



Minutes

of the

Thames-Coromandel District Council

Hearing for Draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy, Draft Class 4 Gambling Policy and Board Venue Policy, Draft Cemeteries Bylaw and Special Meeting

Date
Venue

Wednesday 15 April 2015
Council Chambers
515 Mackay Street
Thames

Present

GF Leach JP (Mayor)

HD Bartley
DR Connors
MK McLean JP

PA Brljevich
PL French
JT Wells

In attendance

Community Board Chairs

K Johnston

Staff

David Hammond, Ariana Wickliffe, Emma Wright, Scott Summerfield.

Meeting commenced

09:06

Adjournment

His Worship

Start

10:35

Finish

10:45

Reason

Morning tea

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1 Meeting conduct

1.1 Apologies

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council receives the apologies from the following elected members for Wednesday 15 April 2015:

Name	Reason	From	To
Councillor Fox	District Plan commitments	09:06	11:43
Councillor Goudie	Non-attendance	09:06	11:43
Board Chair Peters	Non-attendance	09:06	11:43
Board Chair Walker	Non-attendance	09:06	11:43
Board Chair Renton	Non-attendance	09:06	11:43
Board Chair Kelly	Non-attendance	09:06	11:43

Moved/seconded by: Brljevich/French

2 Governance and Strategic Planning

2.1 Council submission on National Environmental Standards Telecommunications Facilities 2015 change

District Plan Senior Policy Planner Andrew Wharton informed Council of the amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities (NESTF). Government was calling for submission before 17 April 2015 and the District Plan team wanted to submit. Staff acknowledged that the basis of the submission was to support that the NESTF was consistent with the District Plan provisions.

Members expressed concern to the shortage of information. Mayor Leach requested that the submission be made available to elected members as soon as possible so that comments be provided. Councillor Brljevich queried whether or not the telecommunication facilities would be permitted by resource consent allowing property owners in the vicinity an opportunity to influence the outcome.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the report 'Council submission on National Environmental Standards Telecommunications Facilities 2015 change' report, dated 24 March 2015.
2. Directs staff to lodge a submission on the NESTF that supports District Plan provisions applying to telecommunication facilities within areas of natural hazards, outstanding landscapes, natural character, historic heritage and airfield height restrictions.

Moved/seconded by: Leach/Wells

2.2 Hearing submissions to the draft Class 4 Gambling Policy and Board Venue Policy

Council was presented with the submissions received to the draft Class 4 Gambling Policy and Board Venue Policy. Submitters were provided the opportunity to present their submission verbally.

2.2.1 Jarrod True - Harkness Henry

Mr True spoke to his submission (GAMB_3) and presented a PowerPoint. Mr True requested that Council replace the sinking lid policy with a cap of current numbers. Furthermore Mr True wished for Council to provide flexibility for relocation of venues. Mr True highlighted that the Ministry of Health indicated that only one person had sought help for problem gambling in the Thames-Coromandel District.

Deputy Mayor French asked Mr True how he defined a problem gambler. Mr True responded that a problem gambler was a person that caused harm to themselves or others, also those that were linked to crime. Deputy Mayor French questioned Mr True on the point in his submission regarding the number of problem gamblers identified in the district and whether he thought this was an accurate representation. Mr True acknowledged that it was likely that not all people would seek professional help.

2.2.2 John Grey - Thames Workingmen's Club

Mr Grey spoke to his submission on behalf of the Thames Workingmen's Club (Inc.) (GAMB_12). Mr Grey explained that Clubs provided a safer and controlled environment for machines to operate because they were only used by members, affiliated members and their guests. Mr Grey requested that Council include sections 95 and 96 of the Gambling Act. He commented that this would enable clubs to operate up to 18 machines and Clubs that merge should be allowed to increase the number of machines. Mr Grey also suggested that Council considered the ability for relocation of all club gaming machines.

Deputy Mayor French asked Mr Grey if the Workingmen's Club was reliant on the proceeds of gaming machines. Mr Grey responded that the Club was not totally reliant but acknowledged that they largely benefitted from the machines and it was integral to the operation of the club. Deputy Mayor French asked how staff identified problem gambling. Mr Grey answered that staff were trained in all relevant areas of harm minimisation.

2.2.3 Angela Paul - New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT)

Ms Paul spoke to her submission on behalf of the NZCT (GAMB_8) and presented a PowerPoint. Ms Paul requested Council replace the sinking lid policy with a cap of current numbers (261 machines). Ms Paul explained that the purpose of NZCT was to raise funds for the community. She acknowledged that reducing the number of machines would reduce the funding to the community.

Ms Paul also supported the proposed relocation options but suggested that the conditions of relocation be expanded. She noted that the policy currently only proposed relocations in limited circumstances for example in the case of natural disaster, fire or public works. Ms Paul suggested that proposed relocations include venue operators moving out of undesirable or unusable locations.

Councillor Connors asked Ms Paul if community funding would still be granted to those areas where gaming machine were less prominent. Ms Paul replied that NZCT had a stronger focus to grant in those areas that had gaming machines.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Hearing submissions to the draft Class 4 Gambling Policy and Board Venue Policy' report, dated 1 April 2015.
2. Receives the submissions received on the Draft Class 4 Gambling Policy and Board Venue Policy.

Moved/seconded by: Connors/McLean

2.3 Hearing submissions to the draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy

Council was presented with submission received to the draft Psychoactive Product Retail Location Policy. Submitters were provided the opportunity to present their submission verbally.

2.3.1 Lauren Cowgill - Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network (HFVIN)

Ms Cowgill spoke to her submission on behalf of the HFVIN (PSY_17). Ms Cowgill expressed that the social service was encouraged by the policy to help reduce the harm created by psychoactive substances. She noted that although the service cannot categorically express that psychoactive substance cause family violence, there was evidence that suggested an increase to family violence. Ms Cowgill read out two anecdotal incidents to the elected members to illustrate the connection.

Councillor Wells asked Ms Cowgill how long the drugs had been made available. Ms Cowgill replied that psychoactive drugs had been around the last ten years in all different 'party pill forms'. She noted that once one product was banned another synthetic product would emerge with slight modifications to make it legal.

Deputy Mayor French asked Ms Cowgill that if the service had noticed a decrease in harmful behaviour since the ban in May 2014. Ms Cowgill responded that there had been a massive reduction since the removal of the legal selling psychoactive substances.

2.3.2 John Wright - Mercury Bay Area School

Mr Wright spoke to his submission on behalf of the Mercury Bay Area School (PSY_7). Mr Wright strongly noted that he did not support any policy that enabled the selling of psychoactive substances. Mr Wright suggested that Council take a lead to develop a policy that was bold enough to not support the legislation. Mr Wright noted that as the Principal of the Mercury Bay Area School he did not want his students to be easily exposed to outlets that sold these products.

Deputy Mayor French asked Mr Wright how many outlets had he identified in Whitanga. Mr Wright answered that he had visited one and knew of one more.

2.3.3 Tracy Lamason

Ms Lamason spoke to her submission (PSY_6). Ms Lamason noted that although she did not agree with the selling of the products she understood that implementation of the policy was the best way forward to deal with the legislation. Ms Lamason suggested that more sensitive site categories be included in the pedestrian core zones, for example those buildings that were located within the zone that were used for residential use.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Hearing submissions to the draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy' report, dated 1 April 2015.
2. Receives the submissions on the draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy.

Moved/seconded by: Connors/Leach

2.4 Hearing submissions to the draft Cemeteries Bylaw

Was presented with submissions received to the draft Cemeteries Bylaw for the hearing of submitters. Submitters were provided the opportunity to present their submission verbally.

Members of the Natural Burials group

2.4.1 Gwenyth Wright

Ms Wright spoke to her submission (CEM_6). Ms Wright a member of the natural burials group requested that Council considered natural burial sites.

2.4.2 Jeannette Fitzsimons

Ms Fitzsimons spoke to her submission (CEM_9). Ms Fitzsimons also supported the inclusion of the natural burial sites. She noted the cemetery in Totara had a suitable area for natural burials. Ms Fitzsimons also explained that she led an organic lifestyle and she would like this to continue through to her afterlife.

2.4.3 Ans Grose

Ms Grose spoke to her submission (CEM_2). Ms Grose also supported natural burials. She noted that a number of people wanted a more ecological way to be buried. Ms Grose suggested that Council set aside a specific area for this purpose, and acknowledged that several other councils' had already developed the natural burial option.

2.4.4 Althea Hill

Ms Hill spoke to her submission (CEM_3). Ms Hill noted her support for natural burials and presented elected members with pamphlets of a natural burial site located in Hamilton. Ms Hill explained that the group was looking at forming a trust and would be interested in working with Council on landscaping the area if consideration was given to establishing a site.

2.4.5 Jude Lay

Ms Lay spoke to her submission (CEM_4). Ms Lay noted her support for natural burials and requested that Council consider various areas to set up for this purpose.

Questions were asked at the end of the Natural Burial Groups' verbal submission. Mayor Leach asked at the end of the Natural Burial Group's verbal submission. Mayor Leach asked the Natural Burial Group if the shallow graves would work in all sorts of soils and clay. Ms Fitzsimons responded that natural burials helped turn clay into productive soils.

Resolved

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Hearing submissions to the Cemeteries Bylaw' report, dated 1 April 2015.
2. Receives the submissions to the draft Cemeteries Bylaw, including 5 late submissions.

Moved/seconded by: Wells/Bartley

3.1 Draft Council Submission on Waikato Regional Council Long Term Plan

Council was presented with a revised draft submission to Waikato Regional Council's Long Term Plan for approval. Several amendments were highlighted and the inclusion of point ten the Heritage Region Concept was noted.

Resolved:

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Draft Council submission to Waikato Regional Council's Long Term', dated 9 April 2015.
2. Approves the submission to the Waikato Regional Council's Long Term Plan.

Moved/seconded by: Bartley/French

Meeting closed at 11:43

The foregoing minutes were certified as being a true and correct record of the meeting of the Thames-Coromandel District Council Hearing for Draft Psychoactive Products Retail Location Policy, Draft Class 4 Gambling Policy and Board Venue Policy, Draft Cemeteries Bylaw and Special meeting 15 April 2015.

Chairperson _____ **Date** _____