

MINUTES

ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 9 June 2022

Time: 9.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Richard Lambert
- Cr Cath Ash [via Zoom]
- Cr Nigel Belsham
- Cr Brian Carter
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Cr Gill Duncan
- Cr Angus Gordon
- Ms Coral Raukawa
- HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

- Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
- Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager – Democracy and Planning
- Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
- Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
- Mr Hamish Waugh, General Manager – Infrastructure (MDC)
- Mr John Jones, Roading Manager
- Mr Phil Gifford, Project Engineer – Roading
- Mr Allen Geerkens, Programme Delivery Manager
- Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome / Prayer

The meeting opened at 9.00 am. Ms Raukawa read the Council prayer.

2 Apologies

No apologies.

3 Public Forum

No public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 22/AIN/016

That the minutes of the Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 14 April 2021, without amendment, be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr N Belsham/Cr B Carter. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure Meetings

Undertaking:

The roading team will investigate the road markings at Calico Line with urgency, due to the safety concerns around this (action item 10).

Cr Gordon arrived at 9.14 am.

In response to a query, Mr Jones advised that the sealing of Edwards Street in Bulls (action item 11) has not yet been completed due to adverse weather events. Mr Jones will follow up on this pending work with the relevant contractor.

Resolved minute number 22/AIN/017

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure meetings' be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr R Lambert. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - June 2022

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 22/AIN/018

That the Chair's Report – June 2022 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Assets and Infrastructure Report - May 2022

It was noted that the FAR rate included in the report (63%) was incorrect. The current FAR rate is 65%, reducing to 64% for 2022/23 and 63% for 2023/24.

In response to a query, Mr Jones advised that they were still waiting for Waka Kotahi to approve the emergency funding, but that there was no reason to expect that it would not be approved. Similar delays had been seen at other councils in the district.

Cr Ash suggested that the speed limit in the Mangaweka township be lowered, as the current speed limit is too dangerous. Mr Waugh advised that staff's ability to enact this is limited as it is a state highway, but they would pass on the councillors concerns to Waka Kotahi. The Mayor noted that as

there was a school near the main road in Mangaweka, the speed limit on this section of state highway would be included within Waka Kotahi's review of speed limits around schools.

Mr Beggs advised that he had received a similar request from a ratepayer, asking that the speed limit at the intersection of Rowes Road and SH 1 (north of Hunterville) be lowered as they felt it was a dangerous intersection. Staff to pass this on to Waka Kotahi.

In response to a query, Mr Geerkens advised that the sealing of Main Street, Station Road and Matai Street intersection would be carried-forward to the next financial year. However, staff were hoping that the sealing of Hereford Street would be completed within the next two weeks.

The Mayor noted that Council is facing a \$3.3m carry forward on operational costs for roading and asked if there was any opportunity to engage with Waka Kotahi to use that money for other road maintenance. Mr Jones advised that unfortunately staff do not have the flexibility to do this, as the 'maintenance and renewals' budgets are locked in by Waka Kotahi. Staff intend to rationalise within the 'maintenance and renewals' programme to see how much work can be achieved, but they expect there to be a surplus. Mr Jones advised that WSP has been commissioned to write a contract for next year's rehabilitation work and put it out to tender – this should allow staff to catch up on works within the three-year programme, although there will continue to be challenges around staff resources (from contractors) and material shortages.

Mr Waugh explained that Waka Kotahi are happy for funds to be carried-forward within the three-year programme, but not beyond the end of the third year.

In response to a query about the responsibility of land owners to clear blocked drains alongside the road next to their property, Mr Jones advised that often the landowner will defer responsibility to Horizons, who will likewise defer responsibility to another party. In some cases, it is more practical for roading staff to foot the bill to get a drain cleared in a timely manner.

Cr Ash left the meeting at 9.49 am.

The Committee agreed that a practical approach to these sorts of issues was prudent, in order to avoid issues becoming worse or re-occurring unnecessarily.

Cr Ash returned to the meeting at 9.53 am.

In response to a query, Mr Geerkens advised that Hunterville's signage will be revisited in year three of the roading programme.

In response to a query, Mr Geerkens advised that the work at Cobber Kain Avenue will take place in 2022/23.

The lack of 'near misses' in the report from Higgins (p. 27 of the Order Paper) was queried. Mr Waugh noted that he would have expected to see more than this and that he will follow up with the contractor.

In response to queries about the Mangaweka Bridge, Mr Jones advised that an independent safety audit will be completed once all work is completed, the bridge has been designed to take the heaviest vehicle traffic, and future costs for maintenance of the surrounding infrastructure will fall to whichever council has jurisdiction on the relevant side of the river.

Mr Waugh explained that the water restriction notice currently in effect in Taihape is due to the water treatment plant's limited ability to process excessive volumes of water at a fast enough rate to sufficiently replenish the reservoir. There are no quality issues with the plant's ability to treat water. Mr Beggs advised that he has asked the Chief Operating Officer to investigate long-term solutions to the plant's capacity limitations. Cr Wilson requested that staff keep the northern ward councillors up to date on this investigation.

In response to a query, Mr Waugh advised that the use of water in Taihape has not reduced despite the public notices around conserving water.

In response to a query, Mr Benadie advised that staff are confident that Council will be able to comply with the new drinking water standards. Mr Waugh noted that a lot of the new standards are around better reporting.

In response to a query, Mr Benadie advised that the drop off in recycling was concerning, but that this was likely due in part to COVID-19 and the reduced market for recyclables.

Resolved minute number 22/AIN/019

That the Assets and Infrastructure Report – May 2022 be **received**.

Cr B Carter/Cr N Belsham. Carried

9.2 Waka Kotahi - Technical Audit Report 2022

In response to a query, Mr Jones advised that the acronym RSLCMP (sect r3.4) refers to a 'life cycle management plan'.

Mr Jones advised that many of these recommendations from Waka Kotahi were to do with better reporting and processes, and others (such as R3.2, R5.1, R5.2, and R5.3) were to do with increasing safety. Waka Kotahi want Council to undertake sealed road condition rating surveys on a yearly basis, rather than bi-yearly as is currently done.

Mr Beggs advised that staff receive a lot of requests for service to do with regrading roads. He advised that although staff could adopt a more proactive approach to road maintenance, there would obviously be additional costs as more people would need to be employed. He wished to raise this as a future discussion for elected members. The Committee agreed that this topic should be included in a future workshop.

Resolved minute number 22/AIN/020

That the Waka Kotahi – Technical Audit Report 2022 be received.

Cr G Duncan/Cr A Gordon. Carried

The meeting closed at 10.51 am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Assets/Infrastructure Committee held on 11 August 2022.

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Chairperson