

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 25 August 2022

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Brian Carter
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Gill Duncan
Cr Angus Gordon
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Waru Panapa
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Cath Ash [*via Zoom*]
Cr Coral Raukawa

In attendance

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager – Democracy and Planning
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Performance [*via Zoom*]
Mr Johan Cullis, Manager – Regulatory Services [*via Zoom*]
Ms Joanne Manuel, Manager – Community Development
Ms Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner
Ms Georgia Etheridge, Corporate Planning Advisor
Mr Philip Gifford, Project Engineer – Roading
Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome

The meeting opened at 1.02 pm.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/291

That the apology for Cr Hiroa be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr A Gordon. Carried

3 Public Forum

Mr Jock Stratton and Mr Paul McLaren tabled a map on the Erewhon Rural Water scheme. Mr Stratton advised that the scheme's unit rate was recently doubled in order to cover its financial deficit. It is projected that the scheme will require up to \$3 m over the next 10 years, which is beyond the scheme's capabilities. The Erewhon Rural Water Supply Sub-Committee wish to have an external review of the scheme carried out, which would include a review of the asset conditions and network performance. The cost of the review is currently unknown, and depends on the breadth of the review's scope. The Sub-Committee is requesting that Council cover 50% of the cost of the review, up to a maximum contribution of \$50,000.

Mr Beggs advised that a report on the scheme and this financial request will be submitted to the September Council meeting.

In response to a query, Mr McLaren confirmed that several sections of the scheme's infrastructure is reaching end-of-life.

In response to a query, Mr Stratton advised that if the scheme were to be disestablished there would be significant de-stocking required from current users.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Cr Duncan declared a conflict of interest in relation to the public forum presentation from Mr Stratton and Mr McLaren, as she is a user of the scheme.

Cr Duncan declared a conflict of interest in relation to the Project Management Officer report (specifically the Taihape Grandstand project), as she is now the Chair of the fundraising committee for the grandstand.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

A late item (Kensington Road, Marton – Plentyful lease and Purchase) was discussed in the public excluded session of this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/292

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 July 2022, without amendment, be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of His Worship the Mayor be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr R Lambert/Cr B Carter. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

Undertaking:

Staff to investigate the length of the licence to occupy for the unformed road at the South approach to Mokai Bridge and update action item 28 accordingly.

Cr Raukawa confirmed that she has been consulted regarding the correction of place names within the Destination Management Plan, and this (action item 18) can now be closed.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/293

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

Cr A Gordon/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - August 2022

Council agreed that a report identifying earthquake-prone buildings within the District should be provided to a future Council meeting.

In response to a query around the Three Waters Reform, the Mayor confirmed that both his position, and the position of Council, was that they do not support it. The Mayor detailed the reasons for this in the Council's submission to the Government's Finance and Expenditure Select Committee for the Water Services Entity Bill.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/294

That the Mayor's Report – August 2022 be received.

HWTM/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/295

That a report is presented to Council detailing the compliance status under earthquake-prone legislation for all buildings in the Rangitikei District.

Cr C Ash/Cr N Belsham. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - August 2022

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Update

In response to a query around the reduction in driver ratings, Mrs Grant advised that there has been no change in rating criteria and that individual staff are engaged with around any poor driving habits.

Staff Movements

Mr Beggs noted that high staff turnover is currently a sector-wide trend in local government. The Mayor agreed, noting that there is significant competition for staff from new central government entities.

Mrs Grant advised that staff have introduced exit interviews as a part of the offboarding process for departing employees. This process is offered to staff at the time of their notice of resignation. The uptake by exiting staff has been good so far. Any common trends that arise from this process will be reported to Council on a six-monthly basis.

In response to a query, Mrs Grant confirmed that employees are provided with the option of having an exit interview with an external interviewer.

Signing of Funding Agreement – Department of Internal Affairs and Rangitikei District Council

There was discussion around whether this agreement included any clauses that might inhibit the ability of Council to speak against the Three Waters Reform in future. In response to this, Mr Beggs advised that there was nothing in the agreement that caused him concern, and that he was comfortable that Council would not be subject to any undue risk in signing it.

Council agreed with the Chief Executive's assessment, noting that participation in the Three Waters Reform was not optional and that this funding would assist staff in providing the required information to central government.

The Future of Inter-Regional Passenger Transport

In response to a query, Ms Etheridge advised that the due date for feedback from elected members was 05 September. It was suggested that the Youth Council be approached for input on this submission.

Building Consent System Review

In response to a query, Mr Beggs advised that Mr Cullis is contributing to the BOINZ (Building Officials Institute) submission. Mr Beggs reiterated the new process on external submissions, advising that the Executive Leadership Team review submissions and decide which ones are

significant enough to come to Council and which ones can be responded to directly by staff. In some cases, there is insufficient time or resources available to provide a submission.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/296

That that Chief Executive's Report – August 2022 be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/297

That Council approves the Chief Executive to sign the Funding Agreement between the Department of Internal Affairs and Rangitikei District Council in order to receive three waters transition funding of \$353,000, paid in four quarterly instalments.

Cr N Belsham/Cr D Wilson. Carried
Cr Ash voted against the motion.

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Recent Weather Event Damage to Road Network

In response to a query, Mr Gifford advised that staff are in contact with several landowners with regards to blocked drainage on Mangahoe Road, although work to clear this will need to wait until summer.

Mr Beggs advised that due to the time-sensitive nature of this event staff are requesting approval to begin emergency works. Although the 84% emergency FAR subsidy from Waka Kotahi is not yet confirmed, there is precedent in place to support this funding and staff have previously received clarity from Waka Kotahi around their level of support. Staff are confident that the funding from Waka Kotahi will proceed as usual.

In response to a query, Mr Benadie advised that there are some provisions available for emergency funding. If these provisions are not sufficient, staff will bring other alternative funding options to a future Council meeting.

In response to a query about the possibility of depositing slip material on adjacent farms (with the landowners permission), Mr Gifford advised that Horizons Regional Council has strict rules in place around this process. Mr Benadie agreed, noting that it can be difficult to get these types of sites consented.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/298

That the report 'Recent Weather Event Damage to Road Network' be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/299

That the Council approves additional expenditure of up to \$825,000 and \$2,352,000 plus GST for roading emergency works for the May and June 2022 weather events, noting 84% of the expenditure will be claimed as a Waka Kotahi subsidy but that the claim has not yet been approved.

HWTM/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

10.2 Mayors Task Force for Jobs - Service Delivery

Council agreed that James Towers Consultants Limited should be offered the contract for the delivery of the Mahi Tahī programme, noting that they have the ability to engage with other sub-contractors as needed.

In response to a query, Ms Prince confirmed that James Towers Consultants Limited and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa have an existing commercial relationship.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/300

That the report 'Mayors Task Force for Jobs – Service Delivery' be received.

Cr R Lambert/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/301

That Council endorses the opt-out procurement rule (Rule 11) of the Procurement Policy enabling James Towers Consultants Limited to undertake the service delivery of the Mayors Task Force for Jobs/Mahi Tahī programme to 30 June 2023.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/302

That the Chief Executive be authorised to sign a contract with James Towers Consultants Limited not to exceed \$450,000 for the provision of the Mayors Task Force for Jobs/Mahi Tahī programme to 30 June 2023.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Duncan. Carried

10.3 Potential Projects for Better off funding - Tranche One

Mr Beggs advised that the Business cases for housing, Development of Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan, and the Acceleration of District Plan Review are already in the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

Acceleration of District Plan Review – Housing

The Mayor noted that \$227,000 of this money has been approved via the 2022/23 Annual Plan. In response to a query, Ms Gray confirmed that this money has not yet been spent and was waiting for approval from the Better Off funding process.

In response to a query, Ms Gray advised that the approval of this funding would allow staff to progress phase 1 of the District Plan Review prior to the Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond (Spatial Plan) being completed. The funding would be used to acquire another staff resource.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.03 pm and reconvened at 3.15 pm.

Hautapu River Parks Project, Taihape

The Mayor noted that this proposed work is similar to what was completed the Marton B and C dams.

Mr Beggs noted that the cost of depreciation and maintenance would be \$42,000 per year, but that this is subject to a future decision by Council. Council agreed that should funding be approved, a formal agreement should be established with the Friends of Taihape Society, for them to conduct ongoing maintenance of the bridge.

Town Centre Regeneration Investment Study

Council had reservations around this project, noting that it was a substantial sum of money and that the report on this was not very detailed.

In response to a query, Mr Benadie advised that the funding would be apportioned to Marton, Bulls and Taihape, and any remaining funding would be contributed to smaller centres.

Ms Gray advised that this project would be aligned with the Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei Beyond (Spatial Plan), and would include some wayfinding and streetscape development.

Investigation & Design – Flood Protection Marton CBD

Mr Benadie advised that as part of this project, a detailed design along the Tūtaenui stream would be completed, with the intent of then developing a high level design of measures to prevent significant flooding in the Marton CBD.

Council noted that flood protection is the responsibility of the Horizons Regional Council, and that ratepayers in Marton are rated accordingly. Despite this, Council felt that it was imperative to apply for this funding and progress the project.

Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti Support – Environmental and/or Cultural Projects

Council agreed to delay making a decision on this funding until the Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti have held a workshop (scheduled for 16 September) to discuss what they would use the funding for.

Investigation & Design – Taihape Civic Centre

In response to a query, the Mayor advised that this project is contained in the Long Term Plan 2021-31, and that this funding would allow staff to progress it more quickly.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/303

That the report 'Potential Projects for Better Off funding Tranche One' be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr A Gordon. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/304

That Council approves the following projects being submitted for Tranche 1 – Better off funding:

- Business cases for housing \$50,000
- Development of Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan \$75,000
- Acceleration of District Plan Review – Housing \$427,000

- Hautapu River Parks Project, Taihape \$375,000
- Town Centre Regeneration Investment Study \$200,000
- Investigation & Design – Flood Protection Marton CBD \$120,000
- Investigation & Design – Taihape Civic Centre \$1,853,000 (or balance of funds)

HWTM/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/305

That, should “better off” funding be received for the Hautapu River Parks Project, Council enters into a formal agreement with the Friends of Taihape for them to conduct ongoing maintenance of the bridges.

Cr N Belsham/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/306

That Council has left to lie on the table (until Council’s meeting 29 September 2022) the decision for funding for Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti as part of the submission for Tranche 1 – Better off funding.

HWTM/Cr G Duncan. Carried

11 Reports for Information

11.1 Statement of Service Performance - 2021/22

Ms Prince advised that staff have identified five economic development strategy areas.

In response to a query, Ms Prince confirmed that the \$170,000 increase to the economic development budget was comprised of \$90,000 for the Destination Management Plan and \$82,000 for information gather, business surveys and other costs.

Ms Prince advised that as part of the Long Term Plan 2021-31 there were three key actions; the management of the visitor website; implementation of the housing strategy; and implementation of the economic development strategy. Future reporting on this will be updated, and will show info-metric material that is related back to the Long Term Plan.

In response to a query, Mr Benadie advised that the Statement of Service Performance demonstrates compliance against national standards and not specific parameters.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/307

That the report “Statement of Service Performance 2021/22” be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr B Carter. Carried

11.2 LGNZ Conference 2022

Cr Panapa and Cr Dalgety spoke to their reports.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/308

That Cr Panapa's report on the LGNZ Conference 2022 be received.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/309

That Cr Dalgety's report on the LGNZ Conference 2022 be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

11.3 Project Management Office Report - August 2022

Mangaweka Bridge Replacement

Council noted that this project was largely complete, and they were happy for it to be removed from future PMO reporting.

Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project

The Mayor noted some concerns around the unconfirmed costs for this project. Mr Benadie agreed that generally it was important to have rigour and certainty around figures, but that this project was still in the early stages and staff could not provide concrete cost estimates.

Bulls Bus Lane and Town Square

Mr Benadie confirmed that this project is now complete, and will be removed from future PMO reporting.

Cr Dalgety suggested that rubbish bins should be placed at the site.

The Mayor advised that a recent publication had stated that the cost of the building was \$8.3 m. He clarified that this is the cost of the total project, and that the cost of the building was \$4.65 m.

Taihape Amenities Building

In response to a query around steel manufacturer delays, Mr Benadie advised that there many risks for delay with this project due to the state of the construction industry and shortage of external supplies.

Taihape Grandstand

In response to comments around the public perception of this project, Mr Benadie agreed that it was timely for staff to promulgate information around the project's status. The Mayor agreed, noting that it was important for the community to have an understanding of the likely cost of this project as early as possible.

Miscellaneous

In response to a query, Mr Benadie advised that the pump at Scotts Ferry has a back-up generator.

In response to a query, Mr Benadie confirmed that the Mangaweka ablutions block was on target for completion in August.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/310

That the Project Management Office Report – August 2022 be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr R Lambert. Carried

12 Minutes from Committees

12.1 Minutes from Committees

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/311

That the following minutes are received:

- Hunterville Community Committee, 01 August 2022
- Hunterville Rural Water Supply Sub-Committee, 25 July 2022
- Ratana Community Board, 09 August 2022
- Santoft Domain Management Committee, 27 July 2022
- Turakina Community Committee, 04 August 2022
- Youth Council, 12 July 2022

Cr D Wilson/Cr R Lambert. Carried

13 Recommendations from Committees

13.1 Recommendation from the Ratana Community Board

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/312

That Council approves the below recommendation from the Bulls Community Committee meeting on 09 August 2022:

- The Ratana Community Board recommends that Council approves the lowering of the speed on Ratana Road to 80kph and within the Ratana township to 40kph.

Cr W Panapa/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

14 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session 4.46 pm.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/313

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

- 1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 28 July 2022
2. Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
3. Poplar Grove Boundary Adjustment update
4. Bulls Property Disposals
5. Bulls residential development update
6. Late Item – Kensington Road, Marton – Plentyful lease and Purchase

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter | Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution |
|--|---|---|
| 14.1 – Public Excluded Council Meeting – 28 July 2022 | s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations | s48(1)(a) |
| 14.2 – Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings | s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations | s48(1)(a)(i) |
| 14.3 – Poplar Grove Boundary Adjustment update | s7(2)(a) - Privacy | s48(1)(a)(i) |
| 14.4 – Bulls Property Disposals | s7(2)(i) - Negotiations | s48(1)(a)(i) |
| 14.5 – Bulls residential development update | s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(i) - Negotiations | s48(1)(a)(i) |
| 14.6 – Late Item – Kensington Road, Marton – Plentyful lease and Purchase | s7(2)(i) - Negotiations | s48(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 F Dalgety/Cr B Carter. Carried

15 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session 5.36 pm.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/329

That the public excluded meeting move into an open meeting, and the below recommendations be confirmed in the open meeting:

22/RDC/314 - 22/RDC/328

Cr G Duncan/Cr W Panapa. Carried

The meeting closed at 5.36 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 September 2022.

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Chairperson