

**MINUTES OF FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL AVE, KAIKOHE
ON THURSDAY, 28 AUGUST 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania, Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford, Cr Ann Court, Cr Felicity Foy, Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Cr Babe Kapa, Cr Steve McNally, Cr Mate Radich (online), Cr Tāmāti Rākena (online), Cr Penetaui Kleskovic, Cr John Vujcich

IN ATTENDANCE: Adele Gardner (Te Hiku Community Board Chair), Belinda Ward (Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Chair), Chicky Rudkin (Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Chair), Kawiti Waetford (Kaiwhakawhiti Reo – Language Interpreter)

STAFF PRESENT: Guy Holroyd (Chief Executive Officer), Charlie Billington (Group Manager – Corporate Services), Ruben Garcia (Acting Group Manager – Delivery & Operations), Roger Ackers (Group Manager – Planning & Policy), Jacine Warmington (Group Manager – Strategic Relationships), Nicola Smith (Acting Group Manager – Community & Engagement), Scott Smith (Acting Head of Infrastructure), Emma Healy (Chief of Staff), Ken MacDonald (Chief Financial Officer), Ken Lewis (Manager – Communications & Engagement), Carla Ditchfield (Manager – Legal Services), Andy Dowdle (Change Specialist), Nadine Hopkins (Manager – Executive Projects), Llani Harding (Pouhautu Te Hono – Manager Te Hono), Mary Moore (Manager, Infrastructure Services), Zena Tango (Team Leader – Transaction Services), Casey Gannon (Manager – Civic Engagement and Education), Robin Rawson (Parks & Reserves Planner), Brooke Taylor (Team Leader – Property Management), Katy Simon (Adaptation Programme Lead – Climate action and Resilience), Shayne Storey (Team Leader – Policy & Bylaws), Lawrence Wharerau (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Aisha Huriwai (Manager – Democracy Services), Amber Wihongi-Alderton (Democracy Advisor)

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER

Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania commenced the meeting with a karakia at 10:11 AM.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA ME NGĀ PĀNGA MEMA / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION 2025/100/

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That the apology received from Cr Tāmāti Rākena be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

Secretarial Note: Cr Tāmāti Rākena joined the meeting for a short time online.

3 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE KAHIKA / MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daffodil Day

- Council acknowledged “Paint it Yellow” throughout August to support the Cancer Society.
- Fundraising Highlights:
 - Hokianga Memorial RSA raised thousands of dollars over the weekend—small communities, generous hearts.
 - Pānui - Northland College will host a Daffodil Breakfast tomorrow with three sittings.

Tributes:

- Remembered David Senior, Chair of the Disability Action Group, for his contributions to accessibility and guideline development.
- Councillor Kapa acknowledged the passing of Barry Te Haara.

General Updates:

- Staff reminded elected members of pre-election conduct and conflict-of-interest protocols.
- Congratulations to candidates elected unopposed.
- Scott Smith attending as Acting Head of Infrastructure.
- Attendance noted in the public gallery.
- Maramataka —Tamateanui

4 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATION

Te Rau Allen regarding public excluded item 9.4 Incentivising Māori Economic Development Remission Application.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 2025/101

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Cr Babe Kapa

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

4.1 – Deputation: Te Rau Allen regarding Incentivising Māori Economic Development Remission Application	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
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Against: Cr Ann Court

CARRIED

At 11:46 am the public was readmitted to the meeting.

At 11:46 am the meeting adjourned and resumed at 12:05 pm.

5 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

5.1 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL - ADOPTION OF WATER SERVICES DELIVERY PLAN

Agenda item 7.4 document number A5311229, pages 54 - 180 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/102

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Council:

- a) Approve the adoption of the joint Water Services Delivery Plan (Attachment A).
- b) Delegate to the Chief Executive authority to make minor editorial changes to the Joint WSDP.
- c) Approve entering into the Northland Region Water CCO Commitment Agreement (Attachment B), and
- d) Authorise the Chief Executive to make minor editorial changes if required to the Commitment Agreement, and
- e) Authorise the Chief Executive to execute the Commitment Agreement.
- f) Approve up to \$500,000 unbudgeted expenditure to be made available to the CCO establishment project.
- g) Note that:
 - i. all costs incurred by Council for the CCO establishment will be transferred to the CCO once it is established
 - ii. efforts to access external funding for the purposes of the CCO establishment will continue
 - iii. monies available from the 'Better Off Fund' will be utilised in preference to debt funding

Against: Cr Halkyard-Harawira

Absent: Cr Tāmāti Rākena

CARRIED

6 HE PĀNUI WHAKAMŌTINI / NOTICE OF MOTION

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO FAR NORTH HOLDINGS LIMITED

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5311902, pages 6 - 6 refers.

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

- a) Request that legal and comprehensive risk advice be sought and presented to the council before a decision to adopt the proposed policy is made, or
- b) Recognise that a request was made by councillor John Vujcich for legal and comprehensive risk advice to be made available for consideration prior to the adoption of the policy.

RESOLUTION 2025/103

Moved: Cr John Vujcich

Seconded: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

That Council:

- a) **Request that legal and comprehensive risk advice be sought and presented to the council before a decision to adopt the proposed policy is made.**

Absent: Cr Tāmati Rākena**CARRIED**

Secretarial note: Cr Vujcich moved Item A only, noting that information will be received in Public Excluded.

6.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - SWEETWATER AQUIFER

Agenda item 5.2 document number A5319806, pages 7 - 7 refers

MOTION

Moved: Cr Mate Radich

Seconded: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

That Council request that an independent judicial review be done immediately on the Sweetwater Aquifer.

In Favour: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford, Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Penetaui Kleskovic and Mate Radich

Against: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania, Crs Ann Court, Babe Kapa, Steve McNally and John Vujcich

Abstained: Cr Felicity Foy

Absent: Cr Tāmati Rākena

LOST 4/5**7 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS - CONTINUED****7.1 DELEGATIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD**

Agenda item 7.1 document number A5258220, pages 23 - 29 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/104

Moved: Cr Steve McNally

Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That Council:

- a) **subject to the limitations on delegation set out in clause 32(1)(a)-(f), Schedule 7, Local Government Act 2002 and any other relevant enactment, delegate all of its responsibilities, duties, and powers, to the Chief Executive for the period from the day after the declaration of the 2025 council election results until the swearing in of the new Council, subject to a requirement that the Chief Executive Officer:**

- i. only exercises this delegation after consultation with the person elected to the position of Mayor
 - ii may only attend to those matters that cannot reasonably await the first meeting of the new Council and.
 - ii. shall report any decisions made under this delegation to the first ordinary meeting of the new Council.
- b) note that if there is a recount following the 2025 council election, the swearing in of the new Council will not be able to occur until the recount has been completed and the candidates to be declared elected are known.
- c) note that Council's current committees, subcommittees, or other subordinate decision-making bodies are deemed to be discharged on 18 October 2025, the day after the official result of the election is declared.

Absent: Cr Tāmati Rākena

CARRIED

7.2 APPLICATION FOR EASEMENT OVER MANGAKAHIA ROAD RESERVE (LOT 14 DP 38215)

Agenda item 7.2 document number A5245822, pages 29 - 44 refers

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, in its role as the administering body of the recreation reserve Lot 14 DP 38215 (without title) and pursuant to its powers under sections 48(1) and 48(3) of the Reserves Act 1977:

- a) grants a right of way (shown as F on LT Plan 5980201) over the recreation reserve, subject to it meeting Reserves Act 1977 requirements, at no cost to Council
- b) endorses processing of the easement without public notice as the reserve will not be materially altered, and public use and access is not affected.

RESOLUTION 2025/105

Moved: Cr John Vujcich

Seconded: Cr Steve McNally

That Council **leave this item to lie** until written confirmation of iwi or hapū consultation and agreement is provided, noting that the report references verbal agreement.

Abstained: Cr Foy

Absent: Cr Tāmati Rākena

CARRIED

7.3 RECOMMENDATION ON THE GRANTING OF A GROUND LEASE OVER 36 RECREATION ROAD, KAIKOHE - SPORTSVILLE

Agenda item 7.3 document number A5312169, pages 45 - 53 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/106

Moved: Cr John Vujcich

Seconded: Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

That Council:

- a) grant a new ground lease to Kaikohe & Districts Sportsville Incorporated, over approximately 485.7m² of land being Lot 31 DP 10045 and 7,067.5m² of land being part Lot 3 DP 22327, vested in Far North District Council as recreation reserve, located at 36 Recreation Road, Kaikohe.

The terms of the proposed lease shall be:

Term: 30 years (10+10+10) – allowed for under the Reserves Act 1977

Rental: \$121 plus GST for 2024/25 and reviewed annually in conjunction with the FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule.

- b) authorises the Group Manager Delivery and Operations to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the lease and execute the lease on behalf of Council.

Absent: Cr Tāmāti Rākena

CARRIED

7.4 DECISION ON COMMUNITY ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

Agenda item 7.5 document number A5221822, pages 181 - 219 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/107

Motion

That Council:

Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Seconded: Cr Steve McNally

- a) approve Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori | Community Adaptation Programme presented in Option A; and
- b) note the timeframes outlined in the programme.

Amendment

Moved: Kahika – Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

- a) approve Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori | Community Adaptation Programme presented in Option B, to include an accelerated workstream for Pou 1 Community Adaptation Planning, to be delivered in two stages by 2030; and
- b) note that it will have an impact on the Long Term Plan.

Against: Crs Felicity Foy, Steve McNally and John Vujcich

CARRIED

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

Moved: Kahika – Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

- a) approve Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori | Community Adaptation Programme presented in Option B, to include an accelerated workstream for Pou 1 Community Adaptation Planning, to be delivered in two stages by 2030; and

b) note that it will have an impact on the Long Term Plan.

Against: Foy

Absent: Cr Tāmati Rākena

CARRIED

At 1:46 pm the meeting adjourned and resumed at 2:15 pm.

7.5 KEEPING OF ANIMALS BYLAW - ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS AND ADOPTION OF A NEW BYLAW

Agenda item 7.6 document number A5290889, pages 220 - 255 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/108

Moved: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Seconded: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

THAT COUNCIL:

- a) Approves the recommendations in the staff report on the Keeping of Animals Bylaw Submissions in attachment 1 that:**
 - i) no changes are made to clauses 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 14 and 16**
 - ii) clauses 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 15, are amended to improve certainty and clarity.**
- b) Makes the Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2025 in attachment 3 under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Health Act 1956 and every other enabling power and authority.**

Absent: Cr Tāmati Rākena

CARRIED

8 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

8.1 COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES - AUGUST 2025

Agenda item 8.1 document number A5070117, pages 256 - 256 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/109

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Cr Steve McNally

That Council note the following Community Board minutes:

- **5 August 2025 Te Hiku Community Board;**
- **7 August 2025 Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board;**
- **8 August 2025 Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board.**

Absent: Cr Tāmati Rākena

CARRIED

At 2.45pm Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Stratford left the meeting

At 2.46pm Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Stratford rejoined the meeting

9 TE WĀHANGA TŪMATAITI / PUBLIC EXCLUDED**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RESOLUTION 2025/110**

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
9.1 - Confirmation of Previous Minutes - Public Excluded	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.2 - Public Excluded Committee Minutes - August 2025	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.3 - Council Public Excluded Open Resolutions Update August 2025	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.4 - Incentivising Māori Economic Development Remission Application	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would

	person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	exist under section 6 or section 7
9.5 - Kawakawa Infrastructure Acceleration Fund - Delegated Authority Request	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.6 - 11 Matthews Avenue, Kaitiāia - Proposals and Building Condition	<p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.7 - Review of Appointment of Directors for Council Organisations Policies	<p>s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p>	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
CARRIED		

CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION AND DECISIONS TO BE RELEASED IN PUBLIC

Council resolved that the information and decisions contained in the part of the meeting held with public excluded be restated in public meeting as follows:

Information relating to items:

9.4 Incentivising Māori Economic Development Remission Application

9.5 Kawakawa Infrastructure Acceleration Fund - Delegated Authority Request

9.6 11 Matthews Avenue, Kaitāia - Proposals and Building Condition

9.7 Review of Appointment of Directors For Council Organisations Policies

Confirmation that Council resolved to move the following remaining items to the next meeting:

6.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

8.2 Committee and Joint Committee Minutes – August 2025

8.3 Council Open Resolutions Update – August 2025

9.3 Public Excluded Open Resolutions Update – August 2025

Attachments tabled at meeting

- 1 Information Released from Public Excluded - Council Meeting 28 August 2025 - A5354145

10 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER

Kahika – Mayor Moko Tepania closed the meeting with a Karakia.

11 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 4.09 pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 September 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON