



Rangitikei District Council

Council Meeting

Minutes – Thursday 30 April 2020 – 1:00 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, Group Manager – Finance and Business Support
 - Mr Arno Benadie, Principal Advisor – Infrastructure
 - Ms Carol Gordon, Manager – Executive Team
 - Mr Graeme Pointon, Strategic Property Advisor
 - Ms Gaylene Prince, Community & Leisure Services Team Leader
 - Mr George Forster, Policy Advisor
 - Ms Bonnie Clayton, Governance Administrator
- Mr Clive Pedley, CE – Giving Architects
- Late Item:**
- Naming Henty Lane (62 Bredins Line)
- Late Tabled Item:**
- Item 13** – Taihape Heritage Trust Letter
 - Item 17** – Bulls Community Centre patterns and samples

*This meeting was conducted using Zoom Video Communication.

1 Welcome

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting at 1.05pm.

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Nil

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,

- Naming Henty Lane (62 Bredins Line) Marton

be dealt with as late items at this meeting.

2 Council Prayer

Chief Executive, Peter Beggs read the Council Prayer.

6 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/118** **File Ref**

That the minutes of Council's Emergency meeting held 24 March 2020 (without amendment) be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

Cr Lambert/Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/119** **File Ref**

That the minutes of Council's Extraordinary meeting held 23 April 2020 (without amendment) be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

Cr Belsham/Cr Dunn. Carried

7 Mayor's Report

His Worship the Mayor took his report as read and thanked the community and staff assisting with welfare matters.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/120** **File Ref** **3-EP-3-5**

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

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Carter. Carried

4 Members' conflict of interest

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

Cr Carter and Cr Ash declared conflicts of interest to item 12, however it was noted that item 12 is an information piece.

8 Joint regional agreement with Te Awa Community Foundation

His Worship the Mayor welcomed Mr Clive Pedley from the Te Awa Community Foundation.

Mr Pedley explained that the Te Awa Community Foundation provided for place-based giving (particularly from bequests) in the Horizons region. There were similar foundations in other regions. Over time, a Rangitikei specific fund would be established, administered by a District Committee. He asked the Council to consider signing the in-principle agreement, as Palmerston North City Council and Tararua District Council had done. (Tararua had committed to ten years.) There is no human resource or financial commitment on councils.

Resolved minute number	20/RDC/121	File Ref
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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.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Gordon. Carried

9 Financial snapshot - March 2020

Ms Devine took the report as read and confirmed the typo had been corrected in the report.

Clarification was provided on the change in depreciation and the alternative solution being progressed with the Turakina Valley Road dropout.

Further updates in regards to capital expenditure and carry forwards will be provided at the 28 May 2020 Council meeting.

Resolved minute number	20/RDC/122	File Ref	5-FR-4-1
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That the memorandum 'Financial snapshot – March 2020' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.

Cr Dunn/Cr Carter. Carried

10 Developing a COVID-19 response package

Mr Beggs took his report as read and advised this was an Executive Leadership Team proposed item, for options to help the community, within budget.

Council sought (and was provided with) clarification over having a rates postponement policy, as another tool in the tool-box, noting that there are examples at Ruapehu and Horowhenua. Public consultation will be required on a draft policy.

Council acknowledged the balance needed between lowering expenditure and stimulating the District economy. To understand what was possible, Council sought further analysis on options to reduce the level of increase to rates in 2020/21 from 3.63% (the average increase in 2019/20). 2% was seen as a potential target.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/123** **File Ref**

That, in order to aid ratepayers affected by national emergencies, Council approve the development of a rates postponement policy for consideration at the 28 May 2020 Council meeting.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Ash. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/124** **File Ref** **1-ER-2-4**

That the memorandum 'Developing a COVID-19 response package' to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/125** **File Ref**

That, in order to minimise rates increases in 2020/21, staff prepare a report on what capital projects can be postponed and report back to the 28 May 2020 Council meeting.

Cr Belsham/Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/126** **File Ref**

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.

Cr Wilson/Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/127** **File Ref**

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.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Ash. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/128** **File Ref**

That the draft 2020/21 Annual Plan for consideration at Council's meeting on 28 May 2020 considers how this year's average rate could be reduced 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.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Gordon. Carried

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

Mr Beggs took his report as read.

His Worship the Mayor advised that having a Covid-19 specific fund, will allow the government and external funders to donate knowing funds are for those affected by Covid-19. Any grant from Council would be recognised as budgeted expenditure, which has happened before. There was no emergency fund at present.

Those in need requiring assistance can still apply for funds from the Whanganui Community Foundation.

His Worship the Mayor advised there is interest from funders to contribute to the Mayoral relief fund trust.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/129** **File Ref** **1-ER-2-5**

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

Cr Dalgety/Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/130** **File Ref**

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

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/131** **File Ref**

That, if a Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19 is agreed to, the proposed trust deed 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.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/132** **File Ref**

That, if a Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19 is agreed to, the Chief Executive will arrange for a suitable application as a charitable trust under the Charities Act 2005 or for donee status with the Inland Revenue Department.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/133** **File Ref**

That subject to one of the applications in **20/RDC/132**, Council grant \$5,000 to the Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Fund Trust for COVID-19 and publicise the existence of the Trust and invite donations.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Belsham. Carried

12 Water Related Services Bylaw Deliberations

Mr Forster took his report as read and advised that he had received feedback to amend the first paragraph in the purpose statement in the Bylaw to:

“The purpose of this bylaw is to provide safe and efficient public water supply, wastewater, stormwater and land drainage systems, to encourage economical use of these systems, to protect the associated environment and infrastructure, and to ensure Council’s compliance with resource consents associated with these systems, this includes discharges of trade waste to the Councils waste water system.”

Elected members were in agreement to adopt the amended Bylaw.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/134** **File Ref** **1-DB-1-11**

That the report ‘Water Related Services Bylaw Deliberations’ to the 30 April 2020 Council meeting be received.

Cr Dunn/Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/135** **File Ref**

That the Water Related Services Bylaw be formally adopted with amendment to the purpose statement and be publicly notified.

Cr Belsham/Cr Dalgety. Carried

13 Grandstand on Taihape Memorial Park

Ms Prince took the memorandum as read, and updated Elected Members of the following:

- The tabled letter from the Taihape Heritage Trust that supersedes any previous communication from the trust
- Removal work on the brick chimney was due to begin in April, however has been rescheduled for the week beginning 4 May 2020
- There is a heritage report dated 2009, which she will endeavour to locate

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/136** **File Ref** **6-RF-1-12**

That the memorandum ‘Grandstand on Taihape Memorial Park’ to Council’s meeting on 30 April 2020 be received.

Cr Duncan/Cr Gordon. Carried

Council discussed the merits of pausing the single-storey amenities building (agreed at Council’s meeting on 24 March 2020) over continuing with it.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/137** **File Ref**

That Council confirm that the construction of the new amenities building on the Taihape Memorial Park at the Tennis Court site does not imply an intent to demolish the Grandstand to avoid the cost of seismic strengthening.

Cr Gordon/Cr Hiroa. Carried
Cr Duncan. Against

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/138** **File Ref**

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.

Cr Duncan/Cr Hiroa. Carried

Meeting adjourned 3.14pm – 3.32pm.
Cr Hiroa left the meeting at 3.14pm.

14 Local Government (Rating of Whenua Maori) Amendment Bill

Mr Hodder briefed Elected Members on the draft submission. His Worship the Mayor confirmed he would ask to speak to the Parliamentary Select Committee.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/139** **File Ref** **3-OR-3-5**

That the draft submission on the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Maori) Amendment Bill be received.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/140** **File Ref**

That His Worship the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, be authorised to sign the submission without amendment to the Parliamentary Maori Committee on the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Maori) Amendment Bill.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Belsham. Carried

15 Administrative Matters – April 2020

Mr Beggs took report as read.

Mr Hodder provided an update on the District Plan Change, advising there was further engagement with a number of submitters to address their concerns; the outcomes of this will be set out in a supplementary paper to the Hearings Commissioners.

His Worship the Mayor noted he had written to the Minister for the Environment, David Parker, about accelerating the District Plan Change process.

The Chief Executive explained that the objective of the Government's 'shovel-ready' projects was to build impetus into the economy. Funding was \$800 million, transferred from the Provincial Growth Fund. The new Mangaweka Bridge was included, although the Government's funding came from the New Zealand Transport Agency. The Chief Executive noted that the Executive Leadership Team was developing a secondary 'not quite shovel-ready' list of projects, which would also include smaller-scale projects.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/141** **File Ref** **5-EX-4**

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

Cr Duncan/Cr Carter. Carried

16 Resuming meetings of Council Committees and Community Boards

The commentary was noted in the agenda.

All committees will be updated on Council's schedule of meetings when the Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020 expires or is revoked.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/142** **File Ref**

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.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Dunn. Carried

17 Top Ten Projects – status, April 2020

Mr Benadie took the memorandum as read and advised that the COVID-19 lockdown had slowed progress with the projects

The following updates were provided:

- Construction of the Bulls Community Centre will be delayed further. The date for having contractors on site has yet to be determined as the guidance for alert level 3 allows just one third of the previous number of workers to be present on site.

- The Chief Executive and the Department of Internal Affairs have been discussing how to secure the land required for the Ratana wastewater treatment plant
- Taihape and Marton are still under water restrictions

Council asked that an extra item be added to the Top Ten Projects reporting – update on subdivisions in the district, including Hereford Heights (in Marton) which is currently in process. Although this (and others) are not Council-led projects, they are significant developments (and require Council input).

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/143** **File Ref** **5-EX-4**

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

Cr Belsham/Cr Gordon. Carried

18 Minutes and recommendations from Committees

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/144** **File Ref**

That the following minutes be received:

- Community Grants Sub-Committee, 15 April 2020
- Creative New Zealand Funding Assessment Committee, 21 April 2020

Cr Dunn/Cr Ash. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/145** **File Ref**

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 from the Events Sponsorship Scheme of \$1,724.55 to the Community Initiatives Funds to support recovery of Covid-19.

Cr Belsham/Cr Duncan. Carried

19 Late items

Naming Henty Lane (62 Bredins Line) Marton

Last August the Marton Community Committee recommended Council approve Henty Lane as the road name. However, Council deferred consideration pending clarification whether this was a private or public road. The subdivision approval does not vest the road in Council but

the Council's road naming policy still applies. However, through an oversight, this information was not conveyed back to Council.

His Worship the Mayor advised that there was a family connection to the name Henty to the developers.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/146** **File Ref**

That the right-of-way into the nine-lot subdivision off 62 Bredins line, Marton, be named Henty Lane in accordance with Council's policy on naming of streets and roads.

His Worship the Mayor/Cr Wilson. Carried

20 Public excluded

4.28pm

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/147** **File Ref**

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.

Cr Ash/Cr Carter. Carried

20/RDC/148

21 Open Meeting

4.34pm

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/149** **File Ref**

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

20/RDC/148

That, His Worship the Mayor reply as delegated authority on behalf of Council to Entrada Travel Group (Intercity and Skip) showing support during these uncertain times.

Cr Lambert/Cr Carter. Carried

22 Next Meeting

Thursday 28 May 2020, 1.00pm

23 Meeting Closed

4.35pm

Confirmed/Chair: _____

Date: