



# Rangitikei District Council

## Inaugural Council Meeting

Minutes – Thursday 24 October 2019 – 7:30 p.m.

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**Present:** His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson  
Cr Nigel Belsham  
Cr Cath Ash  
Cr Brian Carter  
Cr Fiona Dalgety  
Cr Gill Duncan  
Cr Jane Dunn  
Cr Angus Gordon  
Cr Tracey Hiroa  
Cr Richard Lambert  
Cr Waru Panapa  
Cr Dave Wilson

**In attendance:** Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive  
Mr Michael Hodder, Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager  
Ms Jo Devine, GM – Finance and Business Support  
Mr Arno Benadie, Principal Advisor – Infrastructure  
Ms Carol Gordon, Customer Services & Communications Team Leader  
Mr Lequan Meihana, Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua  
Ms Nardia Gower, Strategic Advisor - Youth  
Ms Alyssa Takimoana, Executive Assistant  
Mr George Forster, Policy Advisor  
Ms Bonnie Clayton, Governance Administrator

## **1 Council Prayer**

Mr Waru Panapa read the Council Prayer in Te Reo Maori.

## **2 Welcome and introduction from the Chief Executive**

From the chair, the Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulating newly elect Councillors.

Mr Beggs welcomed Rangitikei Youth Council representatives in attendance and looks forward to meeting them and getting to know more about the Rangitikei Youth Council. He spoke about his own Powhiri only two days earlier, being welcomed as the Rangitikei District Council's new Chief Executive and updating his friends and family of his excitement of his recent move to the district.

Finishing off, Mr Beggs acknowledged the strong sense of community over the past few days noting that the people he has been chosen to represent (Council staff) are an amazingly talented group.

## **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 placed the Mayoral chains around his neck and took the Chair.

## **5 Declaration by Councillors**

Newly elect Councillors made their declaration in the following order:

- Cr Cath Ash
- Cr Nigel Belsham
- Cr Brian Carter
- Cr Fiona Dalgety
- Cr Gill Duncan
- Cr Jane Dunn
- Cr Angus Gordon
- Cr Tracey Hiroa
- Cr Richard Lambert
- Cr Waru Panapa
- 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.*

*Ko ahau, ko....., e oati ana ka whai ahau i te pono me te tōkeke, i runga hoki i te mutunga kē mai nei o āku pūkenga, o āku whakatau hoki kia whakatutuki, kia mahi anō hoki i te mana whakahaere, te mana whakatau me ngā momo mahi kua ūhia ki runga i a ahau kia whiwhi painga mō te takiwā o Rangitikei hei Kai-kaunihera o te Kaunihera-ā-rohe o Rangitikei, e ai hoki ki te Ture Kāwanatanga-ā-Taiao 2002, ki te Ture Kāwanatanga-ā-Taiao Whakapae me te Hui 1987, me ētahi Ture anō rānei.*

*I tohungia i Tutaenui (Rangitikei) i te 24 o ngā rā, Whiringa-ā-nuku 2019.*

Cr Tracey Hiroa and Cr Waru Panapa delivered their declaration in Te Reo Maori.

All declarations were duly signed by the Mayor and Councillors.

## **6 Address from the Mayor**

The Mayor made the following address to Council:

*It is an honour and a privilege to be elected as Mayor of the Rangitikei District for the third time although it seems strange not to have gone through the voting process.*

*I endorse the words of our Chief Executive Peter Beggs in welcoming thanking everyone for attending this Inaugural Council meeting. It is pleasing to see family and whanau attending to witness the signing in of new Councillors. I thank the Ratana band for attending and I ask the Youth Council members to stand so that we can acknowledge their presence and the support they have provided to the election process. I suspect that some of you will serve in a Councillor capacity here or elsewhere.*

*I thank our Koumatua Dr. Mike Paki for his assistance and to Lequan for his work in organising the Powhiri.*

*It is appropriate that I acknowledge those that have come before us. On a personal level just before I was elected as Mayor for the first time my mother passed away something that I reflect on at this time, her father my grandfather was Mayor of Palmerston North Council for ten years and she would have been moved to see me follow his footsteps.*

*I acknowledge the Councillors and Mayors that have come before me. We have had six Councillors stand down for this election and we owe them a considerable amount as a district.*

*Council has recently appointed Peter Beggs as our new Chief Executive, a position that he thoroughly deserved to win. I would like to ask Peter to introduce himself to the meeting.*

*Ross Mc Neil has served as our Chief Executive for the past 7 years and he has led the strategy and direction capably for the LTP (long term plan) and guided us well and I pass on my thanks. Also, I would like to recognise the role that our acting Chief Executive Michael Hodder has performed before Peter's induction, he has effectively kept the wheels turning.*

*To my knowledge this is the first time that two Councillors have signed their declarations in Te Reo, which is welcomed and a sign of the times moving forward.*

*To Councillors, congratulations you have been elected from your peers, it is a brave step to stand for Council and I also congratulate those people who put themselves up for election that did not get to sit at this table.*

*As Councillors you take over from a successful council, so you have a lot to live up to.*

*I remind you that you have been elected in your wards but you have a responsibility for the district at large. You need to adopt a district wide approach when making decisions.*

*Our annual plan/long term plans indicate the highest capital spend in our district history, with many new builds and infrastructure replacement. It will be a busy year especially in the first few months.*

*Our district is growing, industry is wanting to come here and our population is increasing; this is a great time to be a Councillor.*

*In the next item of the agenda I will be naming Cr Nigel Belsham as my deputy. He is an invaluable asset, I have had frank conversations with the elect Councillors and Nigel was the automatic choice.*

*I welcome Peter as our new Chief Executive and thank staff for their work guiding Council and for being the operational arm of Council.*

*Andy Watson, Mayor Rangitikei.*

## **7 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor**

His Worship the Mayor made the following announcement:

*Under section 41A(3) of the Local Government Act 2002, I as Mayor am formally appointing Cr Nigel Belsham as Deputy Mayor.*

Cr Belsham thanked His Worship the Mayor and that it is an honour to be working alongside him. He also thanked fellow Councillors for their confidence in him and looks forward to the next 3 years.

## **8 Legislation requiring general explanation at the first meeting**

Mr Beggs took the report as read.

**Resolved minute number**                      **19/RDC/344**                      **File Ref**

That the report on "Legislation requiring general explanation at the first Council meeting for the 2019-22 triennium" be received and the information noted.

Cr Belsham/Cr Wilson. Carried

## 9 First meeting

**Resolved minute number**                      **19/RDC/345**                      **File Ref**

That the first meeting of Council be held on Thursday 31 October 2019, commencing at 1.00pm.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Belsham. Carried

## 10 Meeting closed

8.05pm.

**Confirmed/Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: