



Report 04.128

9 March 2004

File: E/6/1/4

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wellington Regional Council
held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, 142
Wakefield Street, Wellington on Tuesday, 9 March 2004 at
9.30am**

Present

Councillors Shields (Chairperson), Barr, Buchanan, Evans, Kirton, Laidlaw, Long, McDavitt, Thomas, Turver and Werry

Officers Present

Messrs Allard, Benham, Cutler, Darroch, Forlong, Harris, Carolyn Lefebvre, Mr Wright and Drs Bradbury and Hastie

Public Business

Procedural Items

358 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Chairperson/Cr Thomas)

That the apology from Councillor Aitken be confirmed.

359 **Public Participation**

Mr M Gibson

Mr Gibson congratulated ex Councillor Yardley for the manner of her resignation as a member of the Regional Council. Mr Gibson said that as a defeated candidate at the last Local Body Elections in 2001 he was somewhat embarrassed to speak about the extraordinary vacancy that now existed as a result of Councillor Yardley's resignation.

Mr Gibson said a similar vacancy had occurred in the Wairarapa constituency in 1997 following the unfortunate death of Councillor Loader. Mr Gibson said Council decided at that time not to appoint the next highest polling candidate. Following the election, the individual had moved to Wellington and had no previous experience as a Regional Councillor. Mr Gibson concluded that the previous situation was different to the current vacancy and that members should decide to commence an appointment process at today's meeting.

Mr D Butler

Mr Butler said he had attended a Regional Council briefing on the recent flood damage in the region and had been impressed by the way that Council's facilities had coped.

Mr Butler said that with the next Local Body Election only several months away the Council should sensibly carry the vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor Yardley and not make an appointment.

The meeting adjourned at 9.45am and reconvened at 11.17am.

360 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved

(Cr Buchanan/Cr Barr)

- (1) That the minutes of the Council meeting, Report 04.36 of 29 January 2004, and the record of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting, Report 04.35 of 29 January 2004, be confirmed.*
- (2) That the minutes of the Council meeting, Report 04.68 of 19 February 2004, and the record of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting, Report 04.67 of 19 February 2004, be confirmed*

361 **Chairperson's Report**

Report 04.111

File: E/06/01/05

Mayoral Forum

Mr Harris said the Regional Council was now a full member of the Mayoral Forum and the Chairperson and himself will regularly attend future meetings.

The Forum enables councils to work better collectively for the greater good of the region especially when making representation to central government.

A Chief Executive group was working on a draft Terms of Reference for a Wellington Regional Strategy document which will be presented to Council at a later date.

Resolved (Chairperson/Cr McDavitt)

- (1) *That the meeting schedule for 2004 be amended to incorporate an additional meeting of the Regional Land Transport Committee on 31 March 2004.*
- (2) *That the Council note that the Chairperson will be absent from 22 April to 9 May 2004 and that the Chairperson will be representing LGNZ at the International Union of Local Authorities 2004 Founding Congress from 2 – 5 May 2004*
- (3) *That the Chairperson of the Utility Services Committee attend the “Funding and Investment Issues for Local Government” Short Course being run by the University of Auckland Business School.*
- (4) *That Councillor Laidlaw be granted leave of absence from 1 April 2004 to 15 April 2004.*

Reports of Committees

362 Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee – 9 March 2004

Report 04.80

File: E/6/3/2

Resolved (Cr McDavitt/Cr Evans)

That the recommendations of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on 9 March 2004 be adopted.

363 Rural Services and Wairarapa – 3 February 2004

Report 04.47

File: E/6/12/2

Resolved (Cr Long/Cr Buchanan)

That the report of the Meeting of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee held on 3 February 2004, Items RSW 262 to RSW 275 inclusive, and the recommendation contained therein, be adopted.

364 **Landcare – 5 February 2004**

Report 04.46

File: E/6/16/2

Resolved

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Barr)

That the report of the Meeting of the Landcare Committee held on 5 February 2004, Items LC 165 to LC 173 inclusive, be adopted.

365 **Utility Services – 9 February 2004**

Report 04.49

File: E/6/17/2

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Thomas)

That the report of the Meeting of the Utility Services Committee held on 9 February 2004, Items US 117 to US 119 and US 121 to US 123, be adopted.

366 **Passenger Transport – 12 February 2004**

Report 04.55

File: E/6/19/2

Resolved

(Cr Turver/Cr Barr)

That the report of the Meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee held on 12 February 2004, Items PT 155 to PT 163 inclusive, be adopted.

367 **Environment – 17 February 2004**

Report 04.61

File: E/6/18/2

Resolved

(Cr Buchanan/Cr Turver)

That the report of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 17 February 2004, Items E 267 to E 281 inclusive, be adopted.

368 **Regional Land Transport – 27 February 2004**

Report 04.87

File: E/6/11/2

RLT 126 **Ngauranga to Wellington CBD**

It was agreed that the wording in page 5 paragraph 2 be amended to read as follows:

Councillor Evans referred to press comments that the Inner City Bypass may have to go through further examination which may block its speedy implementation. Dr Watson advised that a working group consisting of Transit New Zealand, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council officers were preparing an application. Mr Hunter, Transfund New Zealand, advised that they did not expect to receive a funding application until April. The Committee was assured by Transit New Zealand and Transfund New Zealand that there was no blockage and the matter would be dealt with in ordinary course.

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Turver)

That the report of the Meeting of the Regional Land Transport Committee held on 27 February 2004, Items RLT 118 to RLT 125, RLT 126 as amended above, and RLT 127 to RLT 129 inclusive, be adopted.

Matters for Consideration

369 Extraordinary Vacancy

Report 04.81

File: E/02/02/01

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Evans)

- (1) That the report be received.*
- (2) That the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Irvine Yardley not be filled and officers be instructed to give public notice of that resolution.*

Councillor Thomas dissented.

Resolved

(Cr Buchanan/Cr Turver)

That Councillor Evans be appointed Deputy Committee Chairperson of the Environment Committee.

370 WRC Holdings Group Meeting – 26 February 2004

Report 04.101

File: M/30/03/03

Resolved

(Chairperson/Cr McDavitt)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

371 **Question Time**

Iwi Costings

Councillor Thomas said that Mr Allard had advised during a recent briefing that Council had spent up to \$420,000 for Iwi over the past 12 months. Councillor Thomas asked for a breakdown of these costs. Mr Harris said an answer will be circulated in the Councillors' Bulletin.

Meeting Attendance

Councillor Thomas also requested an attendance list including apologies for meetings of the Hutt River Advisory Committee, the WRC Holdings Group and Ara Tahi from the beginning of the triennium until the present.

Property Based Rating

Councillor Evans said that the report of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee meeting held on 3 February 2004 under General Business referred to support for a change from property based rating to user-pay based. Councillor Evans asked what actions were proposed before the election in October. The Chairperson said the Committee discussion centred around an article in the Councillors' Bulletin by Sir Ross Jansen. The Chairperson said Council will be taking no further action in this matter.

Foreshore Issue

Councillor Evans asked whether there were any plans to ensure Councillors are well informed on the foreshore issue so they may take part in the public debate and respond to questions from members of the public.

Councillor Buchanan said the Councillor Iwi workshop on Monday 15 March 2004 will discuss the foreshore issue.

372 **General**

There were no matters of general business.

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

Cr M K SHIELDS
Chairperson

Date: