

# MINUTES

## INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 October 2022

**Time:** 12.00 pm

**Venue:** Town Hall, Te Matapihi  
Bulls Community Centre  
4 Criterion Street  
Bulls

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Present

HWTM Andy Watson  
Cr Brian Carter  
Cr Fi Dalgety  
Cr Gill Duncan  
Cr Jeff Wong  
Cr Richard Lambert  
Cr Tracey Hiroa  
Cr Simon Loudon  
Cr Dave Wilson  
Cr Greg Maughan  
Cr Coral Raukawa  
Cr Jarrod Calkin

In attendance

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive  
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy and Planning  
Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager - Community Services  
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager - Corporate Services  
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager - People and Culture  
Mr Johan Cullis, Group Manager- Regulatory Services  
Ms Kezia Spence- Governance Advisor

**Order of Business**

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## 1 Welcome / Prayer

The whakatau started at 12pm and Mr Beggs opened the meeting at 12.30pm.

## 2 Apologies

No apologies received.

## 3 Reports for Decision

### 3.1 Mayor's Declaration and Welcome

The Mayor made his declaration and then made the following speech:

“Ko Koro Matua Rangitikei Council

Nō Tutaenui a hau.

I thank and acknowledge the kaumatua of mana whenua here,

Ngā Wairiki Ngati Apa Grant Huwyler CE and Pahia Turia Chair.

Ngati Parewahawaha, Lequan Meihana Iwi staff liaison officer,

Coral Raukawa and Tracey Hiroa for the welcome and recognising their roles as inaugural Council’s representatives for our new Inland and Coastal Wards Tiikeitia ki Tai and Tiikeitia ki Uta.

I thank and acknowledge Peter Beggs as our Chief Executive and the staff here.

I bring an apology from my wife Beth who is unable to be here, she is in Christchurch supporting an exhibition “The Secret Keeper” that we are both heavily involved in. I thank her for being so supportive of my work behind the scenes. Also, as a personal reflection at the start of each triennium my mind always goes to my mother who passed away just before I took office, her father was Mayor of Palmerston North for 10years, and she would have been proud to have been here.

Before I welcome and congratulate the new Councillors, I want to acknowledge those who for various reasons have served recently and not stood in this election. Cr Nigel Belsham Deputy Mayor, Crs Cath Ash, Waru Panapa and Angus Gordon thank you for your invaluable contributions. While I will not go into each individual Councillor it is fitting that I acknowledge my Deputy Mayor for his confidences, support and sage advice. Perhaps one day he may return, I totally understand his reasons for not standing but he will be missed.

To the new Councillors and those that are supporting you, congratulations, you have campaigned well and fairly. The hard mahi starts now, and the financial recompense sadly will be poor, when measured against your time and effort. All councils will be entering uncharted waters, never before have Councils faced so much change driven by Government. You will be charged with making very, very tough decisions. Government has blindly forged ahead with multiple changes in the Three Waters, RMA reforms, education reforms and climate change legislation, to name only a few. Even last week we saw the introduction of emission charges for the rural sector which may prove to be insurmountable for some of our rural properties. Agriculture is being driven to a carbon credit

economy with farming as we know it and rural communities as we know them will be under incredible pressure.

We have our own earthquake prone buildings to deal with and our pre-Covid long term plan budgets may be challenging, these will be tough decisions. The strength of the last few Councils has been one of unity, yes at times there has been vigorous debate but Council having made a decision, has fallen behind it, and I urge Council to follow this principal.

The very future of Local Government and a local public voice is under threat and how we engage, submit, and have our say will be incredibly important. Nationally this election has centred on Government policy and mandated action. Whether it has been vaccinations, Three Waters or other changes it has to a large extent driven local Government change. For the first time over 50% of the mayors have either elected not to stand or there has been a change at the voting stage. The national elections next year will be based on legislation that is in place now and the debate around co-governorship. Scrutiny will fall unfairly on the new Maori Wards that have been formed so we need to support Coral and Tracey, recognise the uniqueness of their positions and understand the pressures they face.

Having Maori Wards does not change the status and value of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa, they will continue to be our direct engagement with Iwi and will retain the right to nominate representatives on standing committees.

I acknowledge also my and Council's failings here, when there were threats of damage to the captain Cook statue in Marton, Pahia Turia chair of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa graciously stood beside Council and we jointly proposed that we would combine to tell the story of both cultures. And although some of that is reflected in and around this building and at the opening of the Mangaweka Bridge we have fallen short of the mark we set ourselves. We must programme time and money to fulfil that pledge.

I will now move briefly to the structure of Council and my powers under Section 41 of the Act. As part of that process, I have had discussions with all Councillors and senior staff who have supported my thinking and as such I will formally announce Cr Dave Wilson as my Deputy Mayor and the Chair of the Assets Committee, supported by his Deputy on assets Cr Richard Lambert. Cr Fi Dalgety will chair Finance and my congratulations to new Cr Jeff Wong from Taihape who will be Deputy to Fi. I have views around changes to the Policy and Planning Committee, but I wish to workshop those through Council rather than to appoint at this stage. There are of course many other positions to be filled and we will discuss and vote on those at Council. I have signalled that this term will be my last and succession planning will be important. Ideally in my opinion the next mayor should either come from Council or have had Council experience. It is important that we give the best opportunities for professional training and chairmanship that we can. As such delegation to sub committees and councillors filling in at public events will be important.

I have some things that I would like Council to support, and I have partially provided for them in our Council Annual Plan. Our district is strongly supported by volunteers so it is time that we publicly recognise them by way of an honours board and public acclaim, which should happen early next year.

We need to retain youth in our district and develop their skills and I am keen on putting in place support for our apprentices by providing a grant or scholarship to provide for trade tools. I would like to see a scheme where apprentices meet weekly as a group to do their study requirement and that \$500 be given for trade tools that they personally retain if they are still employed locally after 6 months. I believe funding for this will be a combination of MSD, Council and the private sector.

I will close with need for Council to endorse build projects currently underway, endorsement of the principals and values that we have built and thank staff for the support that we are given.”

### 3.2 Declaration by Councillors

Declarations were made by incoming Councillors in alphabetical order, as follows:

- Jarrod Calkin
- Brian Carter
- Fi Dalgety
- Gill Duncan
- Tracey Hiroa
- Richard Lambert
- Simon Loudon
- Greg Maughan
- Coral Raukawa
- Dave Wilson
- Jeff Wong

### 3.3 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

His Worship the Mayor formally announced Cr Dave Wilson as Deputy Mayor.

**Resolved minute number 22/RDC/373**

That Mayor Andy Watson appoints Cr Dave Wilson as Deputy Mayor of the Rangitikei District.

HWTM/Cr B Carter. Carried

### 3.4 Fixing of Date and Time of First Ordinary Meeting

Taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 22/RDC/374**

That the first meeting of Council be held on Thursday, 3 November at 1pm.

Cr R Lambert/Cr G M Maughan. Carried

## **4 Reports for Information**

### **4.1 Laws Affecting Elected Members**

Mr Beggs emphasised parts of his report, including that all information requests fall under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act.

**Resolved minute number 22/RDC/375**

That the Chief Executive's Report – Laws Affecting Elected Members, be received and the information noted.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr D Wilson. Carried

**The Meeting closed at 1.00pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 3 November 2022.**

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Chairperson