



Rangitikei District Council

Inaugural Council Meeting

Minutes – Thursday 20 October 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

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Present: His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Cath Ash
Cr Richard Aslett
Cr Jane Dunn
Cr Angus Gordon
Cr Dean McManaway
Cr Soraya Peke-Mason
Cr Graeme Platt
Cr Ruth Rainey
Cr Lynne Sheridan
Cr Dave Wilson

In attendance: Mr Ross McNeil, Chief Executive
Mr Michael Hodder, Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager
Ms Carol Downs, Executive Officer
Ms Samantha Kett, Governance Administrator

1 Council Prayer

The Mayor-elect read the Council Prayer.

2 Welcome and introduction from the Chief Executive

From the chair, the Chief Executive informed the meeting of some housekeeping matters and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He congratulated all Councillors on their election to Rangitikei District Council and wished them all well for the triennium.

He urged Council to acknowledge the community support that got them here but that they needed to adopt a 'District-Wide' approach when making decisions for the District.

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Nil

4 Mayor's declaration and installation

I, Andy Watson, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Rangitikei District, the powers, authorities, and duties vested or imposed upon me as the Mayor of the Rangitikei District Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

The Mayor took the Chair.

5 Declaration by Councillors

Councillors made the declaration below in the following order:

Cr Cath Ash

Cr Richard Aslett

Cr Nigel Belsham

Cr Jane Dunn

Cr Angus Gordon

Cr Dean McManaway

Cr Soraya Peke-Mason

Cr Graeme Platt

Cr Ruth Rainey

Cr Lynne Sheridan

Cr Dave Wilson

I,, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Rangitikei District, the powers, authorities, and duties vested or imposed upon me as a member of the

Rangitikei District Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

All declarations were duly signed by the Mayor and Councillors.

6 Address from the Mayor

The Mayor made the following address to Council and tabled hard copies of his speech:

It is a privilege to lead Council, and the election result, I view as one of giving a clear mandate to this Council, which says we are on track and the District agrees with the programme we have put in place for the future.

Before we look to the future I would like to acknowledge the exiting councillors, Mike Jones, Tim Harris and Rebecca McNeil, on behalf of the district I thank them for the huge commitment they have given; at times this isn't an easy job and they served the district well.

I would also like to acknowledge the enormous amount of support that I, and Councillors have had from our Chief Executive, Ross McNeil and the staff of Council. We cannot do our job or plan for the future without in the work done by our staff – the in-depth reports, financial analysis and overall support we receive.

Where do I want to see the Council priorities in this triennium? We need to focus on continuing the work in economic development and making gains through the Regional Growth Study. I believe that we have put in place the policies to help economic growth but to harvest these opportunities we need the Council to be seen as facilitating business and being user-friendly. I think there is also an opportunity for Council, with help from the private sector, to market our district. We have affordable housing options in one of the most attractive and diverse districts, we have a variety of first class education facilities and it is up to us to tell that story. Council has an opportunity through the Regional Growth Study, supported by Government. Because of the various mayoral changes surrounding us we need to step up and lead, by facilitating regional cohesion within our district. I welcome these new mayors but also acknowledge the service the past mayors have given to Local Government New Zealand and our Region.

The district has strongly endorsed our future plans, which include new facilities in our three principal towns, and a lot of the next three years will be devoted to making those a reality.

I think the existing Council structure of our Finance and Performance, Policy and Planning and Assets and Infrastructure committees has worked well. If I look at the workload over the next three years and reflect on the previous work that has gone into the Bulls consultation, we will have an incredibly busy next three years.

It is my intention, at the next Council meeting, to name the committee chairs and deputy chairs and portfolios responsibilities for various councillors, in an effort to spread and delegate some of the work requirements.

To the new and returning Councillors - congratulations on your election. It's nice to see some family members here to support you as this is a significant milestone in your lives.

From a personal basis I would like to thank my wife Beth for giving me the opportunity to be again involved with Council over the next three years.

7 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor made the following announcement:

Under section 41A(3) of the Local Government Act, I as Mayor have decided to appoint Cr Nigel Belsham as Deputy Mayor. This appointment is a reflection on the esteem in which he is held by myself and fellow Councillors.

His Worship the Mayor informed Council that the Chair's and Deputy Chairs of Council's Committees would be confirmed at Council's meeting on 3 November 2016.

His Worship the Mayor acknowledged the presence of Helen Worboys, Mayor-elect for Manawatu District Council, and Bruce Gordon, Chairman of Horizons Regional Council.

8 Legislation requiring general explanation at the first meeting

Mr McNeil spoke briefly to his report, highlighting the main points that Councillors needed to become familiar with.

Resolved minute number **16/RDC/277** **File Ref**

That the report on "Legislation requiring general explanation at the first meeting" be received and the information noted.

Cr Aslett / Cr Sheridan. Carried

9 First meeting

Resolved minute number **16/RDC/278** **File Ref**

That the first meeting of Council be held on Thursday 3 November 2016, commencing at 1.00pm.

Cr McManaway / Cr Peke-Mason. Carried

10 Meeting closed – 8.06pm

Confirmed/Chair: _____

Date: _____