



Minutes

of the

Thames-Coromandel District Council

Ordinary meeting

Date
Venue

4 March 2015
Council Chamber
515 Mackay Street
Thames

Present

GF Leach JP (Mayor)

HD Bartley
DR Connors
PL French
MK McLean JP

PA Brijevich
LA Fox
SA Goudie
JT Wells

In attendance

Community Board Chairs

Paul Kelly JP, Keith Johnston, Strat Peters.

Staff

David Hammond, Angela Jane, Ariana Wickliffe, Joy Hames, Steve Baker, Leigh Robcke, Kirsten Williamson, and Sam Napia.

Meeting commenced

10:36

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1 Meeting conduct

1.1 Apologies

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the apologies from the following elected members for 4 March 2015.

Name	Reason	From	To
Councillor Connors	Lateness	10:36	10:48
Board Chair Renton	Non-attendance	10:36	14:20
Board Chair Walker	Non-attendance	10:36	14:20
Councillor Goudie	Other Commitments	13:13	14:20
Councillors Brljevich	Other commitments	13:31	14:20

Moved/seconded by: French/Wells

1.2 Public forum

Councillor Brljevich spoke to item 2.3 - Proposed District Plan – withdrawal of Natural Character provisions he tabled his comments.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives Councillor Tony Brljevich as a speaker in the public forum.

Moved/seconded by: Wells/Bartley

1.3 Items not on the agenda

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council accepts the following late agenda item.

- 2.4 Late item: Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Environment Court Consent Order.

Reason item not on the agenda

The requirement for a new delegation was identified after the Council agenda distribution deadline had passed.

Reason decision cannot be delayed

A decision on the amended consent order was required by 6 March 2015, therefore the late item could not wait for another Council meeting.

1.4 Conflict of interest

Councillor Fox and Councillor Brljevich declared a conflict interest on item 2.3 – Proposed District Plan – withdrawal of Natural Character provisions.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Notes the conflict of interests declared by Councillor Fox and Brljevich.

Moved/seconded by: Leach/Wells

1.5 Minutes for confirmation

The minutes for the Thames-Coromandel District Council for the meeting held on 28 January 2015 were presented for confirmation.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Confirms the minutes of the Thames-Coromandel District Council meeting held on 28 January 2015.

Moved/seconded by: Brljevich/Bartley

2 Governance Planning and Strategy

2.1 Statement of Proposals for financial policies

Council was asked to approve the statement of proposals for the Rates Remission Policy, the Revenue and Financing Policy and the Development Contributions Policy to be released for public consultation.

Chief Financial Officer Steve Baker noted that the table reflecting the development contributions payable (Appendix B) would be corrected to include GST making it consistent with the Consultation Document.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Statement of Proposals for financial policies report', dated 16 February 2015.
2. Approves the Statement of Proposals for the Rates Remission Policy, the Revenue and Financing Policy and the Development Contribution Policy for formal public consultation over the period 9 March to 9 April 2015.

Moved/seconded by: Fox/Bartley

2.2 Long Term Plan - Supporting Documentation and Consultation Document

Council was presented with the outstanding information which supported the Long Term Plan Consultation Document and was asked to approve the final Consultation Document as the basis for public consultation.

Members of the Audit committee noted that at their recent committee meeting the Officer Auditor General described the consultation document to be one of the best. The Committee members acknowledged the project team's effort to deliver the consultation and supporting material.

Council took the opportunity to thank the long term plan project team for their hard work.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the Long Term Plan - Supporting Documentation and Consultation Document' report, dated 24 February 2015.
2. Approves the following documents noting that they are supporting information on which the Council has relied in preparing the Long Term Plan Consultation document:
 - Financial Strategy
 - Infrastructure Strategy
 - The tabled projected financial statements and capital expenditure information
 - Forecasting assumptions.
3. Adopts the consultation document and submission form with the following amendments as an effective basis for public participation in Council decision-making processes relating to the content of the Long Term Plan 2015-2025:
 - a. Thames Community Board sample rates. Change 2010/11 Rural LV \$4.2M from \$12,863 to \$11,395 (page 41 of Consultation Document).
 - b. Thames Community Board sample rates. Change 2010/11 Commercial LV \$3M from \$23,329 to \$23,447 incorporating the charge for solid waste to be consistent with rest of examples. (page 41 of Consultation Document).
 - c. Move Coromandel-Colville Community Board project, Pottery Lane Service Lane Extension from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019 (page 33 of Consultation Document).
 - d. Corrections to Community board member contact details.
 - e. Include additional explanation of the term 'internal debt' (page 9 of Consultation Document).
 - f. Include additional option on Eastern Seaboard Wastewater Debt with a question on the submission form. This change has been made by incorporating the following text into the explanation of this matter on page 16 of the Consultation Document:

'The other option for Council is to do nothing - the status quo. The rating impact of this option would be to lower the rates increase throughout the ten years of the Plan (for example, by 1.8% on average in the 2015/2016 year) but we consider this option to be both financially imprudent and incorrect. Based on forecast growth, it would lead to ever accumulating debt, some of which has no realistic chance of being repaid before the plants have reached the end of their lives. It would also be incorrectly charging the debt against future development'.

Changes to the Long Term Plan consultation submission form

Added new question

Funding Debt on Eastern Seaboard Wastewater Plants

We are proposing to move the funding of \$46.6M of debt on the Eastern Seaboard plants to be paid by rates rather than development. This is because some areas are growing slowly which means this debt would not be repaid until after the plant has been retired and latest capacity information shows much of the capacity of the plants is being used today.

4. Notes the timetable outlined in this report for the public consultation meetings relating to the Long Term Plan proposals.

Moved/seconded by: Fox/French

2.3 Proposed District Plan - Natural Character provisions

Council was asked to approve the withdrawal of the Natural Character Rules (Section 32.7-32.8) from the Proposed District Plan and initiate a variation to reintroduce new revised rules.

Councillor Fox and Councillor Brljevich having declared a conflict of interest left the table for item 2.3 from 11:02am.

Mr Mark Farnsworth, Chairperson of the Proposed District Plan Hearing Panel, spoke to the item. His speaking notes were tabled at this time. Mr Farnsworth advised Council that he and the panel supported the withdrawal of the Natural Character rules and considered it was best that the hearings scheduled for Natural Character was postponed until submissions on the variation were heard.

Staff members Kirsten Williamson and Leigh Robcke of the District Plan team provided more information on the options available and risks involved. They noted that their preferred option was to withdraw the rules but continue with the hearings for the policies and objectives

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:01.

The meeting reconvened at 13:10.

The District Planning team staff recommended that the policies, objectives and the rules be withdrawn and included in the variation.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Proposed District Plan - withdrawal of Natural Character provisions report,' dated 25 February 2015.
2. Withdraws the Natural Character provisions from the Proposed District Plan (objectives, policies, rules and overlay maps).
3. Initiates a variation to the Proposed District Plan to revise the Natural Character provisions to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and Proposed Regional Policy Statement.
4. Notifies a natural character variation to the Proposed District Plan prior to the Council decisions on the Proposed Plan being publicly notified.

Moved/seconded by: French/Leach

2.4 Late item - Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement, Environment Court Consent Order

Council was asked to approve a consent order in respect of appeals to the Environment Court on the Waikato Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Agrees to sign off the amended Biodiversity Consent Order for the Waikato Regional Policy Statement that amends Objective 3.15 Riparian areas and wetlands.
2. Delegates sign off of any future consent orders for the Waikato Regional Policy Statement to the Mayor and Chief Executive when timeframes do not allow the matter to be considered at a scheduled Council meeting.

Moved/seconded by: French/Leach
Councillor Goudie abstained from voting.

3 Public excluded

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

<i>General subject of each matter to be considered</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution</i>	<i>Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of the resolution</i>
Public excluded Thames Coromandel District Council minutes for confirmation	<p>7(2)(a) – Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>(7)(2)(g) – Maintain legal professional privilege.</p>	<p>(48)(1)(a) – That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.</p>

Moved/seconded by: Leach/Wells

Resolved

That the public be re-admitted to the meeting and resolutions taken with the public excluded be confirmed in the public session except for the following items which are to remain in the public excluded minute book.

Item	Description
3.1	Public excluded minutes

Moved/seconded by: French/Fox

Meeting closed at 14:20

The foregoing minutes were certified as being a true and correct record of the meeting of the Thames-Coromandel District Council held on 4 March 2015.

Chairperson _____ **Date** _____