

# MINUTES

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 1 June 2023

**Time:** 9.30am

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

---

**Present**

- HWTM Andy Watson
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Brian Carter
- Cr Gill Duncan
- Cr Jeff Wong
- Cr Simon Loudon
- Cr Greg Maughan
- Cr Jarrod Calkin
- Cr Fi Dalgety

**In attendance**

- Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
- 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
- Ms Adina Foley, Group Manager- Capital Projects (zoom)
- Ms Georgia Etheridge, Corporate Planning Advisor
- Ms Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner (zoom)
- Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor
- Ms Rhonda Morris, Communications Manager

**Order of Business**

**1 Welcome / Prayer ..... 3**

**2 Apologies ..... 3**

**3 Public Forum ..... 3**

**4 Conflict of Interest Declarations..... 3**

**5 Confirmation of Order of Business ..... 3**

**6 Confirmation of Minutes ..... 3**

**7 Reports for Decision ..... 4**

    7.1 Analysis of Submissions to Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan ..... 4

    7.2 Agreement - Mayors Task Force For Jobs ..... 10

**8 Public Excluded ..... 11**

    8.1 Waste Transfer Station Operation Tender Recommendation Report ..... 11

**9 Open Meeting ..... 11**

## 1 Welcome / Prayer

The meeting opened at 9.30am and Cr Dalgety read the council prayer.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/166**

Apologies received from Cr Lambert, Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa and Cr Raukawa.

Cr B Carter/Cr G Duncan. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no Public Forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Cr Calkin declared a conflict of interest regarding staff salaries.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/167**

That the late item "7.3 – Council Debt – Future Scenarios" be dealt with as part of the agenda for the Council meeting on 1 June 2023, the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting as the information contained in the report is crucial to the discussions on deliberations for the 2023/24 Annual Plan. The reason the item is not on the agenda is that the financial details were finalised after the agenda had been sent out.

Cr J Calkin/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/168**

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 May and 12 May 2023 **without amendment** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

## 7 Reports for Decision

### 7.1 Analysis of Submissions to Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan

Ms Etheridge introduced the report.

#### Key Choice One- Taihape Town Hall/ Civic Centre

His Worship the Mayor advised he has made suggestions on recommendations to staff regarding the Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre prior to the meeting and that his recommendations refer back to submissions on the design concepts and the usability of the Taihape Town Hall.

He further confirmed unsolicited offers for the earthquake strengthening can be considered regarding the process. This will be an open tender process and a contractor may be able to provide solutions for specific elements. His Worship the Mayor responded to questions that the recommendation to fully restore Taihape Town Hall does provide scope to retain the façade of the building.

Councillors asked about the contingency costs in relation to this project and Ms Foley responded that the Taihape Civic Centre has 30% of contingency for construction costs and the higher price for travel to Taihape.

There were concerns from some councillors that the resolution was foreshadowing the decisions for the Marton Civic Centre. It was noted that the wording of the resolution was in reference to Council accessing better off funding and therefore would not pre-empt decisions.

His Worship the Mayor referred to specific submissions and that prior to preparing the tender document there needs to be community consultation with key user groups to address concerns of the usability of the building, auditorium size and other issues.

#### Key Choice Two- Marton Civic Centre

Councillors requested a pause on the build for the Marton Civic Centre to have further discussion and to consider the impacts of Council debt and three waters.

There were concerns regarding the timeline of this pause and His Worship the Mayor responded to this, stating that this decision is tied with the Long-Term Plan.

The Mayor signalled the need for a budget and urgent maintenance that will be required for the High Street and Broadway / High Street buildings.

Mr Tombs responded to questions that there is budget of \$5 million for Marton buildings in the Annual Plan for 2024.

Ms Foley responded to comments that the last inspection for corner buildings on Broadway was in April/March and that inspectors pointed out a few areas that urgently need to be addressed such as water damage. Ms Foley will confirm the timeline for earthquake strengthening requirements and will provide this information to councillors.

### Key Choice Three- Calico Line Pathway

Some councillors noted concerns that the project needed further scope and detail as there is now a decision on Nga Tawa Road.

His Worship the Mayor spoke of the precedent set by Huntly School pathway, the significance of the school as a business in the district and his concerns for the safety of the students.

Mr Beggs confirmed that this is an unbudgeted expense in terms of our Long-Term Plan but is included within our rates position, however this is debt funded so would have a minor impact on decreasing rates.

### Forestry Differential

This has been widely circulated with industry groups involved and has been indicated for some time this would occur.

### Shared Pathway from Dixon Way

This was a request to look at the options, however it was noted that this conversation has been had in past for this same stretch of road and has been difficult to progress.

### Taihape Recreational Facilities Upgrades

Council is waiting for the Parks Upgrade plans to provide direction to community groups. His Worship the Mayor requested that there be an absolute timeframe. Mr Benadie responded that he will speak to the consultants to confirm a timeframe and councillors requested that this be included in the officer comment.

### Youthline Request

There were some councillors against this as it did not fit within local government scope. Other councillors believed it sat with community wellbeing and supported the work happening in Taihape.

### Dry-Vault toilets

The purpose is to investigate the need in the community and not that Council will put dry-vault toilets in every cemetery. This will be considered via the Long-Term Plan process.

### Lighting at the Taihape Court

Ms Prince explained that Taihape Tennis has received \$100,000 from the previous Long-Term Plan. The request for \$48,393.80, is in conjunction with Taihape Netball which is on top of the previous \$100,000.

Ms Prince confirmed that the court resurfacing is programmed for December and therefore 6 months would allow for seeking of funds. His Worship the Mayor stated he is aware of the possibility of alternate funding and requested that Council staff work with both Taihape Netball and Taihape Tennis.

### Ratana Gym Shed

Staff have requested further costs from Mr Mete on this project and he was unable to confirm these for the meeting. Councillors were concerned this would be an unbudgeted cost with little scope on the project proposed.

### Community Funding

Councillors questioned what the Wellbeing Conference was, and Ms Prince explained that it has not been held in the past few years.

It was noted that groups would be encouraged to apply to the annual plan or long-term plans in the future, and this could better inform councillors of projects and have greater engagement with staff.

### Staff Salary

Mrs Grant gave further explanation on this section of the report noting that this paragraph had been omitted from the report:

“If the data is extrapolated out to 1 July 2023, then on the basis of 5.5% median movement in the 12 months to 1 March 2023, and in particular considering the 4.4% median movement in the six months to 1 March 2023, Councils Draft Annual Plan provision of 6% is somewhat light. That said, the budget provided will enable a reasonable level of increase to be achieved, noting that 2023/24 increases will match the funding allocated in full.”

### Rates

Mr Tombs spoke in relation to the rates increase, noting there had been very little change. Mr Tombs agreed to email further information to councillors with staff comment on these changes, specifically on the Marton Civic Centre pause.

#### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/169**

That the report ‘Analysis of Submissions to Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan’ be received

Cr B Carter/Cr G Duncan. Carried

#### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/170**

That Council receive submissions 001-272 made to the ‘Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan’ between 23 March and 25 April 2023, including the late submissions 216, 250, 254, 260-270, and 272.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

#### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/171**

With regard to officer comments made in response to submissions as listed in Attachments 6-9, Council has considered the Officer comments and accepts them with amendments, noting they will be included as Council’s response to submitters.

Cr G Duncan/Cr J Calkin. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/172**

That Council approves the new budget for the Taihape town hall/civic centre, broadly outlined as option 1 in the key choices section of the consultation document, of up to \$14 million noting that Council is likely to receive \$1,883,000 for better off funding towards the project included in this budget.

HWTM/Cr J F Wong. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/173**

That Council directs staff to focus on the completion of this project ahead of the Marton civic centre and starts the design process as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 23 which is earlier than planned in the long term plan 2021-2031

HWTM/Cr S Loudon. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/174**

That prior to preparing tender documents the council engages with key users of the Taihape Town Hall and civic centre to clarify community needs regarding the design.

Cr G Duncan/Cr J F Wong. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/175**

That the design process calls for tenders to provide for the following elements

- I) Earthquake strengthening of the town hall civic centre
- II) To meet compliance issues for the strengthened building
- III) To provide for efficient heating
- IV) To meet current fire standards
- V) To provide for power upgrade
- VI) To consider users expectations re design

Tenders will be considered for all or individual elements of the design.

HWTM/Cr G Duncan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/176**

*[For Key Choice Two]*

That Council pauses the build process for the Marton Civic buildings and to allow for a fuller understanding of councils debt analysis with the government changes in 3 waters and looks to a deliberation in the next long term plan.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Duncan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/177**

*[For Key Choice Three]*

That Council does not approve the additional unbudgeted (debt funded) spend of up to \$300,000 to construct the new footpath from Nga Tawa School to Marton along Calico Line.

Cr G Maughan/Cr D Wilson. Lost

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/178**

That Council does approve the additional unbudgeted (debt funded) spend of up to \$300,000 to construct the new footpath from Nga Tawa School to Marton along Calico Line.

Cr J F Wong/Cr J Calkin. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/179**

Council continue with its proposed introduction of the Forestry rating Differential. For 2023/24 this will be a factor of 1.5 applied to the Roding Targeted Rate for properties classified as forestry.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J F Wong. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/180**

That Council do request staff to liaise with Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail to assess options for a shared pathway from Dixon Way into Taihape.

Cr G Maughan/Cr G Duncan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/181**

That Council does not provide funding to Youthline for the 2023/24 financial year.

Cr J Calkin/Cr D Wilson. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/182**

That Council considers dry-vault toilets at cemeteries as part of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Duncan. Carried



**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/183**

Council does support funding of lighting at the Taihape Courts to the value of \$48,393.80.

Cr Duncan/Cr Loudon.

*Amendment*

Council does support funding of lighting at the Taihape Courts to the value of \$48,393.80 if other funding cannot be found within 6 months.

HWTM/Cr Dalgety. Carried.

**This became the substantive motion:**

Council does support funding of lighting at the Taihape Courts to the value of \$48,393.80 if other funding cannot be found within 6 months.

Cr G Duncan/Cr S Loudon. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/184**

That Council do not provide monetary support to Ratana Gym for a new storage shed.

Cr G Maughan/Cr B Carter. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/185**

That Council reduce its expenditure and keep rate increases as low as possible by reducing the funding that is available for the community to apply for, including by:

- Reducing the Event Sponsorship fund to \$25,000
- Removing the Annual Path to Wellbeing Conference, Parks Upgrade Partnership, and Placemaking funds,

and encourage community groups and individuals to apply for funding through the Annual Plan/Long Term Plan process.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Maughan. Carried Cr Duncan and Cr Dalgety voted against

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/186**

That Council suggest that representatives from the Poppy Places Trust apply to the Community Initiatives Fund.

Cr J Calkin/Cr G Maughan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/187**

That Council reaffirm provisional sum in the 2023/24 draft annual plan allowing for a 6% increase to pay bands.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Maughan. Carried  
Conflict of interest was declared by Cr Calkin

## 7.2 Agreement - Mayors Task Force For Jobs

His Worship the Mayor spoke of the success of the programme and acknowledged the success of the team and the contractors.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/188**

That the report 'Agreement – Mayors Taskforce for Jobs' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J F Wong. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/189**

That Council approves entering into an agreement with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) for the delivery of the Mahi Tahī Programme (Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) - Community Recovery Programme) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/190**

That Council authorises the Mayor or Chief Executive to sign the agreement with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) for the delivery of the Mahi Tahī Programme (Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) – Community Recovery Programme).

Cr G Duncan/Cr G Maughan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/191**

That Council endorses applying the opt-out procurement rule (Rule 11) of the procurement policy for the appointment of a Contractor to deliver the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme, invites Expression of Interest from both James Towers Consultants Limited and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, and that a working group be set up by His Worship the Mayor, and to include 5 Councillors be authorised to determine the means of delivery for the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025, including the amount of funding and number of total outcomes to apply for.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

## 7.3 Council Debt – Future Scenarios

Mr Tombs introduced the report stating that debt will be a greater focus in the future.

His Worship the Mayor stated that this is a supplementary report for information.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/192**

That the Report 'Council Debt- Future Scenarios' be received.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

## 8 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session 1.12pm.

### Resolution to Exclude the Public

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/193**

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

1. Waste Transfer Station Operation Tender Recommendation Report

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
8.1 - Waste Transfer Station Operation Tender Recommendation Report	s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities	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 D Wilson/Cr G Maughan. Carried

## 9 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session 1.41pm.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/194**

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

22/RDC/195- 22/RDC/197

Cr B Carter/Cr J Calkin. Carried

**The meeting closed at 1.41pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 June 2023.**

.....  
**Chairperson**