

WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2019 AT 3.15PM AT HOTEL COACHMAN, 140 FITZHERBERT AVENUE, PALMERSTON NORTH.

- 1. Present:**
Acting Chairman Malcolm Francis, Councillors Jim Cook, Andy Tannock, Colin Shore, Chris O'Meara, John Hancock, Aaron Passey.

- 2. In Attendance:**
Staff: Phil Teal (Regional Manager), Dr Matt Kavermann, Hamish Carnachan.

Licenceholders: Roger Smaile, Marc Flaws

- 3. Apologies:**
Chairman Strato Cotsilinis, Councillors Paul Shortis, Andrew McGregor, Richard McIntyre, Don Scott

Staff: Dr Adam Canning, Dr Matt Kavermann and Hamish Carnachan (late)

It was moved
that apologies be accepted

Chris O'Meara/Aaron Passey
Carried

- 4. Confirmation of Agenda and Acting Chairman**
As noted at the meeting of 8 October 2019 Chairman Cotsilinis had given advance notice of his unavailability for this meeting and it had been agreed that Councillor Francis would be acting Chairman for this meeting (*Minutes of Wellington Fish and Game Council meeting 8 October 2019 page 21*).

It was then moved that
Councillor Francis be confirmed as the acting Chairman for the meeting and the agenda as presented be endorsed.

Chris O'Meara/Colin Shore
Carried

- 5. Conflict of Interest**
There were no additional conflicts of interest that were identified specific to the agenda.

- 6. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 8 October 2019:**
After brief discussion it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellington Fish & Game Council of 8 October 2019 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Jim Cook/John Hancock

Carried

7. Matters Arising:

Mr Teal noted that after it was clarified with the Game Bird Habitat Trust that it was required that Councillor Tannock be (re-)nominated for the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust and it was appropriate for Wellington Fish and Game Council to have done this. It was then moved that

It be confirmed that Wellington Fish and Game Council nominates Andy Tannock as a member (and potential Chair) of the Game Bird Habitat Trust

Colin Shore/Jim Cook

Carried

Councillor Shore gave a brief overview of a meeting between Masterton District Council and Fish and Game staff/councillors regarding the management of Henley Lake. It was reiterated that Fish and Game had made offers as to how it could assist in the advocacy of improved water quality and how the lake would be managed in the future.

Mr Teal confirmed that Wellington Fish and Game Council had made a submission on Ministry for the Environment's consultation document Action Plan for Healthy Waterways. He also noted that the email questionnaire sent out to licenceholders had been successful garnering several hundred responses.

Mr Teal confirmed that a presentation was made to the Select Committee considering the Arms Amendment Bill.

Mr Teal confirmed that the application to the regional legal fund for Plan Change Two of the One Plan for Horizons region was successful – with this to focus on technical planning evidence.

Mr Teal also confirmed that the application to the regional legal fund for the GWRC Natural Resources Plan (Regional Plan) was successful – with this to focus on legal support for the mediation phase.

It was noted that a letter had been sent to NZ Council pointing out concerns in the way the public awareness messages were being delivered, and that there had been an expectation that a communications strategic plan would have been finish by August.

8. NZ Council Business

A brief overview of proceedings on the NZ Council Meeting of 22 – 24 November 2019 was provided by Mr Teal but as no Wellington councillors attended the Council meeting not additional comments were able to be reported (and would rely on the minutes when distributed).

Councillor McIntyre had briefly provided a brief overview to Mr Teal of the Governors meeting held on the 23 November 2019 - and a copy of the recently received presentation by the North Canterbury Fish & Game Chairman was distributed to councillors. This covered the findings of the governance audit and actions taken to address recommendations made by the auditor, and also provided the suggestion and discussion focus for an organisational review.

Councillor O’Meara expressed his concern at the amount of increased scrutiny and investigation being undertaken on internal Fish and Game activities by external parties – and even providing a basis for political maneuvering with questions be tabled in parliament. Discussion ensued on the risks of challenging our fundamental social licence to operate and the need to get into positive actions and messaging, as this was influencing perceptions and relationships with external organisations. Councillor Hancock noted that Fish and Game could focus on positive imaging with the rural sector by considering sponsoring sections within the existing Ballance Farm Awards. Councillor Tannock reiterated Fish and Game’s vulnerability as despite the good works that Fish & Game undertakes, we are increasingly being portrayed negatively as aggressive and aligned with more fundamentalists.

Discussion ensued on the presentation made at the Governors Forum (by the North Canterbury Chairman) which was useful in outlining the issues they had faced but then over-reached those findings in advocating for a wider organisational review – without necessarily having taken into consideration any of the findings from the current review committee processes for strategic finance reviews. Councillors disagreed with many of the statements and contents made in the latter half of the presentation and considered them inflammatory and counterproductive.

It was moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council send a letter to NZ Fish and Game Council expressing concern at how the presentation of findings from an audit into governance practices at North Canterbury Fish and Game Council was used as justification for a wider organisational review

Chris O’Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

At 4.00pm a presentation was made by staff from *Zealandia* (Karori Sanctuary Trust) – Chief Executive (Paul Atkins), Director, Centre for People and Nature (Danielle Shanahan) and DOC Freshwater Manager (David Moss).

Dr Matt Kavermann and Hamish Carnachan also arrived at 4.00pm.

Key points from the presentation:

- Zealandia is a well-defined area (fenced) and specific water quality outcomes sought
- The Karori Sanctuary Trust has a 500-year vision for restoration of native species assemblages
- The focus on freshwater management in 2011 was trout removal from the upper reservoir to give rise to an increase in banded kokopu and opportunities for kakahi establishment
- The Kaiwharawhara catchment currently has 13 species of native fish
- There is also concurrently interest in a “Sanctuary to Sea – Kaiwharawhara” project that seeks to look a potential fish passage barriers and management of the stream.
- The context was given for the management outcomes sought for the lower reservoir:
 - To restore native freshwater habitats
 - To improve water quality
 - To achieve public engagement outcomes (140k visitors)
- Currently there is an estimate of:
 - only 7-8 eels only – as landlocked
 - 20,000 perch of which 80% would be less that one-year class, noting that in 2007 an estimated 5,000 fish were removed by electro-fishing.

In reply to Councillor Francis’ question relating to potential for increased stocking of eels to control perch – it was related that to achieve the conservation objectives for native fish assemblages the outcome sought is to eradicate perch not just control them.

Roger Smaile sought clarification as to the principal causes of toxic algal blooms as often there are a combination of factors driving imbalances in natural systems. Dr Shanahan confirmed that the lower reservoir stratifies (affecting nutrient recycling) and that it is postulated that that small perch eat significant amounts of zooplankton which suppresses feeding pressure on algae including cyanobacteria – potentially resulting in significant blooms. She recognised that the lakes were man-made but there was an objective to manage them to maximise native fish conservation values.

Councillor Passey noted the complex interactions that exist such as a higher proportion of small fish, what limits large fish predation, fish passage barriers. Dr Kavermann noted that the size distribution was not too dissimilar to that found in other reservoirs.

Councillor Francis noted that conservation outcomes were focused on limiting zooplankton which might not have a certain outcome – and also noted that trout were not contributors to poor water quality in that context. Hamish Carnachan noted that Fish and Game didn't want the messaging to infer that introduced fish equates to poor water quality.

Dr Kavermann confirmed the concept is about creating space within the lake system including ecological niche concepts.

Summary of Proposal:

- Long period capture native fish including banded kokopu
- February – electro-fishing fish and netting perch (remove dead fish)
- March/April - native fish rescue
- April – lowering of the reservoir (7-8 m lower to minimise rotenone amount)
- Potential treatment of stream after April
- Iwi – release individual eels below the dam
- June/July – rotenone reservoir

Dr Kavermann noted that because of the amount of perch involved (700-800kg of perch) that all efforts to remove these in terms of limiting nutrient (principally N) recycling. He indicated that if the project was to be undertaken then efforts should be made to make sure the end goals are achieved.

David Moss (DOC) outlined some of the key fishery characteristics:

- giant kokopu don't need to run to the sea
- banded kokopu don't need to run to the sea
- Year2 and juvenile banded kokopu – previously very few – now a range of sizes in the upper reservoir.
- Koura – occasionally seen in upper reservoir to now seen frequently (potentially also behaviour changes)
- The timing of the rotenone treatment was designed to avoid spawning season and also the water temperature in winter would be lower – keeping rotenone active.

Communication Plan:

Councillor Francis noted that perch as a sports fish is important to some members of the public and needed to be treated with respect – as the fishery has ‘value’ to some even if not ‘fished’. Brief discussion ensued on the unique situation being an isolated water body that the Karori reservoirs provided but providing a possible precedent was potentially contrary to the Fish and Game mandate to manage and enhance the sports fish resource. It was agreed that if the project proceeded it needed to be done with enough rigour and oversight. Mr Carnachan noted that other messaging on fish removal had been disastrous in creating polarising opinions. Councillor Hancock noted that other messaging could be incorporated into the communications plan including the effects of urbanisation.

Zealandia and DOC Left the meeting at 5:05pm with further discussion deferred to original agenda order.

9. Public Forum

Councillor Francis invited the public for an opportunity to speak to any issues.

Roger Smaile reiterated that he recognised that Wellington Council had an awareness of the perceived anti-farming rhetoric that he considered was unceasingly coming from NZ Fish & Game Council and it was good to see alternative approaches being considered and enacted by Wellington Fish & Game while not diluting the freshwater outcomes sought.

Marc Flaws noted that he was disappointed at the approach taken by the NZF&GC Chief Executive during the initial firearms review in April and could have been actively neutral regarding firearms that are not used for game bird hunting.

10. Health and Safety

Council reviewed the Health and Safety report for October and November to ensure Council is committed to resourcing health and safety adequately, all staff are committed to safe practices, and that systems are being developed to ensure safe practices (or working towards) and that this can satisfy audit requirements.

Two minor incident reports were noted at the Family Fishing Days at Hokowhitu Lagoon – and were covered in the planning for contingencies but nothing of major concern.

Discussion ensued on the potential risks for nuisance public events – with the recommendation to consider a panic button and security camera installation.

It was then moved that

The installation of security cameras and panic button be investigated and undertaken following the development of a safety plan for staff operating in sole charge at office.

Chris O'Meara/Colin Shore

Carried

After further brief discussion it was moved that

Council receive the Health and Safety Report for October and November 2019

Aaron Passey/Colin Shore

Carried

11. Recommendations for 2020 Game Regulations

Dr Kavermann provided a brief overview of supporting data that had been received previously. Councillor Tannock noted that there was nothing obvious to change following the counts and supporting information. Councillor Cook noted that there was increasing cropping this season in the Manawatu which would infer feed availability for waterfowl following residual crop harvest. It was agreed that the staff recommendations for similar conditions be supported given there were no catastrophic events such as major floods during the breeding season.

It was then moved that

Subject to the black swan and paradise shelduck counts that the conditions for hunting be consistent with previous year's conditions

Andy Tannock/Jim Cook

Carried

12. Submission to Select Committee - Firearms Amendment Bill

Mr Teal confirmed that Wellington Fish and Game Council had presented an oral submission to the Select Committee (copy included in agenda). He commended the assistance from other presenters: Anthony van Dorp from Eastern Region F&GC, (who provided detail and examples) and Councillor Tannock who provided a practical summary of the social context of hunting. It was decided to confirm that any changes needed to be reasonable and security of information was paramount.

There was discussion on the Survey Monkey survey undertaken by NZ Fish & Game Council of all licenceholders and their opinions on changes to firearms legislation. Councillors questioned the need to question anglers about a subject they may not be directly be affected by, and the representation of hunters as firearms owners should be principal focus.

Councillor Tannock was thanked by other councillors for his availability.

13. Submission on Action Plan for Healthy Rivers

Mr Teal confirmed that Wellington Fish and Game had made a submission on the Action Plan for Healthy Rivers to Ministry for the Environment (Copy included in agenda).

Mr Teal noted the summary of submission made via the Wellington Fish & Game email request had been encouraging with several hundred responding to the questionnaire format.

14. Indigenous Freshwater Fish Act Update

Mr Teal noted that the Indigenous Freshwater Fish Act had passed and copy of the legislation was attached in agenda.

Mr Teal noted that the policy on use and permitting of electro-fishing machines had been altered, and while on face value appear innocuous it may provide DOC and Regional Councils unfettered ability to catch sports fish without Fish & Game input. Clarification of interpretation of changes will be required.

15. Zealandia – Perch Eradication Proposal

Earlier in the meeting there was a presentation will be made by Zealandia staff, and DoC (as piscicide operators).

Discussion ensued on how to progress the application with key points noted:

- on the basis it was not a precedent
- noting it was an opportunity to get us on board to get messaging to public
- not conceding a recreational fishery
- biodiversity might require compromise in the future
- Unique area
- Engaging public in freshwater values and management
- Don't want precedent but lack of objection – wouldn't stand in way of proceeding Councillor Tannock
- Transfer option was not favoured by Zealandia as they would view a fish "causing" harm in one site is likely to cause harm in another site.

At 5.30pm Dan and Sharon Brizzle and Gordon Baker arrived.

- The example of media opinion writing about trout destroying native fish populations based on no supporting information – support of Council to this project could be contra in other arguments.
- Important to write key aspects into resource conditions and have additional recommendations that are not applicable for resource consent application

- Important to make Fish & Game an affected party (as sports fish managers)
- Could be a positive opportunity
- Could be a collaboration on freshwater management messaging which is the value of regional Fish & Game structure which can be innovative

After discussion it was agreed the Wellington Fish and Game Council could move forward with project permitting and authorising – with conditions:

- to access to data.
- having observers.
- removal perch before rotenone,
- input into communications plan (messaging being in accordance with Fish & Game objectives).
- and not to be seen as a precedent (reason for agreeing – zero (recreational) fishery value but also the uniqueness of site which also has a predator proof fence).

Even if it is viewed by some as a precedent, the consulting process with Fish and Game should provide some future protections – if a robust process is set up then the precedent value is in the process.

It was then moved that

Wellington Fish and Game Council would work with Zealandia (Karori Sanctuary Trust) to provide a pathway for consenting to allow for removal of perch from the lower reservoir

Chris O’Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

16. Policy Review Update

Council reviewed the timetable for policy review and noted that the Governance General Policy would be deferred and that the latest version of Central South Island Fish and Game Council’s Governance Policy would be reviewed. This was undertaken following the audit report on Governance Policy for that region.

Mr Teal noted that he would seek external advice to update staff operational policies.

17. Dates for Meetings – Wellington Fish and Game Council

A number of requests were made for a change of meeting date from 6 October 2020 to 13th October 2020. It was moved that

The proposed date for the meeting in 6 October 2020 be changed to 13 October 2020

Colin Shore/ Chris O’Meara

Carried

18. Draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan

The latest draft was attached to agenda and will consider in detail at February 2020 meeting prior to defining the formal consultation process.

It was agreed that this draft would be used in pre-consultation with iwi only.

19. Western Region Resource Consent Applications – GWRC Flood Protection

The draft consent is attached to the agenda, and Mr Teal confirmed that Wellington Fish and Game Council has withdrawn our right to be heard at any hearing if those conditions were approved and/or the Code of Practice adopted.

20. GWRC Natural Resource Plan Appeals

The submission which detailed the aspects for the basis of an appeal were included in the agenda.

Mr Teal confirmed that Wellington Fish and Game Council joined as section 274 (interested party) on substantive appeal points – as did other submitters to the predominant Fish and Game appeal.

Mr Teal also confirmed that the application for funding legal costs had been made and approved for the mediation process – with Peter Wilson providing the principal planning advice and negotiation.

It was then moved that

The report on the GWRC Natural Resource Plan appeals be received

Jim Cook/Andy Tannock

Carried

21. Horizons Regional Council – Plan Change 2 - One Plan

Mr Teal confirmed that the submission had been received by Horizons Regional Council. He also noted that the funding application from regional legal fund to provide technical and planning advice had been successful – and agreement to work collaboratively with EDS for legal advice. The hearing is anticipated in April 2020.

It was moved that

The report on the One Plan – Plan Change 2 submission be received

Chris O’Meara/Andy Tannock

Carried

22. Wairarapa Water Irrigation Project Update

Mr Teal provided a brief update – noting that there was still work being undertaken to convince the public for the need for a water storage dam –

based on resilience of water supply due to climate change with the principal user being urban. There were some community groups questioning the extent of the water supply reservoir and whether smaller options would be more feasible.

It was then moved that

The report on the Wairarapa Water Project be received

Malcolm Francis/Colin Shore

Carried

23. Lake Wairarapa Update

Discussion ensued on the proposal by DOC to establish a walkway immediately alongside the Symmonds Lagoon (on boundary along the western side). DOC claim that there are no resource consents required to establish this walkway. It will attempt to open the area up to additional walkers, but there are other wildlife values that might be affected (eg bittern habitat) that are likely to be compromised for recreational walking use. Councillors were concerned at the cost – benefit of such a project given the existing walkway requires upkeep. It was requested that DoC be informed that Fish and Game required to investigate the positions of any maimai to determine if they would be adversely affected, and also seek non-disturbance of area (from public) for April to end of June. It was also expected that a more detailed proposal would be presented in such a consultation.

Mr Teal noted that no progress had been publicly made in the Treaty Settlement process.

Dr Kavermann confirmed that he had presented a paper at the Ecological Society Conference which formally reviewed the findings of the Bartons Lagoon fish removal study. It is understood that a researcher is still removing perch and trout periodically from the site.

Dr Kavermann provided a brief overview of the research project by Alton Perrie and his application for additional sites and request for using different nets. Council confirmed that they supported robust scientific study but indicated some concern on site selection (of small sites) if that research resulted in material changes to the fish populations that affect their viability.

It was then moved

That report on management issues at Lake Wairarapa and surrounds be received.

Chris O'Meara/Jim Cook

Carried

24. Research Update

Mr Teal provided a brief update on the eDNA project – noting that there had been some negative false findings (i.e. sampling should have detected a positive result in a more controlled experiment) but other samples were as expected. This required more investigation as to why this occurred – in sampling method or subsequent lab analysis.

Mr Teal noted that Dr Adam Canning had recently taken up a research scientist position at the University of James Cook in Townsville, Australia, and that discussion on contingencies to manage the research work to completion were discussed.

Councillor Francis wished to express a strong vote of thanks to Dr Canning for his outstanding contribution to the Wellington Fish & Game team, but to acknowledge his contribution to wider freshwater management in New Zealand. Acclamation.

It was moved that

that the efforts of Dr Canning and his contributions to Wellington Fish and Game and freshwater management be duly acknowledged.

Malcolm Francis/Aaron Passey

Carried

It was then moved that

The research update report be received

Jim Cook/Aaron Passey

Carried

25. Junior / Novice Participation

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the Family Fishing Day at Hokowhitu Lagoon in Palmerston North and commended the efforts of the Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club for another extremely well-run event. He also acknowledged the work undertaken by Dr Kavermann to ensure it ran smoothly.

Mr Teal provided a brief summary of the Fish in Schools programme at the end of the 2019 school year and confirmed similar involvement for the 2020 school year.

It was then moved

The report on Junior/ novice participation be received

Chris O'Meara/Colin Shore

Carried

26. Access Issues - Update

Dr Kavermann confirmed that he had produced a draft paper on addressing access issues nationally and it was agreed that this would be forwarded to NZ Council for their consideration.

Mr Teal noted that the most active management issue for access was seeking clarification from NZ Defence Force on access to the Upper Rangitikei sites (which had previously been allowed but were under review as part of a wider review of site protocols and procedures. It was suggested that a meeting with the Defence Minister be considered if clarification was not forthcoming.

It was then moved

That the report on access issue be received

Aaron Passey/John Hancock

Carried

27. Recognition of Contribution – Medal Presentation

The following recipients were presented with medals to acknowledge the contributions made to Fish and Game management:

Gordon Barker – the efforts made to management of the Children’s Fishing Days at Hokowhitu Lagoon in Palmerston North were noted as being essential to the success of the logistical management [acclamation].

Dan Brizzle– the efforts made to co-ordination of school education efforts by Wellington Fish and Game Council including assisting in managing the inaugural children’s fishing day at Otaki in 2019 (as part of the Horowhenua Freshwater Anglers Club [acclamation].

Marc Flaws – the efforts made as a governor at Wellington Fish and Game Council and providing clear representation of hunters’ aspirations. [acclamation].

The meeting was adjourned at 6.20pm for dinner and reconvened at 6.55pm.

28. Management Report – 1 October to 30 November 2019

Mr Teal clarified the following specific points in report:

- Potential suspension of public access on NZDF land
- Report on otolith study on Ruamahanga still be finalised
- ‘Conservation Plan’ update for Waikanae River progressing

- Western River Consents – GWRC managing iwi consultation at different pace to stakeholders

It was then moved that

The Management Report for period 1 October to 30 November 2019 be received

Jim Cook/Aaron Passey

Carried

29. Licence Sales Report to 22 November 2019

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of Fish Licence Sales to-date: 2019/20 fish licence sales LEQs similar to last year but down 70 LEQs down but on par with average sales for this time of the year- variations appear to be weather dependent.

It was then moved that

The report on Licence Sales:

Receive and Accept the Fishing Licence as at 22 November 2019 be received

Colin Shore/Jim Cook

Carried

30. Expenditure Report / Financial Transactions

Mr Teal noted that he was required to engage a legal representative to lodge appeals for the GWRC Natural Resource Plan appeals that was initially unbudgeted. This legal advice and assistance for lodging appeals was also used for dealing with section 274 notices (interested parties) and initial call over meetings.

It was moved that

Expenditure Reports to 31 October 2019 and Financial Transactions for September and October 2019 be received

Malcolm Francis/Chris O'Meara

Carried

31. Correspondence and Media Report

Council noted that local hunter Ritson Galloway had achieved success at the World Duck Calling Championships and also noted that he had followed up with all sponsors (including Fish and Game) regarding his participation in the US based competition.

It was moved that

The correspondence and media report be received

Aaron Passey/Colin Shore

Carried

32. Recognition of Contributions

Further discussion was held on potential recipients who might be worthy of recognition for contributions to Wellington Fish and Game interests.

Potential nominees included:

- Don McCullough – long term governor and mentor under previous councils.
- Ted Colton – Ruamahanga Cut Off – Te Hopai Rd for access
- Previous chairs – Roger Smaile, Paul Dewar
- Banding assistance – landowners and volunteers – long term (4+ years)
- Peter Pearce – long term contributor to drift diving programme

33. Conservation Board

Mr Teal brought to the attention of Council the proposed meeting schedule for the Wellington Conservation Board with the next meetings being on 24 January 2020 in Wellington and 27-28 March in Palmerston North. He also noted potential topics of common interest – and if any councillor wished to attend a briefing paper could be develop on any of these topics.

34. General Business

A request from the Wildlife Foxton Trust to hold sports fish was made. There goals are to provide environmental education, establish a visitor Centre in Foxton, assist with rejuvenation of Foxton, and establish this Centre as a point of interests for tourists. Dr Kavermann would inspect the facilities, and make sure there are education notes on freshwater issues from Fish & Game perspectives. No concerns were noted regarding holding of sports fish at the site, and may use equipment spare from the Fish in Schools programme.

Mr Teal noted that there had been a meeting with GWRC staff regarding non-compliance of conditions of permits for monitoring – with GWRC staff involved issued with warning letters. Advice from Eastern Region’s Compliance Manager noted that Wellington Fish and Game was required to treat everyone the same in a polite but assertive manner. With the changes included in the Freshwater Indigenous Fish Act, Fish and Game would still maintain that GWRC should get permission from Fish and Game to take fish – but this may need legal clarification.

Councillor O’Meara noted a stand allocation issue at Ruamahanga Cut Off which would be followed up by staff as part of the maimai management function.

Councillor Francis noted that GWRC, KCDC, and DOC were working on how the three organisations can build a better relationship with iwi (Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai). He confirmed that he and Mr Teal had attended a two day iwi relationship workshop – relating to Treaty of Waitangi, social and economic effects of colonisation on iwi, and how to deal with issues with iwi moving forward. He noted that from the Waikanae River walkover it was considered that the principle of “allowing the river to breathe” was appropriate considering the buildup of gravel in the lower reaches.

Councillor Passey requested an update from Birchville Dam incident in October with GWRC still conducting their formal investigations. Requests for information to GWRC will be made once these investigations are completed.

Councillor Francis sought to recognise the contributions of all staff over the year and acknowledge their commitment and focus on the betterment of recreational interests of hunters and anglers. Councillors concurred and reiterate the sentiments. Staff also appreciated their ongoing support from governors that had been reciprocated.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.54pm.

Next Meeting to be held: Hotel Coachman, 140 Fitzherbert Avenue,
Palmerston North on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 3.00pm

Chairman _____ Date _____