

Taharoa Domain Governance Committee

Monday 23 February 2009

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Minutes of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee Meeting

Monday 23 February 2009

1 Karakia

1.1 Present

Councillors B Burnett (Chair) and J Geange and Messrs T Birch and R Parore

1.2 In Attendance

Community Spaces Manager, Governance Manager

1.3 Acknowledgement of Public

The Chairperson acknowledged those members of the public present.

2 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Minutes of Meeting 2 December 2008

A copy of the minutes was circulated.

Resolved Birch/Geange

That the minutes of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee meeting of 2 December 2008, as circulated, be confirmed.

3 Chairperson

3.1 Election of a Chairperson Term Commencing 24 February 2009

In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee, the Chairpersonship of the Committee will rotate amongst the members on an annual basis. The term of the current Chairperson, Councillor Burnett, ended at the conclusion of this meeting therefore it was appropriate to appoint a new Chairperson.

The general procedure for receiving nominations for the Chairperson of a Committee was followed, as set out in the agenda papers.

Resolved Burnett/Birch

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee appoints Robert Parore as the new Chairperson, their term to commence at the conclusion of the meeting dated 23 February 2009.

Reason for the decision

The Terms of Reference of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee provides that the Chairpersonship of the Committee will rotate amongst the members on an annual basis.

4 General

4.1 Draft Incursion Response Plan

An Incursion Response Plan for the Taharoa Domain was considered to be an important step in ensuring the Lakes continued health and at its meeting dated 02 December 2008 the Committee formally received NIWA's report entitled "Draft Kai Iwi Lakes Aquatic Weed Strategy" dated October 2008. The Committee resolved to provide any feedback and/or changes it believed necessary to the report before formally adopting it.

As the Community Spaces Manager had not received notification of any amendments required, the Committee formally adopted this report.

Resolved Geange/Parore

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee adopts NIWA's report entitled "Draft Kai Iwi Lakes Aquatic Weed Strategy" dated October 2008 subject to clarification as to whether or not Rudd inhabited in the Lake.

Reason for the decision

The Taharoa Domain is a unique and outstanding area of regional and national importance. An Incursion Response Plan for the Domain that reduces the likely introduction of weeds into the Kai Iwi Lakes system is an important step in ensuring the Lakes continued health. It also sets out the steps that should be implemented to protect the Lakes.

4.2 Dargaville High School: Camp Fee Relief

Council received a letter from the Dargaville High School dated 03 February 2009 asking for camping fees to be waived for an upcoming camp planned to be held at the Taharoa Domain. The letter was circulated for information.

The Governance Committee had not waived camping fees for any other school, organisation or group wishing to use the camping ground facilities. The Committee was made aware of setting a precedent and what this could potentially mean should it accede to the School's request.

Resolved Geange/Parore

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee declines to waive camping fees for the Dargaville High School in respect of its planned Peer Support Camp at Taharoa Domain.

Reason for the decision

The Committee does not wish to set a precedent in respect of waiving camping fee charges.

4.3 Selected Removal of Old Trees

Over the Christmas/New Year period a branch fell from one of the trees, narrowly missing the tent below. This occurred even though annual safety inspections of the trees by qualified tree specialists had been carried out in the camping ground area over the last two years. This annual inspection had resulted in many trees having safety work carried out and had seen considerable improvement to the amenity values of the camping ground. It was important that this work continues to mitigate the risk of injury.

The Committee has discussed managing the trees on previous occasions but was yet to put in place a programme that selectively removed old trees that had the potential to become a hazard. These trees could then be slowly replaced with native trees preventing a situation where large numbers of trees required removal at one time with nothing coming through to replace them.

The trees played a huge part in the overall ambience of the camping ground and the Committee had a responsibility to manage them in such a way as to maintain the overall look and feel.

A robust discussion took place with respect to trees through out the Domain.

Resolved Parore/Geange

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee puts in place a costed programme for the selective removal of old trees that have the potential to become a hazard and that those trees that are removed are replaced with native trees to main the overall ambience and protection the trees provide.

Reason for the decision

The Committee wants to maintain the ambience of the camping ground whilst continuing to improve camper safety.

4.4 Community Spaces Manager's Report: February 2009

The Community Spaces Manager's February 2009 report updating the Committee on current issues was circulated for information.

Item 7 Logging and Wilding Removal

The Committee requested further information before it could make the decision to log and remove wilding pines in the Taharoa Domain. The Committee believed in light of the figures before it that the return was not worth the effort and that it would be left with an area that would quickly revert to weeds with no funds to run a weed programme.

Resolved Burnett/ Parore

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee puts on hold the logging of the 18 hectares of pine trees at the Taharoa Domain until a more commercially favourable time.

Resolved Birch/Geange

That the Community Spaces Manager's report for February 2009 be received.

4.5 Financial Report to 31 December 2008

This Financial Report was not available at the time of agenda preparation due to the demands of *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* (Long Term Council Community Plan).

The Report was tabled at the meeting and due to time constraints of digesting the report it will be brought back to the next Committee meeting on 27 April 2009.

4.6 Next Meeting : Monday 27 April 2009

The next meeting of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee was scheduled for Monday 27 April 2009 at 1pm in the Committee room, Station Road, Dargaville.

Closure

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm

Kaipara District Council