

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 27 June 2024

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- HWTM Andy Watson
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Brian Carter
- Cr Gill Duncan
- Cr Richard Lambert (Zoom)
- Cr Coral Raukawa
- Cr Jeff Wong
- Cr Simon Loudon
- Cr Greg Maughan
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Cr Paul Sharland

In attendance

- Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
- Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy and Planning
- Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager - Community
- Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager - Corporate Services
- Mrs Sharon Bennett, Group Manager - People and Performance (Zoom)
- Mr Steve Carne, Contractor (Zoom)
- Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor
- Ms Fiona Elkington, Audit NZ

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Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

Item 1 - Putorino Project

It was noted there are several issues outstanding on this project so staff will continue to make progress to finalise this.

Item 6 - Otara Bridge

Staff advised that this project continues to be handled by Manawatu District Council, even though the shared services agreement is coming to an end.

Council noted there was conflicting information provided on this project, for example the hangers were understood to be suitable and now they are being replaced. It was noted that the contractor provides information to Manawatu District Council and then this is passed onto our Council, however, by having one direct line allows for one source of truth rather than both councils receiving information from the contractor.

Item 9 - Cameras Bulls Bus Lane

Mr Benadie noted that more signage around the bus lane was recently put in place, however there is currently no progress regarding IT software.

Item 10 - Fly Tipping /MOU Horizons

Mr Benadie responded to questions that the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not in Rangitikei's best interest, and due to conflicting workload priorities progress on addressing the MOU has not progressed.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/166

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings' be received.

Cr G Duncan/Cr B Carter. Carried

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - 27 June 2024

His Worship the Mayor acknowledged the passing of Mr Jim Howard noting his work as a previous councillor for two terms and his work with the Taihape horticulture society.

The Mayor made mention of the recent staff awards evening, saying it was good to be able to award staff, and he acknowledged the councillors who attended the evening.

Cr Wong gave an update on his work with the Transport Committee and noted the interest in the bus service from Manawatu District Council and the need to look at alternative funding sources for buses.

Three Waters Process

The Mayor updated the Council on work being done on the alternative to three waters and working with other councils. He noted there is no requirement to consult with the community or iwi, but believes that there should be consultation.

Mr Ross noted the work CEs and Mayors are doing to understand debt and funding, acknowledging there is a lot of information, some of which is inconsistent, especially when councils compare their Long-Term Plans. It is unlikely that the partnerships will be based on finances but who Council wants to partner with.

Council noted the timeframe for working in the three waters space is inadequate and that the risk if Council doesn't agree on a partnership is that this decision will be made by a commissioner.

Remuneration from Local Government

The Mayor noted the proposed remuneration for 2024/25 for councillors and emphasised the workload for councillors is significant in relation to the pay, particularly when taking into consideration the large land area of the district and that this can mean a full day of work when travelling to meetings.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/167

That the Mayor's Report – 27 June 2024 be accepted.

HWTM/Cr P Sharland. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - June 2024

Staff Movements

Mrs Gordon noted that a new communications manager has been appointed and there were a high number of applicants of excellent calibre.

Events Held Across the District at Council's Facilities - May 2024

Council advised there was an injury at one of the rugby fields in Taihape on Friday evening and there was no access for ambulance to get onto the grounds. Mr Ross had previously been assured that ambulances were able to access the grounds and undertook to follow up on this.

External Submissions

Mrs Gordon noted the number of submissions coming in from Central Government, often with a short deadline.

Update on Calico Line

Staff advised that if the budget was exceeded that a report would come to Council on this decision.

Mr Benadie responded that the replacement fence will be acceptable for the setting, such as a farm fence in this case. It was noted that there were previous decisions made by Council and this is part of a shared pathway to link up areas to Marton township.

Shared Services Update

Council noted there were concerns from members of the rural water schemes, saying they should have been informed earlier as the staff member who is not coming across to RDC was integral to the schemes.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/168

That Council agrees to update the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/25 to change the MBIE levy from applying to projects over \$20,444, to apply to projects over \$65,000, which reflects a change the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment have made to this levy.

Cr B Carter/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/169

That Council approves the updated Delegations to Positions Policy – June 2024, noting the changes made to that Policy.

Cr B Carter/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Adoption of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 and Rates Resolution 2024/25

This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting; Ms Fiona Elkington, Audit NZ joined the meeting.

Mrs Gordon introduced the report and noted an updated document has been uploaded for councillors.

Ms Elkington responded to questions about the capital works programme, especially the delays obtaining resource consents, which can impact timing of projects. The costings associated with this will be less certain if the timing was moved, such as with inflation. She noted that Council has used commentary around the level of confidence in completing projects and said this was a good approach.

Ms Elkington responded to questions about the renewal process and understand that Council is making progress in this area and receiving information on asset conditions.

There are several councils not in the position to have their LTP audited by the end of the financial year, especially with the impact of the NZTA decision. His Worship the Mayor noted that this would put those councils in a difficult rating position in the interim.

Mr Ross thanked Ms Elkington and the Audit NZ team, noting this was a difficult Long Term Plan process.

The Council noted the 1% reduction in the rates increase, making the agreed rate lower than what was consulted on and was pleased this was able to be reduced.

The changes made by NZTA to the roading budgets were noted, there would be an impact on the roading programme but staff are hoping to reduce the impact as much as they can. The Mayor noted that this will likely come back to Council as the reduction in emergency works will have an impact.

Mrs Gordon advised that submitters will be receiving responses on the decisions now that the Long-Term Plan has been adopted.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/170

That the report Adoption of the Long-Term Plan 2024-24 and Rates Resolution 2024/25 be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/171

That Council considers it is prudent to adopt a budget that is not balanced in years 1 to 5 of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 on the basis that it is financially prudent to do so, and that it achieves a sustainable balanced budget in accordance with section 100 (2) of the Local Government Act 2002.

HWTM/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/172

That the Mayor and Chief Executive sign the letter of representation for the audit of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 as requested by Audit New Zealand.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/173

That the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 including the report from the Council's auditor be adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/174

That Council adopts the Rates Resolution 2024/25.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/175

That the Roothing Targeted Rate not be reduced as a result of the amendments to the Roothing Programme.

Cr D Wilson/Cr S Loudon. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/176

That Council give the Deputy Chief Executive delegation to make minor corrections to the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 prior to publication.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr G Duncan. Carried

10.2 Operating Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) on Council Owned and Administrated Land Policy

Ms Gray spoke to the report, noting the policy outlines the permissions required for drones to fly in certain areas. Council noted that this has previously come to the Policy / Planning committee for consideration.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/177

That the report 'Operating Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) on Council Owned and Administrated Land Policy' is received.

Cr B Carter/Cr Sharland. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/178

That Council adopts the Operating Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) on Council Owned and Administrated Land Policy.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

10.3 Adoption of Rangitikei District Council Waste Assessment

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/179

That Council receives the report "Adoption of Rangitikei District Council Waste Assessment" dated 27 June 2024.

Cr G Duncan/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/180

That Council, in light of the completed Waste Assessment, agrees to proceed with a new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in accordance with section 50(3) of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

Cr B Carter/Cr S Loudon. Carried

10.4 Redirection of approved Better Off Funding to support the Council's transition to the

Government's Local Water Done Well programme

Mr Ross introduced this item, advising that Central Government are asking Councils whether any of the Better Off Funding could be redirected to Three Waters projects rather than continue with the proposed projects.

Mr Ross responded to questions that if the funding for the Taihape Town Hall was reallocated the debt would lie with Council meaning we council be worse off.

During discussion Council noted concerns that the lack of funding available for the transition may mean Council needs to create a fund for this.

In response to a question staff advised that the District Plan work in relation to three waters is to look at the infrastructure needed to support new growth in the District.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/181

That the report 'Redirection of approved Better Off Funding to support the Council's transition to the Government's Local Water Done Well programme' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/182

That Council acknowledges the invitation from the Department of Internal Affairs to reconsider, in a mutually agreed way, the use of some of its approved Better Off Funding to support an effective transition into the Government 'Local Water Done Well' reform programme.

HWTM/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/183

That Council notes that while there is no budget provision contained in the draft 2024-34 long-term plan for any transition costs in forming a joint arrangement with neighbouring councils to deliver three waters services, if Council made such a decision, the costs would be a debt payable by that new joint arrangement.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/184

That Council also acknowledges the high community profile for its approved Better Off Funding projects.

Cr B Carter/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/185

That Council notes that the Business case for housing project is largely complete with one invoice yet to come, meaning up to \$28,000 is unspent from the approved Better Off Funding and agrees to ask Internal Affairs:

To include this sum in the new funding agreement to support transition costs or water infrastructure development.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/186

That Council agrees that the preparation of the three waters assessments within the Better Off Funding District Plan acceleration project of \$127,000, can be ring-fenced and that Internal Affairs be asked to advise any additional reporting requirements to assure that.

HWTM/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/187

That Council agree that the balance of the better off funding following the resolutions under section 10.4 be retained as per the agreement under Better Off Funding and approved within Council approved budget.

HWTM/Cr S Loudon. Carried

11 Reports for Information

11.1 Project Management Office Report – June 2024

This was moved to after 9.1 Chief Executive's Report - June 2024.

Mr Carne joined the meeting via zoom.

Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project

There are some options to come to Council and Mr Carne spoke of the criteria required for the scoping of this.

Ratana Wastewater discharge to land

Mr Carne advised he is looking at other options for this project.

Marton Office and Library Project

Mrs Gordon responded to questions that there are several external parties, including staff, councillors, and iwi involved with this project.

The meeting adjourned at 3.02pm and returned at 3.15pm.

Taihape Town Hall

The amendment to the work plan is that the NBS standards be consistent with 67-80%% NBS standard.

Critical touch points are noted in the Project Plan. It was noted that the appointed governance representatives undertake a conduit role between Mr Ganapathi and Council. The decision making would still need to come back to Council.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/188

That the report 'Project Management Office Report - May 2024' be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/189

That Council approve the Project Work Plan for the Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment as amended and include the NBS rating.

Cr G Duncan/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/190

That His Worship the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cr Duncan and Cr Wong from the Northern Ward, be appointed as governance representatives for the Town Hall and Library Redevelopment project.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

12 Minutes from Committees

12.1 Minutes from Committees

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/191

That the following minutes are received:

- Bulls Community Committee- 08 May 24
- Assets and Infrastructure Committee-09 May 24
- Creative Communities Committee- 29 May 24
- Finance and Performance Committee- 30 May 24
- Turakina Community Committee- 06 June 24
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme- 10 June 24
- Hunterville Community Committee- 10 June 24
- Taihape Community Board- 12 June 24
- Marton Community Committee- 12 June 24

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Duncan. Carried

13 Recommendations from Committees

13.1 Recommendation from Community Committees Small Project Funds

Councillors were aware that the Taihape Community Board had a large carry-over noting that they have a larger fund than other committees.

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/192

That the 'Recommendation from Community Committees Small Projects Funds' report be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/193

That Council approves carry-forward of up to \$1,253.40 for the Turakina Community Committee for the 2024/25 financial year.

Cr B Carter/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/194

That Council approves carry-forward of up to \$686.64 for the Hunterville Community Committee for the 2024/25 financial year.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/195

That Council approves carry-forward of up to \$667.19 for the Marton Community Committee for the 2024/25 financial year.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/196

That Council approves carry-forward of up to \$4,718.50 for the Taihape Community Board for the 2024/25 financial year.

Cr G Duncan/Cr J F Wong. Carried

14 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session 4.15pm.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved minute number 24/RDC/197

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

- 1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 30 May 2024
2. Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
3. Taihape Community Housing Exploratory Work

The general subject matter 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 of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
14.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 30 May 2024	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 30 May meeting.	S48(1)(a)
14.2 - Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings	To consider the matters arising from previous public excluded meetings. s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
14.3 - Taihape Community Housing Exploratory Work	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations for this work. s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)

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

Cr B Carter/Cr J F Wong. Carried

15 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session 4.47pm.

Resolved minute number **24/RDC/198**

That the public excluded meeting move into an open meeting, and the below recommendations be confirmed in the open meeting:

24/RDC/198- 24/RDC/203

Cr B Carter/Cr S Loudon. Carried

The meeting closed at 4.47pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 July 2024.

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Chairperson