
Dog Control Hearings Panel

Te Koomiti Whiriwhiri I Ngaa Take Kuri

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Dog Control Hearings Panel held in Committee Room 1 and via Audio Visual Link, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 9:30 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Mark Donovan

Heamana

Members

Cr Moko Tauariki

Cr Andrew Bydder

Cr Anna Casey-Cox (via Audio-Visual Link)

In Attendance:

Kelvin Powell - City Safe Unit Manager

Susan Stanford - Animal Control Manager

Trudi Swanson - Team Leader – Animal Education and Control Officers

Carmen Fookes – Policy and Bylaw Advisor

Governance Team:

Amy Viggers – Governance Lead

Arnold Andrews – Governance Advisor

1. Apologies – *Tono aroha*

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Bydder)

That the apologies for absence from Cr Huaki are accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Tauariki)

That the agenda is confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga*

No members of the Panel declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Open Minutes 7 August 2023

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel confirm the Open Minutes of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Meeting held on 7 August 2023 as a true and correct record.

5. Objection to Dangerous Classification - Pehi Edmonds

Mr Edmonds voiced his concerns regarding the dangerous classification and explained to the Panel that he has lost his dog, that he did not object to the dangerous classification anymore and has accepted full responsibility for his dog’s actions. He responded to questions from Elected Members concerning how the Animal Control team can help improve the complaint process.

Animal Control Manager and Team Leader – Animal Education and Control Officers took the report as read. They responded to questions from Elected Members concerning dangerous dog classification conditions, process for sworn evidence, definition of aggressive behaviour and usage of the term ‘rushing’ and breed of the dog.

During the discussion of the above Item (Item 5: Objection to the dangerous classification from Pehi Edmonds) the meeting moved into a public excluded session at the request of Elected Members.

6. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Bydder)

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject 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(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Public Excluded Minutes 7 August 2023) Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

- Item C1. to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting persons from improper pressure or harassment Section 7 (2) (f) (ii)

During the Public Excluded session of the meeting the following was resolved to be released to the public:

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel:

- a) receives the report;
- b) confirms it has considered the mandatory matters specified under the Dog Control Act 1996, and other matters relevant to the objection;
- c) notes that the Dog Control Hearings Panel in determining any objection can only either uphold or rescind the classification under the Dog Control Act 1996;
- d) upholds the dangerous classification; and
- e) approves the release of the above resolution to the public via the open minutes of the meeting.

Meeting moved to Public Excluded at 9.51am.

Meeting closed at 9.55am.