employment growth is below the national level. Retail is the largest employer. Business growth declined by 0.7% last year but nationally increased by 1.8%. The economic development has not produced any worthwhile benefit to the ratepayer.

Medium density housing is a necessity. They have consulted with the Director of Community Housing Aotearoa and believe they are a body to be consulted on this issue and distributed a pamphlet to staff.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Council has flats for the elderly, about 118 units. Do you know what the figure of how many have been built in the Kapiti Coast – units, villas – in the retirement villages?

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The Submitter commented as follows:

- No idea how much have been built in the District.

AP 7 – John McLachlan from Kapi Mana Forest and Bird spoke on two recommendations: (a) Kaitawa Reserve – that an outdoor classroom project concept should be developed, and (b) the footbridge over Wharemauku Stream.

The Kaitawa Reserve is widely used by a number of youth groups and schools in Ruapehu Street. They have had an initial meeting with three youth leaders who are strongly in support of the concept and also with staff at Council. Staff have suggested that external funding might be available if the project gets approval and is developed.

John believes that a potential footbridge over the Wharemauku Stream presents an outstanding opportunity for outdoor activities. When the Wharemauku Stream is in flood, such groups are prevented from completing a planned circuit. The foothills, including Whareroa Farm, Kaitawa Reserve and Matai Huka escarpment, present outstanding opportunities for recreational activities which are close at hand. The provision for a footbridge will help to increase those opportunities.

If Council could give support for the Kaitawa Outdoor Classroom project, this would enable staff and youth leaders to develop a plan and funding package.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- What is the advantage of the Kaitawa Reserve as a location as opposed to Whareroa Farm or other locations in the district?
- The nature of the support you are asking for – in principle and concept rather than financial?
- Who would be the lead in managing this project?
- Did staff confirm which funding would be available?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- There is a mix of terrain which is there – stream coming through Reserve – re-planted areas as well - pest controls – mix of information and material in that reserve which is different to Whareroa which is in the early stages of restoration.
- Yes – looking for in-principle support.
- Volunteer group – John McLachlan would be the leader.
- External funding.

*Afternoon Tea break at 3.05pm, and meeting reconvened at 3.55pm.
James Cootes left the meeting at 3.50pm.*

MOVED (Mayor/Ammundsen)

That Standing Order 3.3.7 is suspended to allow the meeting to continue.

CARRIED

AP 65 – John Barrett and Keith Ford from Maanaki Kāpiti spoke about the reduction to investment for visitor attraction, business development and business attraction to the Kāpiti District. They have seen increased growth in the area. Their focus was specifically on tourism and events. The tourism sector is not an insignificant thing. Tourism New Zealand is actively working on spreading international visitors around New Zealand. The government will invest a \$20m budget for tourism purposes over the next four years on a shared basis. The recommendation is that Council works with Manaaki to increase funding for visitor attraction and events and economic

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benefits and creating visitor attraction initiatives that will be a leader in regional development. They are happy to work with Council and also assist with the in-house i-Site development.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Referring to the Federated Farmers submission – what will your response be?
- Would you be happy to get some funding but through targeted rates?
- Given that tourism is going to increase, what additional provision would you like the Council to provide? Do you see that the i-Site could help?
- What do we say to those people pleading to keep the rates down?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- Refer to the statistics that are produced. These show regional growth clearly benefits from visitor activity through electronic spending.
- The tourism sector in the Kapiti district is relatively small – if there was a weighted system it would need to be carefully constructed – principles not un-sound – need to be very carefully and well-constructed.
- Having a district prepared for additional visitors which will happen – making sure our infrastructure is right.
- The i-Site is not the salvation – but part of the national tourism infrastructure. Happy to sit down with Council staff and talk about what we think some of those ideas might look like.
- You have to exercise your best judgement – you should represent the widest possible view.

AP 79 – Liz Koh from Kapiti Chamber of Commerce spoke about rates and economic development. The Chamber is here to represent 75% of this community who are not retired of whom about 20% of those go into Wellington to work. Rates are an important consideration with the proportion of our community, 25% who are retired. The Chamber is here to speak on behalf of the majority – working and employed - and to see their businesses grow in the Kapiti community. We are investing in our community and getting a return on that investment. There are a lot of people in this community who are passionate about the growth in our community, just looking for a vehicle to make that happen.

The Chamber has been part of the economic leadership group on which Council sits. They want to make some significant progress without some money behind it. We need some facilitation from Council to help get there. We have a community of small businesses. There is a fragmented community and need some facilitation to get things to happen. The proposal is to make some changes in the LTP for small business support to retain that funding for the purpose of economic development.

With regards to events Kapiti have had some successful events this year. Why would you lower your support for that kind of investment? Kapiti needs to look at our online presence, not just physical. How we can put Kapiti online – visitor attraction and attracting businesses into our area? Council needs to fund this group and leverage other monies from the private sector and so it needs to be a stakeholder-led group with some Council involvement and gradual progression to become eventually fully self-funding.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Would you support targeted rates?
- Would the Chamber be willing to put that out in a survey?
- How would this be different from a business differential?
- Do you see the Chamber having a role to assist you as you are indicating here with the i-Site?
- Council to invest in economic development leadership. Are you aware of Councils in New Zealand that have achieved successful business-led economic leadership initiatives?

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- Rating of businesses. If we did decide to rate businesses – would this not lower rates?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- Targeted rates should be explored as an option – to see how practical it is - have raised this in various conversations with various people – who would you target it at? - worth having a look – research needs to be done first.
- No – not sure a survey is necessarily the right way to go – nobody is going to agree to pay an additional rate that they aren't paying now.
- How do you target a rate to those people working from home? Whole lot of pluses and minuses around targeted rates. If it's a way of enabling us to get a pot of money into that economic development space it may potentially offer a solution. How do we attract private money into this economic development? What is the best mechanism for doing that? We can ask for sponsorship but who are we going to ask?
- Would love to see an i-Site presence, a Chamber presence, WREDA presence – to co-locate and work together – lot of synergy in co-locating those activities and sharing resources.
- Some examples: Tauranga, Timaru, Horowhenua – producing some positive results especially in Horowhenua – we are getting left behind.
- Just need to do the research and decide the best way forward. There are huge advantages in Kapiti.

AP 69 – Martin Halliday spoke as an individual and small business owner with an interest in visitor and tourism attractions. His concerns are the lack of planning and development in this area. A common answer was that this was to be addressed in different ways, the primary two being covered in the “open for business” slogan that Council has developed and in the inclusion of tourism and visitor attraction as part of the strategic plan for the future of Kapiti. Some small steps have been taken in this area but he can see ways to reduce rates as more of a backwards step. There is no funding being allocated in the LTP. The issue was raised to reduce the number of major events that Council supports. Half the funding was not used. Has this saving been passed on as a rate reduction? The i-Site has been brought in-house to save money. Perhaps it can be spent in other areas of tourism and visitor attraction which is under-supported by Council.

AP 71 – Chris Walker spoke on behalf of the ratepayer to create a bylaw that stipulates that Council has to conduct a legally binding referendum if it wants to sell all or any part of the Kapiti water network.

The Chief Executive clarified that Council had changed its Standing Orders so that it requires a 75% majority before the Council can transfer its water assets services (9 votes out of 11) and a referendum would be required. Our level of protection would be the strongest in the country. The Local Government Act states we cannot sell our water assets.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Why would you think that Council would think of selling?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- It is a matter of trust or not trusting in this instance.

AP 22 – Albert Taal spoke about the flooding area in the Mazengarb drain. He would like to see provision being made for proper discussion with the engineers as to how you can minimize the problem by creating proper flow and distribution of water volume during the flooding in this area. There will be more flooding issues further downstream. He would like to be assured that there is adequate infrastructure being provided. You need to monitor how the culvert now affects the flow and flooding of properties nearby. The last flooding came from a totally different angle to which he

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experienced over the years and which caused considerable damage to his driveway, at the same time directing the water into the properties in front of his property. He believes this was a result of excavation carried out by Alliance at the time. The large new culvert we now have in place will be 2.5m high when in flood and this has been confirmed with Alliance. Maintenance on the Mazengarb drain has not been carried out in some time.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- What was the nature of the damage to your property in the last flood? What is the length of your driveway?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- The angle missed the sand-bags of the surface of the driveway. The Alliance have undertaken to repair the driveway at their expense. We are the back property. He has had good dialogue and discussions with Alliance engineers but the relationship with Council engineers has been the opposite.

AP 83 – Dylan Firth from Hospitality New Zealand spoke about the fees being proposed for the new Food Act which came into effect on 1 March this year. The members of Hospitality New Zealand come from across the hospitality industry including hotels/motels, pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes. A large majority of these have to be food-registered. These fees are being substantially increased due to the changes. The current fee structure for an A grade food license for an inspection is \$530. Under the proposed fee change, it amounts to \$1108, which is a significant increase on the existing structure.

Hospitality New Zealand has worked with the Ministry of Primary Industries in developing this legislation. Hospitality New Zealand has been directly involved in much of the Act and the changes. The regulatory compliance for food safety is a compulsory task undertaken by Council. The criteria in setting up fees should be a cost recoverable operation from those who use and benefit from the regulations. The new Act has only been in for a month or so. He feels that \$1108 for a new license, including one inspection, is a lot more than potentially is needed. You should look at these fees, assess these fees on realistic time spent, administering them and issuing them.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Your argument on the public good. What was their reaction?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- Fees should be set “for the people who use and benefit”.

Break at 4.50pm and reconvened at 5.10pm.

Cr Gaylor left the meeting at 4.55 pm.

AP 77 – John Hayes and Jill Stansfield from Kapiti Coast Older Persons’ Council spoke about various issues relating to the Annual Plan. Some figures in the Annual Plan don’t quite relate to what the CPI says. The Older Persons’ Council (OPC) does not support the proposed one-off grant of \$50,000 to Wellington Free Ambulance. We can’t consult on decisions which have already been made. They can see no disadvantage in bringing the i-Site in-house. Has there been a cost benefit survey into the kind of promotion Council has sponsored and funded in the past and whether there has been a clear benefit to the wide community over the lack of differential rating which is a comparative advantage that businesses in this region have?

On the big events budget, there is a concern about the admission cost. It’s not a trend that they can encourage or support. Any event that Council supports should be available to people in the community no matter what their income is. \$90.00 is a lot of money to get into a Council-supported event.

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They don't support a reduction in community grants. The Community Boards do a fantastic job in supporting local organisations and is a great strength that this community has. The Older Persons' Council have been involved in discussions on Council housing. The model that Christchurch is using could be used here in Kāpiti. The Older Persons' Council is not convinced about the timing and scope of the Town Centres project which they feel is money not well spent. Adaptations need to be undertaken around the Town Centres which need to more accurately reflect the Kāpiti Coast demographic which would be adequate disability parking. The number of disabled persons parking slots does not reflect that. They also need access to buildings with adequate seating and hand-rails which are important.

OPC supports that there should be wider shared pathways/cycleways eg Ngahina Street and Arawhata Road and adequate seats along the walkways. There has been discussion with Council staff to take up the initiative and it looks as though it will proceed in a positive direction. It has also been discussed with Greater Wellington as well if all the bus shelters could have seating inside. We need to prioritise those areas that are of higher use particularly of older people.

Need to drop the fees for those who hold Community Service Card as well as Gold Card and need to support the elderly in the way you structure fees and charges.

Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Wellington Free Ambulance – we are genuinely consulting with community – no commitment has been made.
- The Disability Action Group – you have 1,000 members registered. When did that start?
- Do you think we help you enough as a Council?
- How old do you have to be to qualify to be an Older Person?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- If you have a limited level of mobility, your GP will help you apply to and pay for a card that says you are entitled to park in these particular places. If you don't have a pass you are liable to be fined. They have a 1,000 that are current and used now dependent on the level of disability.
- Only recently, I feel we are becoming a partnership. We are heading down a route that we can make a lot of progress and that is the Age-Friendly initiative. The word is getting through.
- You can be any age to become an older person - it's how you feel.

Break at 5.25pm and reconvened at 5.40pm.

Cr Murray Bell left the meeting at 5.25pm.

The Mayor declared a potential conflict of interest and asked Cr Mike Cardiff as Deputy Mayor to chair the remainder of the meeting.

AP 85 – Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown on behalf of Wellington Regional Amenities Fund (WRAF) spoke in support of the fund and to discuss the ongoing purpose of this fund and its benefits to the region. Porirua, Kāpiti, Masterton and both Hutt Councils have contributed to this fund. WRAF has funded innovative projects and strengthened cultural organisations throughout the region, enabling better access to arts, culture and environmental activities for residents and visitors alike. Wellington's contribution to WRAF is 70% and has not reduced any other WCC funding. Examples include: Nature Connections, the Nationhood Project – 150 Buses: 150 Schools and Matariki.

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Summary of Discussion Points Raised by Elected Members:

- Kapiti has the Playhouse and musical theatre – are they below the funding level?
- What is the justification for us as a small district supporting the big organizations (eg NZSO, NZ Opera)?

The Submitter commented as follows:

- There could be something if they were part of a programme – putting on something during the Matariki Festival – the whole event would be supported through that programme. It would be stronger if the Mahara Gallery worked with Pataka than working on its own.
- Always have to have a specific project (eg performance or commissioning) – funding doesn't go towards their general operating funds.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm.

Signed / / **2016**

Mayor Ross Church, Chair