

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council held on Friday, 28 January 2022 via Zoom, commencing at 9am

Present: His Worship the Mayor M J Campbell (Chair)
Deputy Mayor F K N Tunui
Councillor W Godfery
Councillor C J Ion
Councillor B Julian
Councillor A Rangihika
Councillor R G K Savage

In Attendance: Chief Executive Officer (R George)
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)
Acting Economic and Community Development Manager (L Barton)
PA to the Mayor and CEO (P Maxwell)

Apologies

Resolved

His Worship the Mayor / Councillor Julian

That the apologies from Councillors Sparks and Kingi were received.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1 COVID-19 Protection Framework (310601)

Elected Members considered a report from the Chief Executive Officer to reconsider public access to Council venues under the national COVID-19 Protection Framework as well as the flow-on implications to Council service delivery, public health and wellbeing, reputation, and operating costs.

The Chief Executive Officer made a correction to the recommendation, which was slightly different to the option within the report.

In addition to the report, Elected Members considered a tabled document that showed the status of some other Councils' decisions around My Vaccine Passes.

Elected Members considered the following Options:

- 1 No requirement for My Vaccine Pass at Council venues and open spaces.
- 2 Mandate My Vaccine Pass for entry to all Council venues and open spaces.
- 3 Mandate My Vaccine Pass for entry to all indoor, staffed Council venues only. Exclude outdoor facilities.
- 4 Mandate My Vaccine Pass for entry to all Council venues but exclude essential services.

After considerable discussion, there was agreement to go with Option 3 – Mandate My Vaccine Pass for entry to all indoor, staffed Council venues only. Exclude outdoor facilities.

The following reasons were given:

- Since Council's decision on 16 December 2021:
 - There were now cases of the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron in New Zealand
 - The Omicron variant was more transmissible than the Alpha and Delta variants
 - New Zealand moved to the Red setting of the COVID-19 Protection Framework on 23 January 2022
 - Kawerau vaccination levels were higher than unvaccinated; with about 80% of Kawerau fully vaccinated.
- There was now a need to protect our vaccinated public as well as staff while at indoor Council venues
- We have a duty of care to our Council staff as well as our community
- Balancing the provision of services for our community, while being guided by Ministry of Health to provide a safe working environment for our staff
- If staff end up with Omicron, we may shift from a partial service to no services.
- For those that cannot provide My Vaccine Pass, alternative options to access services would be put in place
- There was an ability for Council to review its decision as it goes through the different phases of Omicron and stages of the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

Mayor Campbell noted that although Councillor Kingi was not present, she had asked that her vote be recorded as retaining the status quo – No requirement for My Vaccine Pass at Council venues and open spaces, with the addition of mandating wearing of masks, sanitising, and signing in at venues.

The Chief Executive advised that he would contact Elected Members with an implementation date once staff had looked at the planning of how to implement Council's decision; especially the safest way of checking My Vaccine Passes at entries.

Action Items

- That staff communicate with the Community about the different phases of Omicron and stages of the traffic light system.
- That staff continue with the public consultation process with the Community.

Resolved

Councillor Ion / Councillor Savage

1. *That the report "COVID-19 Protection Framework" is received.*
2. *That Council adopts Option 3 of the report – to mandate My Vaccine Pass for entry to all indoor and staffed Council venues only. Excludes outdoor facilities.*
3. *That Council notes an implementation date will be determined as the implementation plan is finalised. The implementation date of Council's decision will be as soon as practicable.*

Meeting closed 9.30am



M J Campbell

Mayor