

**MINUTES OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL
FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE VIA ZOOM
ON TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 1.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little, Cr Jeremy Harker (via Zoom), Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Mr Philip Jones, Cr Danika Goldsack (via Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE: **Kitea Tipuna** (Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive), **Kimberley Tuapawa** (Pouwhakarae – Pārongo/Wheako Kiritaki | Group Manager Information and Customer Experience), **Gary Borg** (via Zoom Pouwhakarae – Pūtea/Tautāwhi Rangapū | Group Manager Finance and Corporate Support), **Stephen Heath** (Pouwhakarae – Hua Pūmau Hapori/Ratonga | Group Manager Community Assets and Services), **Simon Mutohori** (Pouwhakarae-Whakamahere me te Waeture | Group Manager-Planning & Regulatory Services) **Courtney Hayward** (Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa Here, Mana Ārahi me te Whakawhanake Ōhanga | Policy, Governance and Economic Development Manager), **Gay Waikawa** (Kaiurungi Mana Ārahi | Governance Officer), **Donna Moorcock** (via Zoom Kaiwhakahaere Hunga me te Aheitanga | People and Capability Manager)

1 KARAKIA

Karakia was given by Cr Eaglesome-Karekare.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

4 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

5 LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2021/158**

Moved: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

Seconded: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

That the minutes [and confidential minutes] of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 September 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

8 GENERAL ITEMS**8.1 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING UPDATE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2021/159**

Moved: His Worship the Mayor Craig Little

Seconded: Cr Jeremy Harker

That Committee receive the report.

CARRIED

The Chief Executive advised the big element of the Health and Safety report is the COVID resurgence planning and risk assessment Council has done as an organisation around the government's recent announcement being vaccine certificates, traffic light system and which of Council department and staff are impacted.

The Kaiwhakahaere Hunga me te Aheitanga People and Capability Manager reported trying to get an understanding of the Draft COVID-19 Work Task Risk assessment working with different roles to figure out which roles potentially have higher risks.

Continually trying to keep up with changes within central government.

The Chief Executive announced that since the government has not mandated local government and that they have only mandated certain sectors and also Council staff have some cross overs in certain public sectors.

The Chief Executive also advised in terms of the journey towards vaccination, the official business the Chief Executive has taken is inform, encourage and support. Any staff member needing to have a vaccination during working hours can attend without taking leave and also staff who have an adverse reaction can apply for company leave up to a maximum of 3 days if they are unwell with approval from the chief executive.

The Chief Executive commented that all essential services will continue to operate.

His Worship the Mayor commented other organisations require their staff to be vaccinated.

Cr Harker commented on contractors and what is Council doing for future planning. The Chief Executive advised staff who are vaccinated will be allowed on mandated public sectors.

The Chairperson noted concern for health system.

Cr Danika Goldsack left at 1.57pm

Cr Danika Goldsack returned at 1.58pm

His Worship the Mayor left at 2.01pm

8.2 OPERATIONAL IMPACTS OF GOVERNMENT REFORMS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2021/160

Moved: Cr Denise Eaglesome-Karekare

Seconded: Mr Philip Jones

That Committee receive the report

CARRIED

The Chief Executive commented on breach of good faith irrefutably damaged and how is Council transitioning and report against progress

The Chairperson commented reflects the challenges Council have in 3 water space, knowing it is not easy, focused on one solution that has not taken into account geography and terrain, significant efficiencies and increased quality by combining wastewater treatment plants with one centralised plant, how that is achievable in New Zealand.

The Chief Executive advised from the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 9 November 2021 the Wairoa District Council elected members have re-endorsed their current position as per the submission that was submitted at the end of September, delegated to the Mayor to continue to advocate on behalf of the Wairoa community by participating in relevant forum or making submissions and delegated to the chief executive to undertake transitioning arrangements and feedback.

The Chairperson also commented that there has been a fundamental breakdown between local and central government.

The Chairperson also stated in all the papers he had read on the three waters there was not a summary of the current problem they are trying to solve. What is the problem we are trying to solve yes, we know that 25% of wastewater treatment plants have probably got expired consents but how many of those are actually critical and what difference if they were actually compliant with a consent would they actually enhance the environment or would it actually or what is the problem we are trying to solve.

The Chairperson also commented that there is a wider debate about what we are actually needed to do to actually enhance to fix our waters and three waters reform that have been proposed will actually solve that problem, there is actually a wider problem that we need to solve collectively.

The Chairperson also highlighted that the government wants to pass this problem over to the new four entities because it doesn't want the tax payer to pay. If the government can get this problem

off their books that is actually a sigh of relief because they don't have to pay for subsidy, they don't have the debt within government books, that is within the whole of New Zealand and the tax payer isn't paying for it but isn't it the person paying the water charges paying for it the same as the taxpayer the same person. The government has not been transparent in terms of what their objectives were with the three waters.

Legacy issues and affordability were discussed at length within the Committee.

The Chairperson mentioned an assessment not for Wairoa District Council but on what are the risks for the community first, The Wairoa District Council might exist in ten year's time but the community is well represented and looked after and that should be the focus. What are the consequential risks for Council going forward, there are some financial risks, there are huge resource risks throughout all the government reforms. It has been stated there is insufficient current resources but any transition is going to require more resources and where do these resources come from and the impact of business as usual and what are the consequential risks for the Council forward. See there are financial risks, huge resource risks throughout all the government reforms. It has been stated that there insufficient current resources but any transition is going to require more resources so where do those resources come from, what is the impact on our business as usual and how do we manage that going forward.

The Chairperson also mentioned in the 2023 elections if National, Act and Green party were to form a coalition they would actually reverse this, low probability that it actually be reversed and that it might have significant consequence. Council does all this work and it is all for nothing.

The Chairperson also keen to say a scan what are the risks with the key three reforms not just talking the three waters reform, this is the resource management and the local government. There are 5 things we know and probably 105 things that we do not know.

The Meeting closed at 2.18pm with a karakia at Cr Eaglesome-Karekare.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2021.

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CHAIRPERSON