

# MINUTES

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 30 November 2023

**Time:** 1.00pm

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

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**Present**

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

**In attendance**

Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive  
Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer  
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy and Planning  
Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager - Community  
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager - Corporate Services  
Ms Adina Foley, Group Manager- Capital Projects  
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager - People and Performance  
Mr Johan Cullis, Group Manager- Regulatory Services  
Mr Eswar Ganapathi, Senior Project Manager  
Mr Graeme Pointon, Strategic Property Advisor  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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## **1 Welcome / Prayer**

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting at 1.01pm.

## **2 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

## **3 Public Forum**

Mr Matthew Thomas spoke to Council in this session in regards to the decision made at the previous Council meeting on the rate remission request for the property at 8 Tui Street, Taihape.

Mr Thomas questioned Council's interpretation of the Policy and questioned why the full 3 years of rates remission was not granted. Mr Thomas advised he would email through the full cost of earthquake strengthening for this property.

In response to a question Mr Thomas advised that the work to complete the earthquake strengthening was incentivised by the policy.

## **4 Conflict of Interest Declarations**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## **5 Confirmation of Order of Business**

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/342**

That the late item "Appointment of Chief Executive" be dealt with as part of the agenda for the Council meeting on 30 November 2023. The item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting as Council has signalled its intention to provide an update at this meeting. The reason the item is not on the agenda is that, following Council's recruitment process, an offer was made after the agenda had gone out.

HWTM/Cr G Maughan. Carried

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/343**

That the late item "Options to address security concerns at Te Matapihi" be dealt with as part of the agenda for the Council meeting on 30 November 2023. The item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting as there are security concerns at Te Matapihi that need to be addressed as soon as possible. The reason the item is not on the agenda is that issues and possible solutions have only recently been identified.

Cr B Carter/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Item "Appointment of Chief Executive" was dealt with prior to the confirmation of minutes.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

### Resolved minute number 23/RDC/344

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 October 2023 **as amended** 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 B Carter/Cr D Wilson. Carried

### Resolved minute number 23/RDC/345

That the minutes of Ordinary Council (special) Meeting held on 30 October 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.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

#### Item 20

The extension of hours for the Taihape swim centre is not being considered in the Long Term Plan and this will be noted in the consultation document.

#### Item 25

There is regulation with littering, but it is difficult to enforce. Councillors and staff acknowledged that this is a growing problem in the district.

### Resolved minute number 23/RDC/346

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

Cr B Carter/Cr R Lambert. Carried

## 8 Mayor's Report

### 8.1 Mayor's Report - November 2023

The Mayor tabled a document on the new government ministers roles and tabled a document on the JBS Dudding Trust grant outcomes.

Council discussed the freshwater reforms and the lack of socio- economic consideration prior to the reforms being introduced.

Council discussed the letter from Aakiyah Tihore's requesting funding and advised that Council has not provided funds to an individual before, and there is no budget for this, but acknowledged that they do support youth and the opportunities for young people in the district. They requested consideration of a discretionary fund for these types of applications be included in a Long Term Plan workshop.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/347**

That the Mayor's Report – 30 November 2023 be received.

HWTM/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/348**

That Council agrees to cover Aakiyah Tihore's course fees to attend the Future Leaders Academy in Rarotonga in April 2024 to the value of \$1,500 as a final funder.

.Cr G Duncan/Cr Hiroa. Lost.

## **8.2 Appointment of Chief Executive**

A tabled document was provided by His Worship the Mayor outlining the recruitment process undertaken recently and recommending Mr Kevin Ross be appointed as Chief Executive.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/349**

That Mr Kevin Ross be appointed as Chief Executive, effective from 30 November 2023, for a period of up to two years.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried Unanimous

## **9 Chief Executive's Report**

### **9.1 Chief Executive's Report - November 2023**

#### External Submissions

Council recommended that a submission be made to Oranga Wai, acknowledging that it may be a generic submission due to the changes that are happening with Central Government.

#### Request from Marton Christian Welfare Council (Inc)

Mr Benadie commented that the balance of the cost of activity and where we get the revenue through this does raise risks. Council acknowledged that there is an issue of rubbish being dumped that the group faces and that this is a cost to the group.

During discussion it was noted this an unbudgeted expenditure that may start a precedent of these types of applications. It was agreed not to agree to the request from Marton Christian Welfare.

Request for Support for 2024 Ford Ranger New Zealand Rural Games

Council noted that there is a fund that the group can apply for which the group has been directed to.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/350**

That the Chief Executive's Report – November 2023 be received.

Cr G Maughan/Cr Hiroa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/351**

That the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices, required under Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, be adopted.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr R Lambert. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/352**

That Council provides a fund to the Marton Christian Welfare Council to the value of \$3,000 for dump fee charges.

Cr D Wilson/HWTM Lost.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/353**

That Council declines the request to provide a grant to the 2024 Ford Ranger New Zealand Rural Games.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J F Wong. Carried

## 10 Reports for Decision

### 10.1 Request for Review of Rates Rebate Granted for 71 Hautapu Street, Taihape

Council acknowledged that at the last meeting there was discussion on the wording of the policy. Staff responded to questions that the policy is currently being looked at and updated. Council will be provided with a further report on this rate remission request and the earlier one from Mr Matthew Thomas at the December meeting.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/354**

That the report 'Rates Rebate- 71 Hautapu St Taihape' be received.

Cr J F Wong/Cr R Lambert. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/355**

That, due to the new information provided from Mr Matt Thomas in relation to the rate remission approved at the 26 October 2023 Council meeting for 8 Tui Street, Taihape, Council request the

Chief Executive provide a further report to the 14 December 2023 Council meeting to allow Council to reconsider the amount of the remission.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr S Loudon. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/356**

That, due to the new information provided from Ms Tania Byford in relation to the rate remission approved at the 26 October 2023 Council meeting for 71 Hautapu Street, Taihape, Council request the Chief Executive provide a further report to the 14 December 2023 Council meeting to allow Council to reconsider the amount of the remission.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr S Loudon. Carried

## **10.2 Project Management Office Report - November 2023**

### Lake Waipu

His Worship the Mayor requested this project be part of the presentation to the new Government, prior to Ratana celebrations in 2024.

### Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Consent

Council raised concerns with the possibility of underfunding the project and the issues with compliance of the quality of the water. Ms Foley responded that the treatment plant is consented until 2027, however that there are compliance issues at the plant, Horizons are aware of the progress that council is making. Ms Foley also elaborated that some work has already started to improve the water quality and more work is underway to investigate further improvements at the treatment plant. Ms Foley added that this work may be a little underfunded based on initial discussions but more work has to be done and progress will be reported back to Council.

Ms Foley responded to concerns of projects taking a long time to complete, that the projects on the top 10 list are all very complex and spanning years, the PMO report is only the top ten projects council is working on however there are further projects that are ongoing in the background.

The meeting adjourned at 3.10pm and reconvened at 3.24pm.

### Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment

Ms Foley responded to questions that it expected to award the contract in April next year, and this has been a thorough process working with the community on the consultation process and engagement with key user groups.

Ms Foley responded to questions that the percentage of confidence on budget will increase when scope of the project and the design are certain and that the confidence around the budget does not mean this is going to be overspend, however that the budget could be lower or higher – not able to be determined without further design work.

Ms Foley explained that some organisations commonly require a minimum of 80% NBS (also related to insurance requirements) so that Council benefits from having a flexible approach to achieve a NBS of 80-100% to reduce cost escalations trying to achieve 100%.

Councillors discussed the removal of the first floor and the challenges with fire and accessibility. Ms Foley explained that the removal of the first floor will significantly reduce complexity of the structural work and therefore also the cost of the work. Ms Foley pointed out that the recommendation is expected to reduce the budget required for the project. Ms Foley responded to comments that this has been discussed with a number of experts.

Mr Benadie responded that there can be a non-compliant tender on the back of a complaint tender,

There were concerns that the removal of the first floor be socialised with the Taihape community and the need of certainty that this has been this has been considered. Other councillors disagreed to go back to the community again on such technical issues. It was raised that during the public workshop, general support was voiced for the removal of structural elements that would add lots of costs without many benefits including for example the façade (demolishing and rebuilding the façade).

Ms Foley explained that the removal and rebuild of the façade would also result in similar cost savings and a reduction of the construction complexity for the project. Some councillors were concerned that this would remove the “heritage” factor for the building and its iconic look. Ms Foley responded that the look of the building externally would remain as it is at the moment.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/357**

That the report ‘Project Management Office Report - November 2023’ be received.

Cr Hiroa/Cr G Duncan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/358**

That the Project Work Plan for the Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment will be endorsed **with** amendment.

HWTM/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/359**

Remove the first floor to reduce complexity of redevelopment.

Cr S Loudon/Cr D Wilson. Carried Cr Duncan and Cr Dalgety voted against.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/360**

To demolish and rebuild the façade to look like it does now, to reduce complexity of redevelopment and saving costs.

Cr G Maughan/Cr R Lambert. Lost



### 10.3 Options to Address Security Concerns at Te Matapihi

Ms Prince presented this report noting the security concerns to both the public and staff at Te Matapihi, as a preference it was agreed to close the toilets between 9pm and 6am, in line with the bus schedules.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/361**

That the report 'Options to Address Security Concerns at Te Matapihi' be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr D Wilson. Carried

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/362**

That Council closes the public toilets at Te Matapihi between 9pm-6am.

Cr B Carter/Cr D Wilson. Carried Cr Calkin voted against.

## 11 Minutes from Committees

### 11.1 Minutes from Committees

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/363**

That the following minutes are received:

- Bulls Community Committee- 13 September 23
- Turakina Community Committee-05 October 23
- Hunterville Community Committee- 09 October 23
- Taihape Community Board- 11 October 23
- Marton Community Committee- 11 October 23
- Policy and Planning Committee- 12 October 23
- Creative Communities Scheme-01 November 23
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme-06 November 23
- Bulls Community Committee-08 November 23

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

## 12 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session 4.47pm

**Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Resolved minute number 23/RDC/364**

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

- 1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 26 October 2023
- 2 Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
- 3 Taihape Area School - location for decant update, November 2023
- 4 Taihape Grandstand - Alternative method for earthquake strengthening
- 5 Bulls Water Booster Pump Station - Tender Acceptance

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
<b>12.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 26 October 2023</b>	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 26 October meeting	S48(1)(a)
<b>12.2 - Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings</b>	s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
<b>12.3 - Taihape Area School - location for decant update, November 2023</b>	s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(c)(ii) - Public Interest	s48(1)(a)(i)
<b>12.4 - Taihape Grandstand - Alternative method for earthquake strengthening</b>	s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
<b>12.5 - Bulls Water Booster Pump Station - Tender Acceptance</b>	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 D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

The meeting went into open session 5.23pm

Resolved minute number 23/RDC/365

22/RDC/365 - 22/RDC/72

Cr G Duncan/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**The meeting closed at 5.23pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 December 2023.**

**Chairperson**