

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 9 June 2021

Time: 9.30 am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present: His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Cath Ash
Cr Brian Carter
Cr Fi 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 Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Mr Arno Benadie, Group Manager – Assets and Infrastructure
Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture
Ms Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner
Mr George Forster, Policy Advisor
Ms Nardia Gower, Manager – Community Development
Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Administrator

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The Mayor forewarned Council members that recent reductions in funding commitment from Waka Kotahi was likely to impact some of the decisions that would be made in this meeting. Mr Tombs advised that Council will receive around \$4.5M less in funding from Waka Kotahi over the next three years.

6 Reports for Decision

6.1 Identified Cost Savings for 2021/22

Mr Beggs advised that the items in this report came about as a result of Councils direction to the Chief Executive to achieve a 2% saving in operational costs. He said that he did not want to impact Councils level of service or staff salaries within these cost saving measures.

Reduce library professional subs

In response to a query about the reduction in library costs, Ms Prince advised that Council was receiving a grant that would offset this saving. This meant that there would be a saving in costs, but no reduction in service.

Decommission Magiq

In response to a query about the item Magiq, Mr Tombs clarified that this was actually an upgrade in software to a more modern version – not a decommissioning.

Insurance deductible on Material Damage to \$250k

Mr Beggs advised that staff looked at how much insurance had been claimed over a five year average and determined that costs could be saved by increasing the deductible rate on material damage (from \$20k to \$250k, which was more in line with the private sector), this would lower premiums.

Mr Beggs highlighted motor insurance as an example of where Council had spent more money on premiums than had been saved by having lower deductibles over the last five years. He acknowledged that there was a risk either way.

Reduce rate remissions

Mr Beggs advised that he is proposing to remove the discount for early payment of annual rates (currently 2.5%). This cost Council around \$65k in the last year.

Delete Festival Lighting

Mr Benadie clarified that this was a reduction in maintenance for Christmas lighting. The lighting may still go up, but could be reduced in number. Mr Beggs advised a correction to the item to 'delete festival lighting *maintenance*'.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.01pm and re-convened at 12.33pm.

7.9 Community and Leisure Assets

In response to a query, Ms Gray confirmed that the \$20k operating expense (per annum) would not include the loan portion.

Council agreed not to pass the motion, as there are other public toilets in the vicinity (at Te Matapihi for example) and it was a significant expense.

Recommendation

That Council includes capital expenditure of \$200,000 capital costs to install public toilets at Walker Park, Bulls in Year 2 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, and operational expenditure of \$20,000 per annum from Year 2.

Cr Carter/Cr Gordon. Lost

7.10 Community Wellbeing

Active Communities

The Mayor noted that it was important to take a regional view to this issue.

In response to a query, Ms Gray advised that the financial contribution would fund a portion of the co-ordinator role for this group.

Support for Community Groups

While Council voiced support for these groups, they noted that ratepayer money was not the right funding source and that there were other funds that could be applied to instead (such as the Community Initiatives Fund).

Impact Collective

The Mayor advised that both the Ruapehu and South Taranaki District Council's would likely commit a small financial sum. Council agreed that it was a worthwhile cause to support and be involved in.

Resolved minute number

21/RDC/138

That Council becomes a signatory on the proposed Regional Sport Facilities Implementation Plan Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Cr Gordon/Cr Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number

21/RDC/139

That Council financially contribute \$3,399 for years 1-3 of the LTP for the Regional Sport Facility Plan leadership and coordination role.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Dalgety. Carried

This was passed independently of the future strategy and reserve management plans.

Taihape Tennis Club

The original recommendation altered, as the wording could imply that the Kokako St Hall was the club's facility, but it is owned by Council. It was noted that the work should be capital expenditure and contracted out (not given directly to the club).

Bulls Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group

This recommendation was left to lie on the table. It was noted that Council had already agreed to the group being a party to a formation plan.

Taihape Squash Club

Cr Wilson clarified that this financial support only covers consenting costs.

Taihape Playground Group

Council decided that they would prefer to provide \$50k, rather than \$25k, as other Playground groups in Marton and Ratana had received \$50k in recent years and this would ensure a level of fairness and consistency across the district.

It was noted that while the group had done their own consultation with the community, further consultation would be beneficial, specifically around the location of the playground.

Marton Reservoir

The Mayor commented that a large number of volunteers had progressed this project and it had a high level of public interest. The group is well organised and has done a fantastic job.

Rangitikei Environment Group

In response to a query, Cr Gordon clarified that the funding (over \$1M) from the Ministry for Primary Industries was restricted to the private sector space – this funding request is for the roading corridors of the Rangitikei District.

Resolved minute number

21/RDC/147

That Council endorses:

- The development of the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy in Year 1 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan; **AND**
- For Taihape Memorial Park, Wilson Park, Marton Park and Bulls Domain, the relevant Reserve Management Plans will be reviewed simultaneously; **AND**
- That any community-led upgrades to these parks will be in accordance with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and relevant Reserve Management Plan (and for the Taihape Memorial Park the Urban Design Plan).

