



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 9 June 2021

Time: 9.30 am

- Venue: Council Chamber Rangitīkei 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 WilsonIn attendance:Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager Den
 - 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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1 Welcome / Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9.32am. Cr Lambert read the Council prayer.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/115

That the apology for Cr Raukawa be received.

HWTM/Cr Ash. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Cr Duncan declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 7.4 (Key Choice 2: Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand) as her husband is part of the heritage trust in Taihape that have supported the grandstand. She did not take part in the submission process for this. The Mayor acknowledged the declaration, but advised that it does not warrant a conflict of interest.

Cr Dalgety declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 7.12 (Roading, specifically recommendation 2: Watershed road). The Mayor accepted the declaration and conflict of interest.

Cr Gordon declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 7.14 (Parks and Reserves, specifically recommendation 9: Weed control). The Mayor accepted the declaration and conflict of interest.

Cr Dalgety and Cr Lambert declared conflicts of interest in relation to item 7.17 (Other Issues, specifically Hunterville St Johns Ambulance Station). Cr Dalgety is chair of the Hunterville Sport and Recreation Trust, who may end up being the holder of the funding of this money. Cr Lambert is also a member of the trust. The Mayor accepted the declaration and conflict of interest and asked both councillors to vacate the room during discussion on this item.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

Item 8 (Deliberations on Revenue and Financing Policy 2021) was discussed after item 7.8 (Proposed Changes to the Rating System & Rates).

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*'.

In response to a query about the availability of future lighting (considering the reduction in maintenance), Mr Benadie advised that Council will need to consider what the minimal level of service is and that this decision will come back to Council for a later decision.

Reduction in funding from Waka Kotahi

Council noted that the recent decision by Waka Kotahi to reduce funding to the Rangitikei District was going to have a significant impact on Council's ability to maintain roads. This is especially concerning due to the increase of forestry in the district – this will compound road degradation.

Council expressed a desire for the Mayor and Chief Executive to collaborate with other councils on responding to Waka Kotahi. The Mayor noted that it was an issue that also needed to be advocated directly to central government, as they govern the budget that Waka Kotahi have to work with.

21/RDC/116

Elected members unanimously voted for resolution 5 of this report.

Resolved minute number

That the Identified Cost Savings for 2021/22 report be received.

Cr Wilson/Cr Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/117

That Council accepts the indicative cost saving initiatives identified by the Chief Executive in the report, and will support future resolutions to implement those savings.

HWTM/Cr Ash. Carried

21/RDC/118 **Resolved minute number**

That Council request the Chief Executive to undertake a review of the Rates Remission Policy to be in place from 1 July 2022.

Cr Belsham/Cr Wilson. Carried

21/RDC/119 **Resolved minute number**

That a Working Group be formed to review the Rates Remission Policy, made up of; Cr Belsham, Cr Dalgety, Cr Ash, Cr Gordon, Cr Duncan and the Mayor.

Cr Belsham/Cr Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/120

That Council requests the Chief Executive and His Worship the Mayor strongly advocate in Council's interests in relation to the reduced funding indicated by Waka Kotahi, noting that reduced funding is likely to cause issues to our roading network such as decreasing pavement performance and lower capacity of drainage related assets to mitigate adverse weather events.

Cr Wilson/Cr Belsham. Carried

6.2 Adoption of Development Contributions Policy

discretion, although larger agreements (in terms of financial implications) may be presented to Council for support. In response to a query, Mr Beggs advised that the criteria for determining whether or not an

agreement is required (the minimum number of residences included in the scope of a development) is yet to be decided. Council requested that the Chief Executive provide a report to Council once staff have arrived at a decision on this criteria.

It was agreed the Policy would be reviewed during the next Council annual plan process in 2022.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/121

That the report Adoption of the Development Contributions Policy be received.

Cr Gordon/Cr Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/122

That Council adopts the Development Contributions Policy.

Cr Gordon/HWTM Carried

Resolved minute number

That the Policy on Development Contributions be reviewed in line with the 2022/23 Annual Plan process.

21/RDC/123

Cr Ash/Cr Duncan. Carried

Adoption of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2021 6.3

Mrs Gordon advised that this policy relates to when Council is legislatively required to consult with constituents on significant issues (such as the Long Term Plan). It does not cover daily communications and engagement with local communities, this is covered under a separate policy.

Resolved minute number

That the report "Adoption of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2021" be received.

Cr Wilson/Cr Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/125

That Council adopt the Significance and Engagement Policy without amendment.

Cr Wilson/Cr Gordon. Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10.44am and re-convened at 11.01am.

6.4 Deliberation on draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2021/22

21/RDC/124

The Council agreed to adopt the revised fees and charges, without amendment.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/126

That the report 'Deliberation on draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2021/22" be received

Cr Hiroa/Cr Ash. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/127

That the revised Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2021/22 be adopted.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Belsham. Carried

7 Deliberations Report - Consultation on the Long Term Plan for 2021-31 (attachment under separate cover)

Each section of the report was considered independently.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/128

That the Deliberations Report – Consultation on the Long Term Plan for 2021-31 be received.

Cr Ash/Cr Dalgety. Carried

7.1 Executive Summary

Taken as read.

7.2 Summary of Submissions

Taken as read.

7.3 Key Choice 1: Free Wifi Zones

Council noted that there had been an overwhelming negative response to this proposal, noting that wifi is available at public libraries and the people (such as rural residents) who have the biggest difficulties with internet access are unlikely to make significant use of public wifi in town.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/129

That Council does not roll out free wifi zones to townships in the District.

Cr Belsham/Cr Carter. Carried

7.4 Key Choice 2: Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand

Council acknowledged the strong public support for this proposal.

In response to a query around electrical upgrades, Mr Benadie advised that staff are looking at upgrades for the Amenities building and could amalgamate these into the same project.

Mr Beggs clarified that this these recommendations were around finalising investigations, and that a final decision would come to Council at a later date. The provision of \$1M was a maximum limit, and the total cost may be less.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/130

That Council continues to investigate the refurbishment and restoration of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand and how it will be funded in collaboration with the community, and includes a provision of \$1 million in the budget to complete this work (from cash reserves), noting Council will need to make a final decision in the future on whether or not to complete this work.

Cr Duncan/Cr Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/131

That Council directs the Chief Executive to finalise investigations and provide a report back to Council on the strengthening and restoration costs of the Grandstand, without changing rooms and toilets, which will be provided by the new Amenities Building.

Cr Duncan/Cr Hiroa. Carried

7.5 Key Choice 3: Economic Development

There was a general consensus that the public had not been communicated with well enough on this issue, prior to the proposal in the Long Term Plan.

Council agreed that although there was some uncertainty in this space, underinvestment was a greater risk than overinvestment and economic development is intertwined with other long term goals.

Resolved minute number

21/RDC/132

That Council increases funding for the Economic Development activity by \$172,500 in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan, and by \$122,500 for the following years.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Panapa. Carried

7.6 Key Choice 4: Event Sponsorship

There was agreement among elected members that events are a crucial driver of domestic tourism to the district, and an increase to the Event Sponsorship Fund would help to promote their development.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/133

That Council increases the Event Sponsorship Fund from \$25,000 per year to \$50,000 per year.

Cr Belsham/Cr Carter. Carried

7.7 Key Choice 5: Local Government Funding Agency as a Guaranteeing Member

The Mayor noted that the majority of councils who borrow money are a part of this agency.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/134

That Council becomes a guaranteeing member of the Local Government Funding Agency when necessary to meet Council's borrowing requirements.

HWTM/Cr Wilson. Carried

7.8 Proposed Changes to the Rating System & Rates

Mr Tombs explained how changes to the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) would affect the distribution of rates across different sectors.

Council acknowledged that the high re-valuations across the district had altered the significance of the UAGC. While there was disagreement about the fairness and equity of the current UAGC, Council voted to reduce it.

Council agreed that a differential for the forestry sector needed to be investigated, given the increase of forestry operations in the district and the reduction of roading funding from Waka Kotahi.

Recommendation

That Council does not reduce the Uniform Annual General Charge to \$500 from 01 July 2021.

Cr Duncan/Cr Dalgety. Lost

Cr Duncan and Cr Dalgety voted for the motion.

Resolved minute number

21/RDC/135

That Council establishes rating differentials of 1.2 for the Commercial and Industrial sectors and 1.5 for the Utilities sector from 01 July 2021.

Cr Wilson/Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/136

That Council continues its approach to engage with the forestry sector during 2021/22 to discuss the potential implementation of a differential on forestry land.

Cr Dalgety/Cr Lambert. Carried

Resolved minute number

21/RDC/137

That Council reduces the Uniform Annual General Charge to \$500 from 01 July 2021.

Cr Belsham/Cr Ash. Carried

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

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Resolved minute number

That Council does not contribute \$2,500 to Marton Community Patrol.

Cr Wilson/Cr Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/141

That Council does not contribute to Taihape Neighbourhood Support.

Cr Wilson/Cr Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/142

That Council commits to participate in the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui.

HWTM/Cr Lambert. Carried

Resolved minute number

That Council provides a signatory to the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui who would participate on behalf of Council as a trust board member and as a member of the Impact Collective Governance Leadership Team.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number

That Council contributes \$5,000 per annum (from Year 1 of the LTP) and Officers investigate what non-financial contributions can be made to the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui.

HWTM/Cr Hiroa. Carried

Amendment to 21/RDC/144

That 'per annum' be amended to 'Year 1 of the LTP'.

Cr Duncan/Cr Wilson. Lost

7.11 Regulatory

Taken as read.

7.12 Roading

Council noted that the recent advice from Waka Kotahi about a reduction in the level of funding over the next few years will have significant impacts on Council's ability to maintain roading. It was also commented that the implications of Waka Kotahi's recent advice are not yet fully understood, and that it was difficult to commit to more funding in light of this.

9 June 2021

21/RDC/140

21/RDC/144

21/RDC/143

Regarding Watershed Road, the Mayor commented that he had been shown the sections that was concerning one of the principal land owners. The landowner told the Mayor that the primary issue was the gradient of the road and asked for a slight re-forming to reduce the gradient. Mr Benadie stated that Higgins had looked at the road and advised that re-sealing was a cheaper option than re-grading, but that all of these roads required more investigation.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/145

That Council does not include additional budget or reprioritise the existing seal extension work programme, and that the sealing of Rangiwaea Junction occurs in Years 4-7 of the Long Term Plan.

Cr Wilson/Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/146

That Council reprioritises the unsubsidised sealing programme of Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan and reviews the need for all of these works in view of the requests from the upper Turakina Valley, Watershed Road and Mt Curl Road.

Cr Gordon/Cr Wilson. Carried

7.13 Three Waters

Taken as read.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.02pm and re-convened at 2.16pm.

7.14 Parks & Reserves

Request Investment in Parks

Mr Benadie advised that the development of the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy would occur simultaneously to reserve management plans. Council still needs to consider the individual submissions, although the outcomes of these may be subject to the future strategy and reserve management plans. One of the purposes of the strategy is to clearly layout future operating costs (e.g. maintenance costs) and responsibilities for completed projects. The strategy will take at a least a year to develop.

Council agreed to endorse the development of the strategy and domain management plans, noting that it was important to attach funding to individually projects in this report. Mr Tombs stated that certain projects could be funded out of either capital expenditure or operational expenditure, depending on the nature of upgrades.

Ms Prince advised that the yearly allocation of the Parks Upgrades Partnership Fund is \$100k, and this will reset 01 July 2021.

Wilson Park Development Group

9 June 2021

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).

Cr Belsham/Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/148

That Council provides \$25,000 to the Wilson Park Development Group for the upgrading of Wilson Park, from the Parks Upgrade Partnership fund.

Cr Wilson/HWTM Carried

9 June 2021

Amendment to 21/RDC/148

Add: subject to alignment with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and Reserve Management Plans.

Cr Gordon/Cr Hiroa. Lost

Recommendation

That Council provides a capital provision of \$100,000 to the Taihape Tennis Club for the upgrading of the Kokako Street Hall and construction of their facilities, subject to alignment with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and Reserve Management Plans.

Cr Gordon/Cr Duncan. Ruled out of order

Resolved minute number

That Council provides a capital provision of \$100,000 to the Taihape Tennis Club for the upgrading of their facilities (Year 2 of the LTP), subject to alignment with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and Reserve Management Plans.

21/RDC/149

Cr Duncan/Cr Gordon. Carried

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] provide approval for the Bulls Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group to investigate a proposal for the Bulls Domain.

Left to lie on the table

Resolved minute number

21/RDC/150

That Council agrees to provide financial support of up to \$10,000 (excluding GST) to the Taihape Squash Club, in the form of waiving internal consenting costs.

Cr Wilson/Cr Carter. Carried

Recommendation

That Council provides \$25,000 to the Taihape Playground Group for the upgrading of Taihape Memorial Park Playground, from the Parks Upgrade Partnership fund.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Duncan. Lost

Resolved minute number

That Council provides a capital provision of up to \$50,000 (in Year 2 of the LTP) to the Taihape Playground Group for the upgrading of Taihape Memorial Park Playground, subject to alignment with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and Reserve Management Plans.

21/RDC/151

Cr Gordon/Cr Lambert. Carried

0.11

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/152

That Council enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society.

Cr Belsham/Cr Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/153

That Council commits an annual contribution of \$10,000 (for Years 1-3 of the LTP) to the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society from existing operational budgets for the Marton Reservoir.

Cr Belsham/Cr Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number

er 21/RDC/154

That Council confirms funding of \$20,000 per annum and use of a Council vehicle for the Rangitikei Environment Group.

Cr Wilson/Cr Duncan. Carried

7.15 Rubbish & Recycling

Taken as read.

7.16 Community Leadership

The Mayor commented that while he was sympathetic towards the group and where they are at, it was difficult to justify this level of funding out of ratepayer money.

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/155

Council authorises Officers to engage in further discussions with Living Hope Samoan OAG to see what non-financial assistance can be provided.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Belsham. Carried

7.17 Other Issues

Cr Dalgety explained that St John have advised the trust to build their own facility, and that St John have agreed to lease the facility (once built) from the community. It was noted that any Council contribution would be an operational expense (not a capital expense), as Council does not own the premises.

Due to their declarations of conflict of interest Cr Dalgety and Cr Lambert left the room at 3.44pm.

Council deliberated on this decision and agreed to support the recommendation for financial assistance, as there is a precedent with Council providing financial support to the Taihape ambulance, and the Hunterville group have a good track record.

Recommendation

That Council contributes \$50,000 towards ambulance facilities in Hunterville, as the final funder.

Cr Dalgety/Cr Lambert. Ruled out of order

Resolved minute number 21/RDC/156

That Council contributes \$50,000 (of Year 1 of the LTP) towards ambulance facilities in Hunterville, as the final funder.

Cr Hiroa/Cr Duncan. Carried

Cr Dalgety and Cr Lambert re-entered the room at 3.52pm.

8 Deliberations on Revenue and Financing Policy 2021

Council commented that the report was a good representation of where Council collected rates from in the district.

21/RDC/157

21/RDC/158

Resolved minute number

That the report 'Deliberations on Revenue and Financing Policy' be received.

Cr Belsham/Cr Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number

That Council adopt the Revenue and Financing Policy without amendment.

Cr Belsham/Cr Ash. Carried

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 3.56pm and re-convened at 4.04pm.

The Meeting closed at 4.14pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 June 2021.

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Chairperson