

MINUTES

HEARINGS COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 15 June 2022

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Angus Gordon

In attendance Mr Robert Peterson – Council’s Advocate
Mr Johan Cullis – Expert Officer
Mrs Carol Gordon – Business Support Officer
Mr Ash Garstang – Business Support Office
Mr Stephen Illston – Witness

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1 Open Hearing

The hearing opened at 1.01 pm and Cr Dalgety read the Council prayer.

2 Introduction

Those present introduced themselves.

3 Statement of Matter

The Mayor sought confirmation that the objector had been notified of the proceedings. Mr Peterson confirmed that she had been notified, as below:

03 June – The objector (Ms Caitlyn Thomsen) was emailed and advised of the hearing date.

06 June – Ms Thomsen advised that she could not attend.

07 June – Mr Cullis asked Ms Thomsen to advise what other dates she would be available.

13 June – Ms Spence followed up on Mr Cullis' email with a phone call to Ms Thomsen, and Ms Thomsen advised that she would not be able to attend any date.

4 Rules of the Hearing

The Mayor explained the rules to all in attendance.

5 Reports for Decision

5.1 Hearing of Objection to Classification of Dog

In response to queries from members, Mr Peterson advised that:

- There have been multiple incidents of Mr Illston's sheep being attacked, but Mr Illston has only seen a dog (a grey husky) one of those times – identified by Mr Illston as being the dog KODA, registered to Ms Thomsen.
- Mr Illston cannot confirm that all incidents were caused by KODA, but there is only one grey husky in the area and there have no other reports of dogs in the area attacking sheep.
- Ms Thomsen has stated to animal control staff that KODA was not responsible, and that she has CCTV evidence to support this. However, no CCTV evidence has been supplied to staff.

In response to queries from members, Mr Illston advised that:

- He was mustering at approximately 9.30 am and noticed five or six sheep running down the hill, with a grey husky dog (who he subsequently identified as KODA) in pursuit. He yelled at the dog and it ran away. Due to the terrain (undulating hills), he could not confirm that the dog retreated to Ms Thomsen's property, although it was in the same direction.
- Later on, he found more mauled sheep and in total has lost five ewes from dog attacks. He is convinced that it is the same dog. Earlier in the season, he lost seven lambs that looked like they had been mauled.

In response to a query, Mr Peterson advised that KODA was registered to an address in Palmerston North, although it resided at Ms Thomsen's property (not in Palmerston North). KODA currently resides in Whanganui. If KODA's "Menacing" classification is upheld, this will show on the national dog register which will inform animal control at the Whanganui District Council.

Resolved (unanimously)

That the "Menacing" classification imposed on the dog "KODA" belong to Caitlyn THOMSEN, pursuant to Section 33A(1)(b)(i) of the Dog Control Act 1996, be upheld based on the evidence provided in this hearing.

The meeting closed at 1.16 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 28 July 2022.


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Chairperson