

# PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 04 December 2024, commencing at 9.00am

**Members Present:** Councillor Kaydee Zabelin (in the Chair), The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson and Karen Naylor.

**Non Members:** Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

**Apologies:** Councillor Brent Barrett; Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb (absent on Council business).

### Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin opened the meeting with karakia.

### 43-24 Apologies

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Karen Naylor.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the apologies.

Clause 43-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

### 44-24 Hearing of Submissions: Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive the submissions and hear submissions from presenters who indicated their wish to be heard in support of their submission.

2. That the Committee note the Procedure for Hearing of Submissions, as described in the procedure sheet.

Clause 44-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

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### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

The Committee considered submissions on the Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024 with supporting oral statements including additional tabled material.

The following persons appeared before the Committee and made oral statements in support of their submission and replied to questions from Elected Members.

### **Sally Darragh (Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora, Community and whanau wellbeing team, National Public Health Service) (39)**

Sally spoke to their submission and made the following additional comment:

- This policy is something that ensures the health and wellbeing of the community, and food security is a human right, so it's good for Council to be involved in working in this space to improve the health of the community.
- It is important to Health New Zealand that there are other external partners involved in public health.

### **Josephine Gutry (Cancer Society Manawatū) (29)**

Josephine spoke to their submission and made the following additional comments:

- This policy provides pathways for Council to initiate change in our food environment. It's important action is taken to lessen the burden on the environment and our health system.
- With 15-20% of New Zealand's population facing food insecurity and almost 500,000 people reaching out to food banks monthly, while hundreds of thousands of tonnes of food is wasted each year, there is no better reason to have a policy that will help support the community to reach food security and decrease environmental strain.
- Palmerston North City Council could follow the example of other major cities in New Zealand and make their mark in achieving a policy that prioritises health and the environment.

### **Dana Kunaiti (Niuvaka Trust) (48)**

Dana spoke to their submission, including a PowerPoint presentation (appended to these Minutes). She made the following additional comment:

- Links to all four goals – this is needed in the community. It's about valuing and supporting the aspirations of communities, providing opportunities across all of the Council's goals/outcomes.

### **Daniel Morrimire (Environment Network Manawatū and Ora Konnect)**

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### (50)

Daniel spoke to their submission and made the following additional comments:

- He was fortunate enough to grow up in an environment where his family had the opportunity to grow and harvest their own food which supported them financially. Many people these days do not have that ability. Environment Network Manawatū supports a number of community garden initiatives.
- Food security and food resilience is really important; food is one of the four main things humans need to live (food, water, air, housing) and is a fundamental human right.
- This is an overarching policy that they hope will affect and influence Council's decisions in other areas relating to localised food production. Local government has an important role to play in ensuring that local spaces and communities are supported to get involved in food resilience, and removing barriers to this happening.

### Leana Hamlin (35)

Leana spoke to her submission including a PowerPoint presentation (appended to these Minutes). She made the following additional comments:

- The greatest investment we can make is to protect and work alongside our land, our home and our earth. We all have a duty to protect, nourish and cherish these kaupapa. Too often profit over people seems to prevail. Here in Aotearoa every human has the right to adequate food and Council must ensure that this policy will uphold the strong tikanga surrounding that, regardless of age, ethnicity, monetary wealth or status.
- We need to start advocating and actioning sustainable and organic practices that respect nature and ensure our food is as pure as it was made to be. The future of food starts with conscious choices today. Our country exports fruit, vegetables and meat costing less overseas, yet we have to pay almost triple the prices just to eat our own kai on our own whenua. This needs to be addressed for our region with a stronger, louder voice.
- Hands in the soil is not just about gardening, it's about connection – with ourselves, our food and our earth, and it helps individuals to slow down from this fast paced rat race we call life. Council needs to be able to remove barriers in place that make it too hard for these things to occur.
- Funding to support community initiatives in the sector and collaboration needs to be more supported and spread more across the board. Barriers need to be removed in regards to accessing funding.
- The policy states that outcomes will be evident though wellbeing indicators, monitoring and annual reporting – this is where

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whakawhanaungatanga comes in – watching what people do, not what they say or write. Data reporting with funding in this policy needs to be kept under own initiatives. Transparency is key; misappropriation of funding and reporting needs to be monitored. When funding is received the reporting needs to be more in depth.

### **Rebecca Culver (Just Zilch) (38)**

Rebecca spoke to their submission and made the following additional comments:

- We want to make sure Palmerston North is a friendly place, known for its kindness – this policy is one thing we can do towards this. We have the opportunity to really make a difference for the public and local businesses.
- Recommended data collation and analysis by Council, and sharing this information – if food is going to waste, how many kilos and can we rescue that food? If it's food that's being utilized by the public, is there data we can collect around that? Just Zilch collects this information currently but it would be good to have a central collation point for all community organisations and for this to be facilitated by Council.
- Preferred method for achieving an implementation plan and tracking of policy implementation for progress – a report would be great as people wider than just the organisations involved could read it.

### **45-24 Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024 - Summary of Submissions** Memorandum, presented by Julie Macdonald, Manager Strategy and Policy.

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Patrick Handcock.

#### The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the summary of submissions for the Draft Food Security and Resilience Policy 2024, presented to the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024.

Clause 45-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

### **46-24 Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Patrick Handcock.

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### The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 16 October 2024 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 46-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Patrick Handcock.

2. That the minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting of 16 October 2024 Part II Confidential be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 46-24 above was carried 8 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

#### **Abstained:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillor Leonie Hapeta.

The meeting adjourned at 10.19am.

The meeting resumed at 10.41am.

### **47-24**

#### **Community Gardens - simplified process**

Report, presented by Aaron Phillips, Activities Manager Parks and Amy Viles, Manager Community Development.

After discussion Elected Members moved that the proposed simplified process be made a Council policy rather than an interim measure.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Karen Naylor.

### The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That Council approve the Palmy Community Garden Guide 2024 (Attachment 1).
2. That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive to issue permits to community gardens.

Clause 47-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

#### **For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

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### **48-24 Nature Calls Quarterly Update**

Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan, Manager Three Waters.

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Karen Naylor.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the report titled 'Nature Calls Quarterly Update', presented to the Sustainability Committee on 4 December 2024.

Clause 48-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

### **49-24 Committee Work Schedule**

Moved Kaydee Zabelin, seconded Leonie Hapeta.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Sustainability Committee receive its Work Schedule dated December 2024.

Clause 49-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

**For:**

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Kaydee Zabelin, Roly Fitzgerald, Patrick Handcock, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay and Billy Meehan.

### **Karakia Whakamutunga**

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin closed the meeting with karakia.

The meeting finished at 11.34am.

Confirmed 19 February 2025

**Chair**