



Rangitikei District Council

Council Meeting – Emergency meeting

Agenda – Tuesday 24 March 2020 – 1:00 PM

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Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive – *in person*
Mr Michael Hodder, Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager – *via zoom*
Ms Jo Devine, Group Manager – Finance and Business Support – *in person*
Mr Arno Benadie, Principal Advisor – Infrastructure – *in person*
Ms Nardia Gower, Strategy and Community Planning Manager – *in person*

1 Open and Welcome

Opened at 1.05pm

2 Council Prayer

His Worship the Mayor read the Council Prayer.

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/076** **File Ref**

That the apology for lateness from Cr Panapa and Cr Hiroa be received.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Wilson. Carried

4 Emergency Meeting

His Worship the Mayor noted that, following the recommendation of the Chief Executive, Peter Beggs, this emergency meeting had been called due to the COVID19 pandemic situation. As such Council recognises it has set aside the public notification process for meetings.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/077** **File Ref**

That Council endorse holding an emergency meeting on 24 March 2020 as recommended by the Chief Executive Peter Beggs to address the COVID19 pandemic situation.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Belsham. Carried

Noted that a quorum was met at the table.

5 Council decision-making during escalated response to COVID-19

The meeting discussed the memorandum. The Mayor and the Chief Executive would ensure communication with Community Committees, Reserve Management Committees, Rural Water Supply Management Supply Subcommittees and Community Boards during the period of suspended meetings.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/078** **File Ref** **3-OR-3-4**

That the memorandum 'Council decision-making during escalated response to COVID-19' be received.

Cr Wilson / Cr Dunn. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/079** **File Ref** **3-OR-3-4**

That Council notes that during the period set for level 4 restrictions to apply under the national pandemic plan to contain COVID-19 staff availability will be limited and social distancing is a priority (both for meeting participants and the public who are in attendance), and agrees –

- Council continues to meet on the last Thursday of each month, as scheduled, maximising the use of technology permitted by law (including accessibility by the public);
- Council continues to meet in workshops as agreed between the Mayor and Chief Executive, maximising the use of technology; and
- all scheduled meetings of Council committees, including Te Rōpu Ahi Kā, community committees and community boards, rural water supply management committees and reserve management committees – are cancelled until further notice.

Cr Belsham / Cr Dunn. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/080** **File Ref** **3-OR-3-4**

That Council notes that lawful decision-during the escalated response to COVID-19 may be unachievable and delegates to the Chief Executive all of Council's powers, duties and responsibilities that Council may delegate to officers, including the ability to enter into any contract or to authorise any level of expenditure, subject to

- I. the Council being unable or unavailable to hold meetings that comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government Official Meetings and Information Act, and
- II. the Chief Executive exercising these additional delegated powers only in with prior consultation and agreement from the Mayor (or, if the Mayor is unavailable, the Deputy Mayor or, if the Deputy Mayor is not available the Chair of the relevant Council Committee,

and
- III. the Chief Executive reporting any decisions made under these additional delegations to elected members via email and to the next available meeting of Council.

Cr Wilson / Cr Gordon. Carried

6 Council Meeting scheduled for 26 March 2020

Rather than hold the scheduled meeting on 26 March 2020, which was problematic given the social distancing requirements in the level 4 alert for COVID-19 which would be in place by then, Council went through the 26 March Council Order Paper item by item and made the following comments and resolutions:

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/081** **File Ref**

That Council deals with necessary items as noted from the 26 March 2020 Order Paper for Council at the Council's emergency meeting of 24 March 2020

Cr Wilson / Cr Gordon. Carried

Item 6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/082** **File Ref**

That the minutes (and public excluded) of the Council meeting on 19 March 2020 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Dunn. Carried

Item 7 Mayor's Report

His Worship the Mayor noted that the District Plan Change has been put on hold as part of level 4 COVID-19 restrictions. His Worship the Mayor stated he would take email questions from elected members or they can be directed to Chief Executive.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/083** **File Ref** **3-EP-3-5**

That the 'Mayor's report and schedule' to the 26 March 2020 Council meeting be received.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Belsham. Carried

Item 8 2020/21 Annual Plan update

Workshop noted for April.

Item 9 Updated local governance statement

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/084** **File Ref**

That the 'Local Governance Statement for Rangitikei District Council' to the 26 March 2020 Council meeting be received.

and

That the Rangitikei District Council Local Governance Statement without amendment be adopted.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Dalgety. Carried

Item 10 Taihape Memorial Grandstand**Motion**

That Council does not pause on the development of the Taihape Amenities Block.

Cr Gordon/ Cr Wilson. Lost

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/085** **File Ref**

That the item 10 Taihape Memorial Grandstand lie on the table until the next full Council meeting.

Cr Belsham / Cr Dalgety. Carried

Item 11 Submission on review of Burial and Cremation Act 1964

At its meeting on 19 March 2020, the Policy/Planning Committee had discussed the points it wished to see included.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/086** **File Ref** **3-OR-3-5**

That the 'Submission on review of Burial and Cremations Act' to the 26 March 2020 Council meeting be received.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/087** **File Ref** **3-OR-3-5**

That His Worship the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, be authorised to sign [once drafted in final form] the draft submission to the Parliamentary Health Committee on the review of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964.

Cr Wilson / Cr Gordon. Carried

Item 12 Dangerous and Insanitary buildings policy – statutory review and consultation

At its meeting on 19 March 2020, the Policy/Planning Committee had recommended consultation proceed.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/088** **File Ref** **3-PY-1-20**

That that His Worship the Mayor and the Chairs of Assets/Infrastructure and Policy/Planning have delegated authority to work with staff with regards to the Dangerous and Insanitary buildings policy and statutory review and consultation

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Dunn. Carried

Item 13 Draft fees and charges 2020/21 for consultation

Council decided in the light of the financial impact on the community that the suggested new charges would not be included in the proposed 2020/21 Fees and Charges.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/089** **File Ref** **1-AP-2-1**

That Council approves the adoption of the proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2020/21 and supporting consultation material for public consultation, having removed the introduction of the new charges contained within.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/090** **File Ref** **1-AP-2-1**

That the Finance/Performance Committee be delegated to hear oral submissions to the proposed schedule and fees and charges for 2020/21

Cr Gordon / His Worship the Mayor. Carried

Item 14 Rates remission policy – statutory review and consultation

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/091** **File Ref** **3-PY-1-18**

That to meet the requirements of section 109(2A) of the Local Government Act 202, Council approves the adoption of the Rates Remission Policy and supporting consultation material for public consultation.

And

That the His Worship the Mayor Chairs of Finance/Performance and Policy/Planning Committee be delegated to hear oral submission to the statutory review of the Rates Remission Policy.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Dunn. Carried

The meeting adjourned 2.44 pm and reconvened at 2.56 pm

Item 15 Review of the provision of swimming pools under s.17A Local Government Act 2002

Council sought clarity over the Hunterville Pool.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/092** **File Ref** **6-RF-2-4**

That the 'Review of the Provision of swimming pools under s. 17A Local Government Act 2002' the 26 March 2020 Council meeting be received.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/093** **File Ref** **6-RF-2-4**

That the 'Review of the Provision of swimming pools under s. 17A Local Government Act 2002' be accepted as the required Section 17A review of swim centre operations and that the management and operation of the Marton and Taihape Swim Centres continue to be outsourced

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/094** **File Ref** **6-RF-2-4**

That in light of the findings of the section 17A review and the potential to secure a more cost-effective model for providing swim centres services in Marton and Taihape which better reflects user preferences, Council authorises the Chief Executive

- a- To negotiate an extension of the current contract with West End Aquatics for one + one years, and
- b- To include in the engagement process for the 2021-31 Long Term Plan a range of options for providing swim centre services in the District.

Cr Belsham / Cr Wilson. Carried

Item 16 Positive ageing policy and senior/kaumātua support

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/095** **File Ref** **1-CO-4-3**

That Council agree that Positive ageing Policy and senior/kaumatua support item lie on the table until further notice.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Wilson. Carried

Item 17 Consideration of Grant Schemes due to COVID-19

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/096** **File Ref** **3-GF-11**

That the memorandum 'Consideration of Grant Schemes due to COVID 19' to the Council 26 March meeting be received.

Cr Dunn/ Cr Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/097** **File Ref** **3-GF-11**

That in relation to the Events Sponsorship Scheme

That the Community Grants Assessment Sub-Committee continue to assess Round 2 2019/2020 with a teleconference substituting the face to face meeting, following which any funds are held by Council and only paid if the event goes ahead.

Cr Belsham / Cr Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/098** **File Ref** **3-GF-11**

That in relation to the Creative Communities Scheme

Council follow the most recent recommendations by Creative NZ and that delegations further to that are for the Chief Executive.

Cr Belsham / Cr Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/099** **File Ref** **3-GF-11**

That in relation to the Community Initiatives Scheme

Council will amend the criteria for the upcoming round of applications due to open 4 April 2020 to be solely for initiatives that support community dealing in with COVID 19.

and

That the criteria and applications are assessed by a temporary committee be made up of His Worship the Mayor, Cr Dunn Cr Dalgety and Cr Panapa

Cr Gordon / Cr Dunn. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/100** **File Ref** **3-GF-11**

That in relation to the Sports NZ Rural Travel Scheme

That Council administer the fund as usual and any funds not used are returned in line with normal accountability procedures, and should Sport NZ given further direction prior to allocation of funds that Council follow their recommendation.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Dunn. Carried.

Item 18 Administrative Matters – March 2020

- Consideration of a zero rates increase in 2020/21 would mean reviewing what programmes work could be put on hold and could also extend to cessation of rate arrears.
- A heavy work programme was scheduled in the coming years: no increase in rates this year could mean a significant increase in the following 2021/2020. Current proposal (from the 2018-28 Long Term Plan) is a rates increase of 3.63% in 2020/21 and 9.25% in 2021/22.
- Provincial Growth Fund application for Marton rail sidings – teleconference scheduled for week following meeting.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/101** **File Ref** **5-EX-4**

That the report 'Administrative Matters – March 2020' to the 26 March 2020 Council meeting be received.

Cr Belsham / Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/102** **File Ref** **5-EX-4**

That, recognising the financial hardship to many people, organisations and businesses caused by responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council commits to exploring the implications of having no overall rates increase in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20.

Cr Belsham / Cr Gordon. Carried

Item 19 Top Ten Projects – status, March 2020

- Construction of the new Bulls Community Centre is on hold.
- The contractor repairing the Marton B and C Dams has advised Council that his business, and therefore this project, is on hold while New Zealand in at Level 4 alert for COVID-19.
- Concern was raised with winter approaching and the dam not capable or safe for holding the anticipated rainfall.

- Council would struggle to argue the case that this is essential work under the government's current guidelines.
- Any supplier contracting to Council is making their own decisions on continuing business with the COVID situation.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/103** **File Ref** **5-EX-4**

That the memorandum 'Top Ten Projects – status, March 2020' to the 26 March 2020 Council meeting be received.

Cr Wilson / Cr Gordon. Carried

Item 20 Minutes and recommendations from Committees

Council noted, but did not confirm the following recommendation from the Audit Risk Committee meeting held on 27 February 2020:

20/ARK/003

That, noting the issues on the West Coast, the Audit/Risk Committee advises it is concerned around the work planning and consenting timelines for remediation of the exposed Putorino landfill and requests Council to urgently take this concern to Horizons Regional Council and/or the Minister for the Environment regarding our environmental risk and reputation.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/104** **File Ref**

That the following minutes be received:

- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Sub-Committee, 3 February 2020
- Audit/Risk Committee, 27 February 2020
- Finance/Performance Committee, 27 February 2020
- Assets/Infrastructure Committee, 19 March 2020
- Policy/Planning Committee, 19 March 2020

Cr Dunn/ Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/105** **File Ref**

That the following recommendations from the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 19 March 2020 be confirmed:

20/PPL/018

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that the Bulls and District Community Trust is granted \$26,500 for their proposed 2020/2021 work plan.

20/PPL/019

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that Project Marton is granted \$30,500 for their proposed 2020/21 work plan.

20/PPL/020

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that Mokai Patea Services is granted \$8,500 for their proposed 2020/21 work plan.

20/PPL/021

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that the Taihape Community Development Trust is granted \$20,000 for their proposed 2020/21 work plan.

Cr Belsham / Cr Dunn. Carried

Noted: Conflict of Interest of Cr Ash, Cr Duncan and Cr Hiroa in relation to Item 20.

7 Finance Performance Meeting scheduled 26 March 2020

Council noted that, as agreed in Item 5, all Council committee meeting are cancelled until further notice and item of necessity dealt with through Council or other delegation.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/106** **File Ref**

That the delegation of Council's committees being Finance/Performance, Policy/Planning, Assets/Infrastructure and Audit/Risk be forwarded to Council until further notice

Cr Belsham/ Cr Dalgety. Carried

8 Public excluded

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/107** **File Ref**

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Property matters

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to this matter, and the specific grounds under Section

48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing of this resolution
Item 1 Property matters	To enable the local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) – <i>section 7(2)(i)</i> .	Section 48(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 Dunn / Cr Dalgety. Carried

20/RDC/108

20/RDC/109

20/RDC/110

20/RDC/111

20/RDC/112

20/RDC/113

9 Open Meeting

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/114** **File Ref**

That the public excluded meeting move into an open meeting, and the following recommendations:

20/RDC/112: That Council awards Contract C1092 Mangaweka rising Main to Blackley Construction Ltd. For a total value of \$297,775.78 exclusive of GST but including 10% contingency.

Cr Dunn / Cr Dalgety. Carried

10 Close Meeting

4.20pm

Confirmed/Chair: _____

Date: