

HAWKE'S BAY FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HAWKE'S BAY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

HELD AT THE GAME FARM ON TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

Messrs: Bates (Chair), Lumsden, MacKay, Callum Slavin, Blair Slavin, Melville, Niblett, Duley, Bowcock

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kerry Meehan (Interim Manager) Sam Robinson

APOLOGIES

Chris Newton

WELCOME

Cr Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting. Noted meeting is being recorded for record keeping purposes

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October were true and correct record of the meeting.

Niblett/B Slavin

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

That the Health & Safety report be accepted by Council. It has come to our attention that the front and rear stairs to the main building are not compliant to building standards and should have handrails installed and non-slip measures. Manager to arrange.

B Slavin/McKay

CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

The conflict-of-interest register was signed by all Councillors present. Cncr Niblett disclosed conflict with item 14 Access discussion in the agenda.

NZC Consultations

NZC are working through a range of policies to bring all regions into line in a consistent manner and address liability issues that could arise due to lack of policy.

Draft Health & Safety

HB would like clause 12 removed or amended as the purpose of the policy is to make sure people go home safe, not as a cost saving measure.

Prevention of Bullying & Harassment Policy

Happy with the policy

Drug & Alcohol Policy

Number 7, drug & alcohol testing should compulsory rather than 'may be' conducted on all staff and as a compulsory measure so as not be seen as biased to any particular person.

Random blanket testing should also be available to also avoid accusations of bias towards an individual.

It is not agreed that a person who is being requested to take a drug or alcohol test should be able to request the presence of a support person or representative. Mitigates the risk of interference with the

testing.

Governance Code Of Conduct

Questioned use of Oath of Office, is it necessary? Has it been updated from previously suggested Oath of Office agreement?

Delete highlighted yellow area of Misconduct section. It belongs in the conflict of interest register.

9:2023/24 Budget

Agreed

Council reviewed updated budget to increase levels back to previously budgeted spend. To cover the increased costs of a Senior Field Officer it may be necessary to use Council reserves. These costs won't be known until a suitable applicant is found. An application wasn't made by previous manager to NZC to help cover increased wage costs or inflation despite Council direction to do so. A letter will need to go to NZC by the manager when the necessary amount of funds needed is known.

Bowcock/MacKay

Increasing the delegated authority spend for the general manager from \$5000 to \$10000 providing it is within the budget.

C Slavin/Bowcock

The 2023-24 budget is accepted.

Melville/MacKay

B Slavin Abstained

10: 2024 Game Bird Regulations

Agreed

Approve game season conditions with the proviso that poor conditions could seen them updated and also license holder feedback. A meeting will be called before any changes can be made to numbers or conditions.

Nibblett/C Slavin

11: Pūkeko Project

Agreed

That council approves the development of the project and liaise with Ngati Kahanunu, Veg growers association & growers and report back to council.

12 HBFG 2024 Meeting Dates

Tuesday 12 March

Tuesday 14 May

Tuesday 9 July

Tuesday 10 September

Tuesday 12 November

AGM TBC December

Tuesday 14 January

Audit is complete AGM booked for 6pm Wednesday 13th December 2023.

MacKay/B Slavin

13: Fifteen Hundred Yearlings from Eastern

Ideas floated were pond behind Higgins on Ngararoro that is deep and has inlet & outlet. Te Pohue lake, Lake Opouahi near Tutira, Lake Purimu Porangahau. Staff to investigate options. Eastern want delivered before Christmas.

14: River Access

Discussion on what role HBFG should play when private land owners have to pay for paper road repairs when District Councils won't fund repairs. HBFG don't have the funding to make repairs to these roads due to the high costs of such repairs. More circulation to the Walking Access Commission map showing paper roads and where general public are entitled to access, but these will not always allow for vehicle access and may be restricted to walking access only. Make sure information on our maps is current & up to date.

Agreed

More circulation of the Walking Access Commissions roading maps to show access for the public. Council assesses on a case-by-case basis for increasing river access opportunities to licence holders.

Lumsden/

15: Angler & Hunter Surveys

Dr Humphrey Walker presented a brief outline of what the angler & hunter perception surveys will look like.

16: Management Report

The management report was taken as read.

17: Finance Report

Agreed

6.1: That council receives the Payments Report for the 2 months ended 31st October for \$75962.66 be approved.

Lumsden/Mackay

6.2: That council receives the Finance Report for the two months ended 31 October 2023.

Duley/C Slavin

6.3: That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Lumsden/Mckay

Term Deposits: Manager to investigate investments and ensure premium interest rates are being gained.

18: Licence Report

Agreed

That the licence report was taken as read.

Discussion was had regarding understanding more about our licence holders' demographics. Rather than a local project a NZC project has since been communicated that will be discussed further in January. More information to follow.

General Business

Letter from Hastings Anglers club has been responded to and there was also a response from NZC Corina Jordan. Any feedback requested from Council before Friday so it can be circulated to all the Angler Clubs.

Performance Report Audit

Because of poor recording keeping & filing by previous manager the audit has been difficult to complete. Change in the audit format made it challenging. Some processes are being updated to make sure adequate sign offs and procedures are being followed.

PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

It was agreed that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting namely to discuss staffing matters & the extra-ordinary minutes requiring to be ratified by councillors at 8.40pm

Lumsden/McKay

PUBLIC INCLUDED SESSION

The meeting moved back into Public included Session at 8.45pm

Meeting Closed

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Bates/Bowcock