

Iwi Liaison Committee

Minutes of the Iwi Liaison Committee meeting held in the Council Chamber, Albion Street, Hawera on Wednesday 18 February 2009 commencing at 10.00 am.

PRESENT: Mayor Ross Dunlop, Councillors Packer and Wards, Mr Ernest Gripp (Nga Ruaru), Mr Sandy Parata and Mr Haimoana Maruera (Ngati Ruanui), Mr Peter Moeahu and Mrs Kerry Walsh (Taranaki Runanga), Mrs Te Rawanake Hemara and Mr John Hooker (Nga Ruahine).

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Hickey, Chief Executive (Mr Stevenson), Group Manager Community Services and Development (Mrs Martin), Group Manager Environment and Information Services (Mr Young), Community Development Manager (Mrs Mekalick), Support Services Manager (Miss Cox), Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager (Mr Marriott), Community Development Team Leader (Mrs Symes), Community Funding Advisor (Miss Death), Communications Officer (Miss Murphy), Support Services Officer (Miss Malin) and two members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ballantyne and Rangiwahia, Mr Rukutai Watene (Ngati Ruanui) and Mr Ngapari Nui (Nga Rauru).

RESOLUTION

(Mr Moeahu/Mr Parata)

01/09 IL **THAT the apologies from Councillors Ballantyne and Rangiwahia, Mr Watene and Mr Nui be received.**

CARRIED

1 **KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Mr Parata.

2 **OPEN FORUM**

(a) **Councillor Ann Hickey**

(i) Tutunui's Garden

Councillor Hickey spoke to her concerns about the proposed installation of the whale bone sculpture, Tutunui's Garden, at Opunake. She asked the Iwi Liaison Committee to provide guidance to the Council.

Councillor Hickey noted that she had been unaware of the heritage of the story of Tutunui when the Council accented the sculpture and was concerned that the Councillors may not have received enough information about the sculpture to make an informed decision.

(b) **Ms Diane Ratahi**

(i) Tutunui's Garden

Ms Ratahi expressed concern about the proposed installation of the whale bone sculpture, Tutunui's Garden, at Opunake.

Ms Ratahi noted that the story of Tutunui includes names and people that did not whakapapa to Taranaki. She was concerned that installing the sculpture at Opunake would lower the taonga of Tutunui. She stated that whakapapa was an important part of Māoridom and modern Māori were responsible for preserving this history.

Ms Ratahi said that she appreciated the sculpture was an artwork and it would be interpreted and appreciated differently by people, but as Tutunui's Garden was significant to Māori, the Council needed to consider the opinions of local iwi.

She said it was important for the Council to *speak to the right person* within local iwi.

The Mayor noted that when the Council was offered the sculpture there was no reference to any specific iwi in New Zealand. He stated that at the time, it hadn't seemed out of place to house the sculpture in Taranaki and that the issue of whakapapa had only recently been identified.

Mr Moeahu stated that personally, he supported the sculpture, but the Taranaki Iwi Trust were not satisfied with the initial iwi consultation process. The Taranaki Iwi Trust did not currently support the installation of Tutunui's Garden at Opunake, but suggested further consultation might alleviate the Trust's concerns.

Mrs Martin noted that the artist who developed Tutunui's Garden was commissioned by the Taranaki Arts Festival Trust (TAFT) to create an artwork for Taranaki. When the New Plymouth District Council indicated they no longer wanted the sculpture, new owners were first sought within Taranaki.

Councillor Packer stated her understanding was that iwi had been consulted prior the Council accepting the sculpture and was concerned about this process. Mr Moeahu noted that he had been approached as an aside, but the Taranaki Iwi Trust had not been consulted as a whole.

Mr Hooker stated that the Tutunui story was tangible and not a myth. He acknowledged modern day links between east coast Māori and Nga Ruahine that date back to World War II, but suggested more historical links needed further research.

Mr Maruera acknowledged the mana of the artist and organisation that sanctioned Tutunui's Garden and suggested the story should be embraced by South Taranaki. He noted that if there had been issues surrounding the whakapapa of Tutunui, these should have been resolved when the artwork was first commissioned.

Mrs Hemara noted the significance of Māori names and whakapapa. She suggested that more dialogue should be entered into between the Council and iwi when considering cultural decisions.

Mr Parata referred to several stories connecting Taranaki to whales and stated that he did not have any issues with Tutunui's Garden as it was not real whale bones.

Mrs Hemara questioned what consultation the New Plymouth District Council would have undertaken when they commissioned the sculpture. Mrs Martin noted that the Council had been in close contact with Suzanne Porter of TAFT and she would be aware of the New Plymouth consultation information. She undertook to follow this up.

It was suggested that Mr Marriott meet with Mrs Walsh and Mr Moeahu to ensure the Council was aware of the correct consultation process for the Taranaki Iwi Trust.

Councillor Wards noted that the Council should take responsibility if it was decided not to install Tutunui's Garden.

(c) **Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager, Mr Wayne Marriott**

(i) South Taranaki District Museum

Mr Marriott spoke to the upgrades to the South Taranaki District Museum, which is currently being rebuilt. The initial plan for the Museum had been a refurbishment, however, when demolition began, it was found that the building structure and foundations were of a very poor standard, resulting in almost a complete demolition.

Mr Marriott noted that this was a positive outcome as the Museum could now start with a *clean slate*. He stated the Museum would have a permanent exhibition of stories and queried whether the Committee supported the Council officers visiting marae to hold workshops to help determine the content of the exhibition.

Mr Moeahu noted that most stories have several interpretations and asked for clarification as to how these would be portrayed. Mr Marriott replied that museums had a responsibility to tell stories in their entirety. It would be up to the individual viewer as to how they interpreted each story. The different origins of each story would also be acknowledged.

Mr Maruera stated that many local stories often portrayed people and events in a bad light, and the truth acknowledged by local Māori was often not the common perception of the story. He asked whether the museum would have an interest in these stories. Mr Marriott stated that *reality is facts* and any story that could be verified could be included.

Mr Marriott noted that he would send further information to the Committee members.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Minutes of meeting held 11 November 2008

Mr Moeahu questioned when the Iwi Liaison Officer position would be advertised.

Mr Stevenson stated that a timeline had not yet been established, however, the intention was to advertise the position early in the new financial year. He noted that the Council officers would be seeking advice from the Committee regarding the advertisement.

RESOLUTION

(Mrs Hemara/Cr Packer)

02/09 IL **THAT the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 11 November 2008 of the Iwi Liaison Committee be received and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.**

CARRIED

4 REPORT

(a) Community Funding Advisor, Miss Maryse Death

(i) Tangata Whenua Liaison Fund 2008/09

Miss Death sought the Iwi Liaison Committee's approval to commence the process to allocate the Tangata Whenua Liaison Fund for 2008/09. Miss Death also provided an opportunity for the Committee to agree on timeframes for the reallocation of outstanding grants made prior to 2007/08.

It was noted that as part of the newly-established Community Funding Advisor role, Miss Death would now be administering the Tangata Whenua Liaison Fund.

Mrs Mekalick noted that the Iwi Liaison Committee had adopted criteria that required funds be uplifted within the year they are granted. Several applicants who had been granted funds prior to 2007/08 year had yet to uplift their funds. A decision was required from the Committee members whether to reallocate the outstanding grants. It was recommended the Committee defer the decisions until their April meeting to allow time to confer with the applicants.

Mrs Mekalick stated the Community Development Team would need decisions on the outstanding grants in writing from the relevant Committee members. It was noted that if a grant was reallocated, the applicant could reapply for funds to the 2008/09 funding round.

Councillor Packer noted that she had been in contact with Tutahi Church and had been advised they would uplift their funds in March 2009.

Mr Moeahu asked for clarification surrounding the recommendation to defer the decisions until the April Committee meeting. It was noted that decisions in writing would be required to adopt as a formal decision.

The Committee members agreed to investigate the outstanding grants to make informed decisions about fund reallocation at the April Committee meeting.

RESOLUTION

(Mrs Hemara/Mr Moeahu)

- 03/09 IL** **THAT the Iwi Liaison Committee approves the allocation of the Tangata Whenua Liaison Fund for 2008/2009 using the current criteria and process, within the proposed timeline.**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

(Mr Hooker/Mr Parata)

- 04/09 IL** **THAT the Iwi Liaison Committee defers a decision on the reallocation of grants made prior to 2007/2008 year until the April 1 2009 Committee meeting to allow time for the Committee members to confer with the relevant applicants, hapū and Boards.**

CARRIED

5 **INFORMATION REPORT**

- (a) **Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager, Mr Wayne Marriott**
- (i) Māori Capacity Policy

As part of the Ten Year Plan process the Council was developing a policy on the development of the capacity of Māori to contribute to the Council's decision making processes. Mr Marriott had included a draft discussion document surrounding the policy in the report which suggested proposed initiatives to strengthen the opportunity for mana whenua/tangata whenua to contribute to decision making processes.

Mr Moeahu spoke in support of the report and stated it was a *good step* to reinforce the Council's legislative obligations and for iwi, hapū and marae to participate in the decision-making processes. He suggested the Māori Capacity Policy be regularly reviewed to ensure it was current. Mr Stevenson advised that the policy would be regularly reviewed as part of the Ten Year Plan Process.

Mr Hooker supported the report, however, he suggested that more representatives from local iwi be considered as opposed to the proposed Kaumatua Committee.

Councillor Packer questioned the proposed training options and suggested these be reviewed to ensure they *moved with the times*. Mr Stevenson noted that Iwi Liaison Committee input would be sought for advice to ensure the Council was offering the most appropriate training.

Councillor Wards referred to points 2.1 and 2.3 of the report. He suggested that the word *processes* be included when referring to *decision making* in these points for continuity.

RESOLUTION**(Mr Moeahu/Cr Wards)****05/09 IL** **THAT the Māori Capacity Policy Report be received.****CARRIED****6** **GENERAL****Native Trees**

Mr Gripp noted that concerns had been raised at a recent hui regarding the felling of native trees in the district. The Mayor advised that the Council had provided consent for trees to be felled on private land.

Citizenship Ceremonies

Councillor Packer noted that there had been a misconception that local iwi were not invited to the Council citizenship ceremonies. The Mayor clarified that iwi were welcome and their presence would add significance to the event for new citizens to the district.

Community Funding Advisor

Mr Moeahu questioned the role of the Community Funding Advisor and whether they were able to assist with applications to external funds. Miss Death advised that part of her role was to help link community projects with the appropriate funding streams.

General Items

Mr Gripp queried whether discussion items could be on the agenda to avoid undirected discussion. The Mayor suggested Committee meetings could be closed after the agenda items were completed to allow for un-recorded free discussion.

Ten Year Plan

Mr Stevenson updated the Committee on the Ten Year Plan progress and questioned members whether they wanted a presentation to be made to the Committee. He noted the Council officers were available to visit marae with the same presentation. The members would contact the Support Services Manager if they chose to accept this offer.

Agendas

Mr Parata queried whether agendas could be sent out earlier. It was noted that the Support Services team sent the agendas a week prior to Committee meetings. It was suggested that Committee members who had continual problems receiving agendas on time contact the Support Services Manager.

7 **KARAKIA MUTANGA**

Mr Parata.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am

Dated this day of 2009.

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CHAIRPERSON

DRAFT