



Rangitikei District Council

Council Meeting

Minutes – Thursday 17 December 2020 – 1:00 pm

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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 Angus Gordon
Cr Tracey Hiroa
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Waru Panapa
Cr Dave Wilson

In Attendance: Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager –Democracy and Planning
Mr Arno Benadie, Group Manager – Assets and Infrastructure
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Mrs Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture
Mr George Forster – Policy Analyst
Mrs Janine Simpson - Governance Administrator

1 Welcome

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting at 1.00 pm.

2 Public Forum

Santoft Domain Management Committee - Heather Thorby, Chairperson

- The proposal for the Domain has been three years' work including 19 committee meetings.
- The domain is a 22 acre paddock with no water and no power. There has been increased foot traffic from the beach highway and they are wanting to set up a multi campground area and venue facilities. The Domain is also used as a base for Emergency Response when required.
- There is money in the domain account of \$130,000 from forestry and grazing, no rate payers' money has been required.

Paul Geurtjens, Deputy Chairperson

- It is important to consult with interested parties and iwi early within the process.
- If we get approval we will put down a well and put in tanks, the best time for this work is from January to March.
- The domain is 22 acres so aside from the improvements they are planning to plant about 10 acres with pine trees, which will be a good source of revenue.
- They have also consulted with groups from Rangitikei Distant Riders who advise they will need a big area to park their horse floats etc.
- Here today to get Council's tick of approval, requiring sign off for the building we want and it will be designed to facilitate all groups etc.

The Management Committee require approval from the Council, this is crown land. Any improvements made at the Santoft Domain need to meet the requirements of the crown.

His Worship the Mayor asked if they would require a Councillor to attend meetings, previously Councillor Jane Dunn would attend. Heather responded that it would be helpful to have someone attend their meetings.

Rebecca Stevenson and Bridie Mccabe – Marton Moggies:

Rebecca and Bridie from Marton Moggies made a presentation to propose an additional law around desexing and microchipping cats.

- Bylaws in neighbouring councils in regard to getting cats desexed and microchipped are; in Whanganui aged over 4 months and Palmerston North over 6 months.
- With this new bylaw there is the potential for incentives, e.g. \$50 off desexing. Pricing of desexing varies but it is around \$75.00 for males and \$125.00 for females.
- The SPCA also provide free or low cost desexing and microchipping in their "Snip and Chip" Campaign throughout the country.
- Marton Moggies are currently in the process of registering as a charity. At the moment they get donations from people and fundraising.

Cr Belsham queried the enforcement for this bylaw, however it was suggested that it is hard to monitor individual cats and it was more around education as a lot of cat owners don't know that they should have their cats desexed.

His Worship the Mayor advised that the Council lends cat traps for stray cats.

Council Scholarship Recipients:

Monique Cheer:

- Monique was very grateful and appreciative to receive the scholarship, she has put a big effort this year and was very happy at prize giving to receive it.
- She will require a laptop, books and a uniform and said the generous amount of \$1,000 will be put to good use towards these requirements.
- Monique has big aspirations to complete a 3 year Bachelor of Nursing and specialise in becoming a Neonatal nurse.

Shardae McKenzie:

- Shardae expressed her deepest gratitude at receiving the scholarship, it was very kind and generous.
- Shardae was ecstatic to be offered a place into the Otiwhiti Station Agricultural Training School, the rate of cadet achievement at Otiwhiti is very high.
- She will use the scholarship to get some of the course requirements, including wet weather gear and gumboots.
- When asked why agriculture, Shardae responded that she is an outdoors person who loves animals and she likes the variety every day in the agricultural sector.

His Worship the Mayor advised Monique and Shardae that it was a pleasure to interview them and it was good to see that both of them knew exactly what they wanted to do in the future.

Mr Beggs said that he admired both presentations and congratulated them for being a flagship for our youth.

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Cr Gordon apologised for lateness, there were no other apologies.

4 Members' Conflict of Interest

There was no conflict of interest declared.

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 – to be dealt with as late items at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/505**

That the minutes (and public excluded) minutes of Council's meeting held on 26 November 2020 with amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

Cr Wilson/Cr Carter. Carried

7 Mayor's Report

His Worship the Mayor took the report as read. He noted that as part of the 26 November Council meeting he provided notes of a meeting held at the Taihape Squash Club on 17 November, in that report he had made the following comment:

That the club "had spoken with Gill Duncan who had said that the amenity block could go on the end of the Grandstand and that it was awaiting a Council decision. So they saw the plans that they are putting together as an alternative to that."

His Worship said that following a request from Cr Duncan that this comment be noted as inaccurate and raised this now so it would be included in the minutes from this meeting.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/506**

That the 'Mayor's report and schedule' to the 17 December 2020 Council meeting be received.

HWTM/Cr Duncan Carried

8 Follow-up Items from Previous Meetings

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/507**

That the report 'Follow-up Items from Previous Meetings' be received.

Cr Belsham/Cr Carter. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

Mr Beggs took the report as read.

Community Committee Support:

Cr Belsham asked about the provision of support to Community Committees. Mr Beggs advised that a statement was sent out to advise the Community Committees that the Council will support them remotely, most responses have accepted this change however one response suggested it could have been done in a better way. Each committee will be provided with a template that relates to their meetings.

Gifts and Benefits Policy:

A report is being sent out regarding Councillor's or Council Staff receiving any gifts, elected members were advised that any gifts received would need to be declared to the Chief Executive and will be noted on a registry.

Earthquake-Prone Listed Buildings:

There are number of public buildings listed that are earthquake-prone, an official note confirming this will be received for each building from the Council Building Control Authority. Those buildings identified need to be remediated within half the time available for other buildings in the same risk areas, in our case we have 7 ½ years for remediation.

If elected members get questions from the public, it is preferable they be forwarded onto the Chief Executive.

Bess of Flock House Committee:

His Worship the Mayor advised that he had an update from Tyrone Barker (Chair of the Bulls Community Committee) in regards the request for funding from the Bess of Flock House Committee. This is for the Posthumous Blue Cross Bravery Medal in honour of Bess the WW1 Horse that is being presented at her graveside on 19 December 2020. Mr Barker has advised that he will put in \$200 towards the fund. Council subsequently agreed to provide \$300.

2021 Meeting Schedule:

Changes to the schedule were advised, calendar updates would be sent to all elected members and committee members.

It was further noted formal submissions to the draft Long Term Plan will be from 15th March through to 16th April 2021, and Long Term Plan hearings will be held over the 21st - 22nd April 2021. Over the first two weeks in March we need to engage our sectors, there will be no formal consultation document.

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/508

1. That the report "Chief Executive's Report" be received.

Cr Ash/Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/509

2. That the Council endorsed the Bulls Community Committee recommendation to support the Bess Blue Cross medal presentation at Flock House on the 19th December 2020, for the amount of \$200.00 (Two Hundred Dollars), to be funded from the BCC's Small Projects Grant Scheme.
3. And that Council agrees to contribute \$300 towards the Blue Cross medal to Bess event to be funded from an appropriate budget.

Cr Wilson/Cr Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/510**

4. That, noting the amendments, the Council approves the 2021 meeting calendar.

Cr Ash/Cr Dalgety. Carried

10 Deliberations – Proposed Amendment to the Control of Dogs Bylaw

The discussion on the Control of Dogs Bylaw included the following:

- Currently the tools we can use are in Section 2.3 of the Act.
- This was originally brought up at a previous Council meeting, noting that we needed to look at whether a mechanism for dealing with large numbers of dogs at properties that cause a nuisance - the current bylaw doesn't specify a particular number of dogs.
- The proposed amendment was sent to 8,000 properties and Council received 49 responses to the amendment. At the previous Council Meeting, we received 6 presentations to the public forum in regards the amendment.
- Anecdotally there has been verbal engagement with the community and there seems to be a lot of support.
- Every residential property that has 3 or more dogs would need to apply for a permit to have multiple dog, the permit for the whole property is \$30 and lasts three years.
- The process will be that everything is taken into consideration and if there is an exception that will be noted, so in that respect, it is no different to a resource consent.
- There was a query asking if the intention is for the entire life of the dog? The example given was that if you had 3 dogs and signed up with Council, then added another dog you would then have to get a permit.
- Current good owners may apply for an exemption for the life of their dogs.
- We would still consult contiguous neighbours even if they are good dog owners, and the Chief Executive would make a decision.
- Owners with good dog owner status would have until 30 June 2021.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/511**

1. That the report on Deliberations – Proposed Amendment to the Control of Dogs Bylaw be received.

Cr Gordon/Cr Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/512**

2. That the Council does formally adopt the proposed amendment to the Control of Dogs Bylaw requiring residential properties that have more than two dogs to apply for a multi dog permit.

HWTH/Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/513**

3. That if the proposed amendment is formally adopted Council include in its future fees and charges a \$30.00 fee for a multi dog permit including GST, per property, for a period of three years.

Cr Wilson/Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/514**

4. That the proposed amendment would commence on 1 July 2021.

Cr Wilson/Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/515**

5. That consultation of contiguous neighbours is required before a property can be issued a multi dog permit.

Cr Belsham/Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/516**

6. That residential properties where there are currently three or more dogs would have until 30 June 2021 to be registered with Council and made exempt from requiring a multi dog permit unless they acquire more dogs after 1 July 2021.

Cr Wilson/Cr Lambert. **Lost**

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/517**

7. That current dog owners in residential areas with three or more dogs, providing they have obtained “good dog owner” status as defined by council, would be able to apply for exemption, up until 30 June 2021, for the life of those dogs. If further dogs are purchased or born they would need to reapply.

Cr Gordon/Cr Duncan. **Lost**

11 Adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Report

Mr Chris Webby, Audit NZ, and Mr Ashley Dahl joined the meeting to discuss the final changes to the 2019/2020 Annual Report. Mr Dahl noted the following:

- Changes have been incorporated into the updated and reformatted Annual Report which has been tabled.
- Page 78 – there is an adjustment of \$475k – we can now account for the expenses.

Mr Webby commented:

- It has obviously been a tough year, this is a good position to adopt at this time – some haven’t been able to.
- There needs to be a focus on Covid-19 implications.
- Key area focus – Bulls Community Centre work in progress at year end.

- In regards earthquake prone buildings – need to take into account earthquake costs of buildings, e.g. \$1m replacement, \$500,000 earthquake proof – the valuation will be \$500,000.
- The draft audit report has an emphasis on Covid-19 modified opinion on the complaints measure. We can't get the assuredness of completion of complaints so can't speak to that and DIA can't change it.
Mr Beggs noting that this approach from DIA will be contested for future Annual Reports.

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/518

1. That the Mayor and Chief Executive be authorised to sign the letters of representation addressed to the Council's auditor for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Cr Ash/Cr Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/519

2. That the Annual Report 2019/20 be amended by adding the final Audit opinion and an index, and that it be adopted as amended.

Cr Belsham/Cr Lambert. Carried

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/520

3. That His Worship the Mayor and the Chief Executive be delegated to approve the Summary Annual Report 2019/20 once the final Audit opinion is received.

Cr Ash/Cr Belsham Carried

Meeting adjourned 3.06 pm and reconvened at 3.24 pm

12 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session at 3.27 pm.

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/521

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

1. Items 2, 3, 4, - Minutes of previous meeting; Project Board Members for Marton Rail Hub; and Marton Rail Hub – Comprehensive Development Plan – Tender Evaluation Report

Cr Carter/Cr Hiroa Carried

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
Items 2, 3, 4 - Minutes of previous meeting; Project Board Members for Marton Rail Hub; and Marton Rail Hub – Comprehensive Development Plan – Tender Evaluation Report	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.

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/522

- 1 That the report on Marton Rail Hub – Comprehensive Development Plan – Tender Evaluation Report be received.

Cr Wilson/Cr Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/523

- 2 That the Council authorises the Chief Executive to sign the contract with WSP New Zealand Ltd for \$297,080 exclusive of GST, to be paid from the Infrastructure Reference Group funding for the Marton Rail Hub.

Cr Belsham/Cr Gordon. Carried

20/RDC/529 – 20/RDC/535

13 Open Meeting

The meeting moved back into an open meeting at 4.10 pm.

14 Top Ten Projects – Status, December 2020

Mr Benadie took his memorandum as read, and pointed out the following:

- Still looking for land in Bulls, will be providing a list of requirements including land size, soil quality etc to Real Estate agents and they will then know what we are looking for. Some land has recently been checked, however it was inspected and it was found the soils were not suitable and it was not big enough for our requirements. The pipeline is a complex problem as it needs to go all the way down to the Marton Plant, it will follow the road reserve and something will need to be designed to cross the Tutaenui stream.

- Had a visit at Ratana yesterday (16/12/2020), it was a positive day for the Council, Community and Government. Cr Panapa, who also attended, agreed the feeling around the table was positive.
- Mr Benadie asked if any of the Councillor's had contacts that he could discuss the Tutaenui Community Agricultural Water Scheme with, who are perhaps enthusiastic about it going ahead. Cr Dalgety advised that some in the community were not sure this was going ahead and have put their own water in. Cr Lambert has spoken to people who are still keen and he is happy to be involved. Cr Dalgety is keen to support it also. Mr Benadie will contact the Councillors Lambert and Dalgety to get the contacts for the discussions.
- In regards the Bulls Community Centre there was a query as to when the review will be done and when the report will be available to the Council. Schools have been using the under stage area for a changing room and the heat, due to no air circulation has been rectified. The Project Report will be completed in January. Ms Prince has met with some people regarding the Centre, but a questionnaire will be sent out to anyone who has booked an event at the Centre as we have their email address on the paperwork.
- In regards the Taihape Memorial Park – it was agreed Council needs to communicate its intentions and provide the proposed start date etc. A picture and a plan onsite showing where it will be sited will be installed, as well as pegs showing the location on the site.
- Tenders were requested for the Hereford Heights subdivision, however none were received.

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/524

That the memorandum 'Top Ten Projects – Status, December 2020' to the 17 December 2020 Council meeting be received.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Panapa Carried

15 Minutes and Recommendations from Committees

Resolved minute number 20/RDC/525

1. That the following minutes and recommendations be received:

- Hunterville Rural Water Supply Management Committee, 7 December 2020
- Assets/Infrastructure Committee, 10 December 2020
- Policy/Planning Committee, 10 December 2020

Cr Lambert/Cr Hiroa. Carried

16 Late Items

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/526**

As agreed at Item 5.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Carter Carried

Marton Playground Upgrade – Project Cost and Scope:

Cr Belsham declared a conflict of interest, doing this purely as a member of the Marton Development Group Committee.

Ms Adina Foley (Project Manager Infrastructure) advised the Council that more money needed to be spent than had previously been advised.

- The reason a decision needed to be made at this meeting was that any delay would hold up work.
- There was a query regarding the table stating “verbally agreed”, this was understood to be verbally agreed to by RDC staff (not Councillors). It has been agreed, but unfortunately there was no record kept of who it was agreed between.
- The amount required from the Council will fund the toilets, solar panels and drainage.

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/527**

That the report ‘Marton Memorial Hall Park Upgrade’ to the 17 December 2020 Council meeting be received.

Cr Belsham/Cr Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number **20/RDC/528**

That, due to the requirement to align Council’s schedule with that of the playground installation, Council agrees to a budget overspend of \$115,252.39, including \$10,000 contingency, for the Marton Memorial Hall Playground Upgrade project, noting Council’s total cost for the project will be \$389,952.39. To the extent that this unbudgeted capital expenditure is unable to be offset by savings in other capital projects, will result in an increase to Council’s debt.

Cr Wilson/Cr Dalgety. Carried

17 Tabled Documents:

Councillor Dalgety – Community Priorities Conference Ruapehu Council:

Cr Dalgety attended the conference and provided a report noting the following:

- The conference looked at working with local communities, showing Council’s value to Central Government.
- New Zealand is promoted as 100% clean but only 20% is recycled.
- There was discussion on food waste and hot composting

- Palmerston North is working on a rebrand.

Cr Duncan was also at the conference and had requested that the visual reports shown were circulated. It was confirmed that nothing in note or visual form has been received.

His Worship the Mayor confirmed that when a Councillor is funded to go to a conference, it is a requirement that a report is provided including the highlights from the conference and what the Councillor got out of it attending it.

18 Next Meeting

Thursday 28 January 2021, 1.00pm

19 Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 5.32 pm.