

## HUTT CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of The Hutt City Council held in the Wainuiomata Chambers, Wainuiomata Library, Queen Street, Wainuiomata on  
**Tuesday 30 June 2015 commencing at 5.35pm**

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**PRESENT:**

Mayor WR Wallace (Chair)	Deputy Mayor D Bassett
Cr C Barry	Cr L Bridson
Cr MJ Cousins	Cr M Lulich
Cr G McDonald	Cr C Milne
Cr M Shierlaw	Cr M Willard

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Crs B Branch, A Finlayson, and T Lewis.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms K Kelly, General Manager, Strategic Services  
Ms W Moore, Divisional Manager Strategy and Planning  
Ms K Glanville, Senior Committee Advisor

## PUBLIC BUSINESS

### 1. APOLOGIES

**RESOLVED:**

**Minute No. C 15301(09)**

*"That the apologies received from Councillors Branch, Finlayson and Lewis be accepted and leave of absence be granted."*

### 2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

3. **HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS ON HUTT CITY COUNCIL'S CLASS 4 GAMBLING VENUE AND BOARD VENUE POLICY (15/1025)**

Report No. HCC2015/3/147 by the Senior Committee Advisor

**Martin Cheer on behalf of Pub Charity Ltd** presented submission no. SGV15/19. He advised it was important to find a balance between public health responsibilities and supporting commercial and community interests. He supported Option 2.

In response to questions from members, Mr Cheer advised that operators had to reach a certain level of use to maintain viability of business. He noted that the community could only sustain a certain number of gaming machines for them to remain viable to an operator. He considered that limiting the number of gaming machines available was unnecessary.

**Fuailalagi Samoa Saleupolou Heger** presented submission no. SGV15/10. She advised that she worked in the community, in particular with children, and saw the harm that problem gambling caused. She considered that a sinking lid could address some of the issues of problem gambling.

In response to questions from members, Ms Samoa Saleupolou Heger advised that to partake in online gambling an individual would require internet access and this would create a barrier to some residents.

**Teresa Letoa & Nia Mann on behalf of Naku Enei Tamariki Incorporated (NET) Pacific** presented submission no. SGV15/248. Ms Letoa advised that she witnessed the impact of problem gambling on families and the community. She noted that problem gambling in the Pacific community was difficult to identify due to it being a part of normal life. She said that the Naenae community had lost a significant amount of money to gambling and could not see where that community benefited from funds coming back into the community.

In response to questions from members, Ms Letoa said that while gambling did provide employment it was at the expense of vulnerable families and children. She confirmed that she supported a sinking lid policy. She noted that she could see the benefit in relocating operators out of areas of high deprivation.

**Dylan Firth on behalf of Hospitality New Zealand** presented submission no. SGV15/6. He supported the status quo.

In response to a question from a member, Mr Firth advised that staff awareness and action around harm minimisation was an issue and that Hospitality New Zealand was taking action to address this.

**Jarrold True on behalf of The New Zealand Racing Board** presented submission no. SGV15/1. He spoke in support of retaining the status quo cap of 545 gaming machines and expanding the relocation provision to also enable venues currently located within the Central Commercial and Petone Commercial areas to locate within this central area. He said that allowing relocation was positive as it enabled venues to move out of high deprivation communities, out of earthquake prone buildings and prevent landlords

demanding unreasonable rentals. It would also enable venues to relocate to new, modern, refurbished premises within the central City.

In response to questions from members, Mr True advised that the New Zealand Racing Board staff were trained in host responsibility by the Problem Gambling Foundation. He said that the banning of problem gamblers from venues was a highly utilised tool for staff. He commented that there was no requirement for gaming funds to go back into the specific area that they had come from. He said that a law change was looking at returning the money to the area it was spent and the area would be classed as the regional council area. He considered that the future of gambling was online gambling.

**Pesio Ah-Honi Siitia on behalf of Mapu Maia Services** presented submission no. SGV15/14. She said it was the ease of access to gaming machines that contributed to problem gambling in the Pacific community. She asked that Council look at ways to control an industry that was damaging the community.

In response to questions from members, Ms Ah-Honi Siitia said that statistics showed that seven people were effected by one problem gambler. She commented that there was a great deal of shame that went with problem gambling and this prevented individuals from seeking help. She considered that the normalisation of gambling in the Pacific community, the pressure to financially give back to the Pacific community led to a high level of problem gambling in the Pacific community.

**Vicki Hirini on behalf of The Salvation Army** presented submission no. SGV15/16. She said it was important to reduce the number of gaming machines in the community. She advised that in the Petone commercial area there were three campuses and noted that young people were vulnerable to problem gambling. She supported the sinking lid option.

**George Darroch on behalf of The Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand (PGF)** presented submission no. SGV15/17. He said it was acknowledged that gaming machines caused harm in the community. He noted there was a general decline in gaming machines in the Hutt Valley and that the number of gaming machines was currently below the cap. He spoke in support of a sinking lid policy.

In response to questions from members, Mr Darroch advised that PGF was proactive in identifying problem gamblers and did not wait for problem gamblers to approach the organisation. He said a relocation policy would not see a decrease in gaming machine numbers and therefore no decrease in harm.

**Susan Rostron on behalf of The Oasis Network** presented submission no. SGV15/232. She spoke in support of a sinking lid policy. She said that the machines did disproportionate harm in the community and that funding was going out of certain areas and not returned to the areas. She asked that Council build a better City and protect the community's children

**Tulu Ualesi** presented submission no. SGV15/238. She advised that she did not want gaming machines where she lived in Naenae. She said she witnessed the impact of problem gambling in the community.

**Mike Grigg**, a late oral submission, advised he supported the submission of Susan

Rostron who spoke on behalf of The Oasis Network.

In response to a question from a member, Mr Grigg advised he supported the status quo.

The meeting adjourned at 7.55pm and resumed at 8.10pm.

4. **CONSULTATION ON CLASS 4 GAMBLING VENUE AND BOARD VENUE POLICY 2015** (15/895)

Report No. HCC2015/3/192 by the Policy Advisor

The Divisional Manager, Strategy and Planning elaborated on the report.

In response to questions, the Divisional Manager, Strategy and Planning advised that the number of gaming machines in the City had reduced due to natural attrition and market forces. She said it was a logical extension of the policy to allow for relocation of premises due to fire, earthquake damage and other valid concerns. She noted that the relocation policy only referred to Naenae and Taita. She advised that new legislation about the reallocation of funding was currently being drafted by the Department of Internal Affairs. She stated that if a sinking lid policy was the preferred option she would confirm whether there was a six month grace period for operators who close to reopen without losing the total number of gaming machines.

Members discussed whether existing operators could relocate within the CBD and Petone zones and whether the policy should specify this.

MOVED: (Cr Shierlaw/Cr Milne)

“That Council:

- (i) notes the summary of submissions attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) considers the full submissions (separately circulated);
- (iii) adopts Option 2 to amend the Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy based on the information raised through the submission and hearing process; and
- (iv) authorises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Policy and Regulatory Committee to approve the finalised Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy.”

Mayor Wallace considered that Option 2 took into account the concerns of the submitters and would see a shift of gaming machines from the suburban areas into the commercial areas of the CBD and Petone. He noted that the policy would be reviewed in three years time. He acknowledged the submitters' concerns but was not convinced that a sinking lid policy would benefit the community.

Cr Lulich advised that Petone and Jackson Street were vibrant areas and the introduction of gaming machines into the area might create a gambling hub. He expressed concern about the impact gaming machines might have on the youth at the Weltec campus. He advised that he did not support Option 2.

Cr Barry spoke of creating a vibrant City Centre and the importance of bringing people into the CBD who were not attracted by gaming machines. He considered a sinking lid policy would make a difference in the community.

Cr Willard considered it important to reduce the number of gaming machines in the City. She advised that she did not support Option 2.

Cr Shierlaw considered that Option 2 provided for a balanced approach. He said that problem gambling had always been an issue. He further said that a number of projects in the North/East area of the City had benefited from funding from gaming machines ie the Taita Sport and Community Centre and Fraser Park Sportsville.

Cr Bridson said that gaming machines did more harm than good. She considered that there was a conflict of interest when looking at the funding of facilities so that the money did not come out of rates. She believed that the re-allocation of funding did not benefit those who were impacted by problem gambling. She did not support Option 2.

Cr Cousins advised that she was undecided about the impact of a sinking lid policy. She considered that better education was required and that online gambling would become an issue in the future.

Cr McDonald considered that a relocation policy would move problem gambling to other areas of the City. She spoke in support of a sinking lid policy.

Cr Milne considered that Option 2 was the most likely option to introduce a sinking lid. He said it would allow operators to move premises whereas a sinking lid policy would prevent operators from moving out of vulnerable areas.

Deputy Mayor David Bassett spoke in support of Option 2.

The motion was declared LOST by division with the voting as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Mayor Wallace	Cr Bridson
Deputy Mayor Bassett	Cr Barry
Cr Cousins	Cr Lulich
Cr Milne	Cr McDonald
Cr Shierlaw	Cr Willard
Total: 5	5

Mayor Wallace did not use his casting vote and therefore the motion was defeated and the status quo preserved.

MOVED: (Cr Barry/Cr Lulich)

“That Council:

- (i) notes the summary of submissions attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) considers the full submissions (separately circulated);
- (iii) adopts Option 4 to amend the Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy based on the information raised through the submission and hearing process; and
- (iv) authorises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Policy and Regulatory Committee to approve the finalised Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy.”

The motion was declared LOST by division with the voting as follows:

**For**

Cr Bridson  
Cr Barry  
Cr Lulich  
Cr McDonald

Total: 4

**Against**

Mayor Wallace  
Deputy Mayor Bassett  
Cr Cousins  
Cr Milne  
Cr Shierlaw  
Cr Willard

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MOVED: (Mayor Wallace/Cr Willard)

“That Council:

- (i) notes the summary of submissions attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) considers the full submissions (separately circulated);
- (iii) adopts Option 3 to amend the Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy based on the information raised through the submission and hearing process;
- (iv) seeks clarification from officers on whether there is a need to specify that operators can move premises within the CBD and Petone zones or whether the Gambling Act 2003 covers the circumstances raised by a submitter; and
- (iv) authorises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Policy and Regulatory Committee to approve the finalised Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy.”

RESOLVED: (BY DIVISION)

**Minute No. C 15302(09)**

*“That Council:*

- (i) notes the summary of submissions attached as Appendix 1 to the report;*
- (ii) considers the full submissions (separately circulated);*
- (iii) adopts Option 3 to amend the Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy based on the information raised through the submission and hearing process;*
- (iv) seeks clarification from officers on whether there is a need to specify that operators can move premises within the CBD and Petone zones or whether the Gambling Act 2003 covers the circumstances raised by a submitter; and*
- (v) authorises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Policy and Regulatory Committee to approve the finalised Class 4 Gambling Venue and Board Venue Policy.”*

The motion was declared CARRIED by division with the voting as follows:

**For**

Mayor Wallace  
Deputy Mayor Bassett  
Cr Cousins  
Cr Willard

Total: 4

**Against**

Cr Milne  
Cr Shierlaw

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Crs Barry, Bridson, Lulich and McDonald abstained from voting on the matter.

**5. QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

WR Wallace  
**MAYOR**

**CONFIRMED as a true and correct record  
Dated this 28th day of July 2015**