



Rangitikei District Council

Council Meeting

Agenda – Thursday 30 April 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

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Public excluded minutes are provided separately to Elected Members

The quorum for the Council is 6.

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 31 October 2019) 11.1 provide: The quorum for Council is half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

Note: While the epidemic notice is in force for COVID-19, all Elected Members have the right to attend and participate in a meeting of the Council by audio or audio-visual link and be counted as part of the quorum for the meeting.

1 Welcome

2 Council Prayer

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

4 Members' conflict of interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

5 Confirmation of order of business

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting,.....be dealt with as late items at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes from Councils Emergency meeting held 24 March 2020 and Councils Extraordinary meeting held 23 April 2020 are attached.

Recommendation:

That the minutes (and public excluded) of Councils Emergency meeting held 24 March 2020 [as amended/without amendment] and Councils Extraordinary meeting held 23 April 2020 [as amended/without amendment] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

7 Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report and schedule are attached.

File ref: 3-EP-3-5

Recommendation:

That the 'Mayor's report and schedule' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.

8 Joint regional agreement with Te Awa Community Foundation

An outcome of the recent meeting of regional leaders was a commitment to sign a joint agreement with Te Awa Community Foundation. The agreement and frequently asked questions about the Trust are attached.

Recommendation:

That His Worship the Mayor, on behalf of the Rangitikei District Council, be authorised to sign the joint regional agreement with Te Awa Community Foundation.

9 Financial snapshot - March 2020

A report is attached.

File ref: 5-FR-4-1

Recommendation:

That the memorandum 'Financial snapshot – March 2020' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.

10 Developing a COVID-19 response package

A memorandum is attached.

File ref: 1-ER-2-4

Recommendations:

- 1 That the memorandum 'Developing a COVID-19 response package' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.
- 2 That Council approves a public statement clarifying that in response to COVID-19:
 - Small to medium businesses will be paid weekly following receipt of invoices rather than on the 20th day of the month following an invoice.
 - There will be no increase in fees and charges (or any new fees) in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20, and there will continue to be no borrowing or overdue charges at the District libraries.
 - A refund of half the annual fees received for use of Council's sportsfields will be made to sporting organisations
 - A refund of three months' licence fees will be made to all food outlets, hairdressers and other registered premises operating in the District and closed during alert 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 response.
 - A refund of application fees lodged for building or resource consents which are withdrawn because of hardship or other issues associated with the COVID-19 alerts.
 - Ratepayers (including those liable for water rates) and Council tenants are invited to enter into a payment agreement with the Council which will mean there are no penalties for late payment.
 - That Council is considering its rates remission policy and future rates increases, and will advise in June 2020 the outcomes of these considerations, this timeframe allowing officers to explore the more far-reaching impacts, to have a detailed look at reducing expenditure, and to apply a formal decision making approach.

- 3 That the Chief Executive provide a report to the 28 May 2020 Council meeting on how the provisions in Council's rates remission policy for remitting rates on the grounds of financial hardship could be applied in response to COVID-19.
- 4 That the draft 2020/21 Annual Plan for consideration at Council's meeting on 28 May 2020 considers how this year's average rate increase of 3.63% can be maintained into 2020/21 rather than the 5.31% increase projected in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, by recognising as intergenerational costs (and thus funding through debt) the remediation of the historic Putorino landfill and the three waters strategy.

11 Establishing a new Mayoral relief fund trust in response to Covid-19

A memorandum is attached.

File ref: 1-ER-2-5

Recommendations:

- 1 That the memorandum 'Establishing a new Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID 19' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.

- 2 That

EITHER

Council accepts the offer of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Whanganui Community Foundation to participate in its COVID-19 Response Fund

OR

Council establishes a Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19

- 3 That, if a Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19 is agreed to, the proposed trust deed [as amended/without amendment] be adopted (and executed in accordance with Council's Delegation register), with His Worship the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive (or his nominee) being three of the trustees, with the other three trustees being representative of Iwi, business and welfare organisations – to be selected by His Worship the Mayor and the Chief Executive, with those names included on the trust deed.

- 4 That, if a Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19 is agreed to, the Chief Executive arrange for an application to

EITHER

the Inland Revenue Department for donee status for Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19

OR

Charities Services for registration of the Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19 as a charitable trust under the Charities Act 2005

- 5 That subject to one of the applications in [the previous resolution – to be specified] Council grant \$..... to EITHER the Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19 and publicise the existence of the Trust and invite donations OR the Whanganui Community Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund.

12 Water Related Services Bylaw Deliberations

A report is attached.

File ref: 1-DB-1-11

Recommendations:

- 1 That the report 'Water Related Services Bylaw Deliberations' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.
- 2 That the Water Related Services Bylaw is formally adopted without amendment and publicly notified.

13 Grandstand on Taihape Memorial Park

A memorandum is attached.

File ref: 6-RF-1-12

Recommendations:

- 1 That the memorandum 'Grandstand on Taihape Memorial Park' to Council's meeting on 30 April 2020 be received.
- 2 That Council confirm that the construction of the new amenities building on Taihape Memorial Park does not imply an intent to demolish the Grandstand to avoid the cost of seismic strengthening.
- 3 That Council invites the Taihape Heritage Trust to lead a working party (to include Council representatives) to consider the long-term preservation of the Grandstand, including the lease of the structure to the Trust.

14 Local Government (Rating of Whenua Maori) Amendment Bill

This Bill aims to support the development of, and provision of housing on, Māori land and to modernise the rating legislation affecting Maori land.

It allows local authorities to divide separate rating areas from a rating unit on Maori freehold land provided that each separate rating area contains a dwelling and is used separately from other land in the rating unit. The apportionment of rates to separate rating areas must total to the rates payable on the land if it had not been divided into separate rating areas. One benefit of this arrangement is that an owner of a separate rating area will be entitled to apply for the rates rebate scheme administered by the Department of Internal Affairs. Local

authorities may also amalgamate multiple rating units of Maori land if used as one economic unit.

Owners of Maori freehold land under development or having an intention to develop may apply to a local authority to remit all or part of their rates; the local authority may do this if satisfied that the development will mean more employment or more houses or an increase of the rating base or support for marae in the District. This complements Council's rates remission policy on incentivising business expansion and residential development; it expands the remission for development currently provided in Council's rates remission policy on Maori freehold land.

Local authorities will be allowed to write-off arrears of rates on Maori freehold land which are considered not able to be recovered, including that of deceased owners. The amounts written off under these provisions must be disclosed in the notes to the annual financial statements of the local authority.

A draft submission is attached.

File ref: 3-OR-3-5

Recommendations:

- 1 That the draft submission on the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Maori) Amendment Bill be received.
- 2 That His Worship the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, be authorised to sign the submission [as amended/without amendment] to the Parliamentary Maori Committee on the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Maori) Amendment Bill.

15 Administrative Matters – April 2020

A report is attached.

File ref: 5-EX-4

Recommendation:

That the report 'Administrative Matters – April 2020' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.

16 Resuming meetings of Council Committees and Community Boards

At its meeting on 24 March 2020, having regard for the level 4 restrictions to apply under the national pandemic plan to contain COVID-19, Council resolved (20/RDC/079) –

- to continue to meet on the last Thursday of each month, as scheduled, maximising the use of technology permitted by law (including accessibility by the public);
- to continue to meet in workshops as agreed between the Mayor and the 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.

Subsequently, on 25 March 2020, the COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020 was passed, coming into effect on 26 March 2020. Section 8 amended Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 by adding clause 25B.

25B Modifications to clause 25A while epidemic notice in force for COVID-19

- (1) Subclauses (2) to (4) apply instead of clause 25A(1).
- (2) A member of a local authority, or of a committee of a local authority, has, unless lawfully excluded, the right to attend any meeting of the local authority or committee by means of audio link or audiovisual link.
- (3) To that end, a member may attend a meeting by means of audio link or audiovisual link despite—
 - (a) clause 27(5)(a); and
 - (b) any limitation or condition on the use of an audio link or audiovisual link that is contained in the local authority's standing orders; and
 - (c) anything else to the contrary in the local authority's standing orders.
- (4) For a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, the reference in subclause (3) to a local authority's standing orders includes any standing orders that apply to the Group under section 19 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.
- (5) Subclause (6) applies instead of clause 25A(4).
- (6) A member of the local authority or committee who attends a meeting by means of audio link or audiovisual link, in accordance with this clause, is to be counted as present for the purposes of clause 23.
- (7) This clause is repealed when the Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020 expires or is revoked.

This legislative change is continuing through alert level 3, whereas Council's resolution was specific to alert level 4.

Recommendation:

That Council, bearing in mind its resolution **20/RDC/079** of 24 March 2020 and section 8 of the COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020, determines that all scheduled meetings of Council committees, including Te Rōpu Ahi Kā, community committees and community boards, rural water supply management committees and reserve management will recommence two weeks after the Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020 expires or is revoked.

17 Top Ten Projects – status, April 2020

A memorandum is attached.

File ref: 5-EX-4

Recommendation:

That the memorandum 'Top Ten Projects – status, April 2020' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.

18 Minutes and recommendations from Committees

The minutes are attached.

Recommendations:

- 1 That the following minutes be received:
 - Community Grants Sub-Committee, 15 April 2020
 - Creative New Zealand Funding Assessment Committee, 21 April 2020

- 2 That the following recommendation from the Community Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 April 2020:

20/CGSC/004

That the Community Grants Sub-Committee recommend to Council to transfer the unallocated funds of \$1,724.55 to the Community Initiatives Funds to support recovery of Covid-19.

19 Late items

As agreed at Item 5.

20 Public excluded

Recommendation:

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

1. 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.

21 Open Meeting

22 Next Meeting

Thursday 28 May 2020, 1.00pm

23 Meeting Closed