

**MINUTES OF WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL
KATIKATI - WAIHI BEACH WARD FORUM MEETING NO. KWB21-2
HELD AT THE WAIHĪ BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 106 BEACH ROAD, WAIHĪ BEACH
ON TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 2021 AT 7.00PM**

1 PRESENT

Cr J Denyer, Cr A Henry, and Cr A Sole

2 IN ATTENDANCE

M Taris (Chief Executive Officer), J Osborne (Governance Support Administrator), and C Irvin (Senior Governance Advisor)

3 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION KWB21-2.1

Moved: Cr J Denyer

Seconded: Cr A Sole

That the apology for absence from Mayor Webber be accepted.

CARRIED

4 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS

Nil

7 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 MINUTES FOR RECEIPT

9.1 MINUTES OF THE KATIKATI - WAIHI BEACH WARD FORUM MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2021

RESOLUTION KWB21-2.2

Moved: Cr A Henry
Seconded: Cr A Sole

That the Minutes of the Katikati - Waihi Beach Ward Forum Meeting held on 2 March 2021 be received.

CARRIED

10 REPORTS

10.1 KATIKATI - WAIHI BEACH WARD FORUM MINUTE ACTION SHEET

The Committee considered a report dated 22 June 2021 from the Governance Support Administrator. The report was taken as read.

RESOLUTION KWB21-2.3

Moved: Cr A Sole
Seconded: Cr A Henry

1. That the Governance Support Administrator's report dated 22 June 2021, titled 'Katikati - Waihi Beach Ward Forum Minute Action Sheet', be received.

CARRIED

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION KWB21-2.4

Moved: Cr J Denyer
Seconded: Cr A Henry

A motion was moved that Council suspend standing orders.

CARRIED

11 WORKSHOP

11.1 WORKSHOP ITEMS

An update was provided by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on the proposed plans for Central/Local Government Three Waters Reform Programme, and what it could mean for the District.

Key points:

- The Reform was being conducted by Central Government's Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), and was being led by Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Minister for Local Government and Foreign Affairs).
- Three Waters referred to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.
- In conjunction with the Three Waters Reform, multiple other reforms were happening at the same time, such as changes to the Resource Management Act (RMA), as well as a Freshwater Reform.
- The CEO was a representative on the Local Government Steering Committee for the Three Waters Reform.
- Local Government's involvement was to assist Central Government with the implementation of the Three Waters Reform. It was noted that a third of the Western Bay of Plenty District Council's (WBOPDC) assets were Three Waters assets.
- If the Reform was to go ahead, the Government was on a short time frame, and at this time, the new service delivery date was expected to be 1 July 2024.
- The DIA had gathered information from local government bodies under a Request for Information (RFI), which Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) had provided. Local bodies were then required to supply further information after receiving a further request from the DIA. This information included asset worth, rates, assets owned and where they were, reticulated and wastewater systems, and was used to analyse the current state of these local bodies.
- The CEO advised that this did not relate to private water supplies, but rather Council's reticulated supplies, wastewater systems, and some aspects of storm water infrastructure.
- The information gathered by Central Government had been peer-reviewed by four reputable external organisations.
- Central Government was looking at a case for change based on public health and safety, the ability for councils to fund those assets going forward, improved asset quality to meet drinking water standards, and current consent conditions. It was noted that environmental impact was also a factor of the Reform, as well as economic development for the future. Inequalities across New Zealand would also be addressed.
- The next stage of work for the Government was to review the information, working alongside experts and the Steering Committee, and receive feedback on how Central Government was going to proceed.
- Following the initial proposal, Local Government had the choice to 'opt-in' or 'opt-out' of the Reform, as it was voluntary.
- Communication and engagement across the country was being run by Central Government. They were currently undertaking discussions with Tangata Whenua.
- If the Council opted in to the Reform, public consultation would be taken out to the community later in 2021, and would then make a final decision whether to take part in the Reform, or not.

- The Government had informed local bodies that the assets would stay in public ownership, and that there was no facility for the assets to be sold.
- The concept of the Reform was that it would be on a user-pays basis. This meant that if a household was already connected to Council's Three Waters service, then that household would be part of the scheme. Included in this would be septic tank users who could change over to a reticulated wastewater system; if eligible.
- Council was hoping to be able to inform the public of their plans by the end of 2021.

In response to questions, the following matters were noted:

- The delivery of Three Waters would be run in much the same way as it was now, but would be operated and managed by newly formed entities.
- Council could be in a better debt to revenue ratio, as a substantial amount of the debt would be allocated to the new entity as part of the Reform. The Government was reviewing overheads as a part of the Reform.
- Fluoridation and chlorination would be handled by Taumata Arowai – the water services regulator for New Zealand.
- Organisations who held private Council partnerships (e.g. for the management of the land around a treatment plant), could potentially transfer this partnership over to the new entity.
- It was yet to be decided what approach would be taken on how solid waste and wastewater would be managed, and the disposal of treated wastewater.
- The RFI that went to Local Government bodies was to gather information around the current financial status of the Three Waters service delivery. This information was critiqued by Scottish Water (a Scottish statutory corporation that provided water and sewerage services across Scotland). A secondary round of the RFI went out for information, and preliminary results came out earlier in 2021. This was reviewed by three consultancy companies - Farrier Swier Consulting, Deloitte, and Beca - who were tasked with an independent review of all the information gathered. They were asked to consider the unique New Zealand environment. All three companies returned similar findings.
- It had not yet been decided who would be responsible for the maintenance of the water consents, but it was thought that this would stay with Bay of Plenty Regional Council.
- The cost estimate of \$120-180billion would be over 30 years, and these costs could be spread over all of New Zealand. The allocation of costs has yet to be addressed..
- Three Waters technical expertise was not the same level for all local bodies. The Government was looking at different reform models to address this.
- The Government would need to review the Reform if the majority of councils were to 'opt-out'.
- All relative information regarding costs would be supplied to ratepayers through summarised information releases from the Government, as part of the consultation later in 2021.
- The CEO emphasised that this was an information update, some of which was still to be confirmed, and was subject to change.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION KWB21-2.5

Moved: Cr J Denyer

Seconded: Cr A Sole

A motion was moved that Council resume standing orders.

CARRIED

12 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

Nil

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Katikati - Waihi Beach Ward Forum held on 31 August 2021.

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Cr J Denyer
CHAIRPERSON / MAYOR