

# MINUTES

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 26 February 2025

**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 Richard Lambert  
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa  
Cr Coral Raukawa (Zoom)  
Cr Jeff Wong  
Cr Simon Loudon  
Cr Greg Maughan  
Cr Fi Dalgety  
Cr Paul Sharland

**In attendance**

Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive  
Mrs Carol Gordon, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms Sharon Bennett, Group Manager - People and Performance  
Mrs Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager- Corporate Services  
Mr Warren Pedley, Manager Finance and Partnerships  
Ms Sophia Sykes, Communications Manager  
Mr Jarrod Calkin, Economic Wellbeing Lead  
Mr Graeme Pointon, Executive Legal Advisor  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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## 1 Welcome / Prayer

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting at 1.00pm.

His Worship the Mayor thanked Mr Ross for his time as Chief Executive, noting his appreciation for the work he completed in his time as Chief Executive.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number**                      **25/RDC/001**

That the apologies received from Cr Duncan be received.

Cr P Sharland/Cr R Lambert. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

Tuia Nyssa Nepe provided a report on the TUIA programme, this was included in the Mayor's report. Ms Nepe thanked the Mayor for this opportunity to be part of the programme.

Faenza Hiroti introduced herself to councillors as the TUIA for 2025.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

That the Hearing of Submissions - Rātana Road Naming was moved to the beginning of the meeting as Ricky Taiaroa was attendance to speak.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolved minute number**    **25/RDC/002**

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 December 2024 **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 P Sharland/Cr B Carter. Carried

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

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

#### Item 2 - Bulls Bus Lane

Mr Benadie updated councillors that there has been work on this supporting a single boom gate in the middle of the bus lane. There will remote controls sent out to bus operators and this should be a simple and cost effective solution. Councillors noted the importance for engagement with bus operators.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/003**

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

Cr R Lambert/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

## 8 Mayor's Report

### 8.1 Mayor's Report - February 2025

Councillors asked about the input from the Rangitikei in the Regional Deals document. It was noted that this a light touch proposal at the initial stages of the process. There are no financial costs committed as part of accepting this proposal. Councillors noted the importance of shared service agreements and that this is a great opportunity to start conversations.

Councillors supported the delegation of input into future regional deals discussion to a Council working group, but noted all elected members should be invited to any cross-council meetings held.

The appointment of Cr Loudon and Cr Wong to the Policy/Planning Committee was noted.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/004**

That the Mayor's Report – 26 February 2025 be accepted.

HWTM/Cr B Carter. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/005**

That the tabled late document be added to item 8.1 of the Mayor's Report under the heading "Regional Deals" and be dealt with as part of the agenda for the Council meeting on 26 February 2025. The item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting as Council needs to discuss and consider approving the Regional Deals document to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by Friday, 28 February 2025. The reason the item was not on the agenda is that the document was received after the agenda had been sent out.

HWTM/Cr B Carter. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/006**

That Council approve the Regional Deals document, put together by Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council and Rangitikei District Council, and agrees that it be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs as a light touch proposal on 28 February 2025.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Wong. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/007**

That Cr Dalgety, Cr Loudon, Cr Wilson, and His Worship the Mayor, be appointed members of the working group to work on collaboration opportunities with Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council and Rangitikei District Council.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

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

### **9.1 Deputy Chief Executive's Report**

Mrs Gordon highlighted that Ms Gray will be taking on the role as Deputy Electoral Officer.

#### McHardies Road

Councillors accepted the McHardies road name change, Mrs Gordon noted that there are number of inconsistencies and there are likely to be more of these coming to Council to confirm the spelling. It was highlighted that this road has two signs at the end of road with different spelling and this has caused issues. This resolution gives confirmation of the correct spelling that can be passed on to LINZ. Some councillors noted that this is inconsistent with the decision regarding the macron in Rangitikei and requested that this be noted.

#### Te-Waiu-o-Te-Ika Framework Governance Representatives

Cr Hiroa confirmed that this has been circulated to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members who recommended that this should sit with the Mayor. It was highlighted that the qualities and knowledge that the Mayor has sits well with the role.

Officers confirmed that the position will be part of the triennial appointments which provides an opportunity to renew or replace the role, this includes the coming election.

#### Submissions

Officers highlighted that the Taumata Arowai Wastewater Services Bill was very recently released. Officers are working through the potential impact, noting that the changes are not confirmed as this is just consultation, but it may have some impact on consenting across the District.

Officers responded to concerns of missed opportunities to submit and encouraged councillors to pass on anything they see that they believe Council should submit on.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/008**

That the Deputy Chief Executive's Report be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/009**

That Council confirms the road name for road ID 178943 as **McHardies Road**.

Cr P Sharland/Cr B Carter. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/010**

That Council note should resolution 25/RDC/009 be accepted by LINZ that this would be inconsistent with recent decisions regarding the addition of the macron naming of Rangitīkei.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr D Wilson. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/011**

That Council appoints the Mayor as the Rangitīkei District Council representative on Ngā Wai Tōtā, the governance group associated with the Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika Framework.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

## **10 Reports for Decision**

### **10.1 Adoption of the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document**

Cr Raukawa left during this item at 2.30pm.

Councillors were concerned that the consultation document signalled price harmonisation which is not guaranteed. There were also concerns raised that there were a lot of assumptions through the document. It was considered important that councillors were aligned on their understanding of the document before this was sent out to the public.

Officers responded to questions, confirming that staff across Whanganui and Ruapehu councils have seen this document.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/012**

That the report 'Adoption of the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Maughan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/013**

That Council adopts the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document (subject to minor editorial changes) for public consultation and the final approval by His Worship the Mayor.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

**10.2 Sale of Kensington Road land - weightings**

Mr Calkin introduced the report noting that this is the opportunity for councillors to consider non-financial weighting considerations.

Councillors discussed the reason for a buy back clause. Mr Pointon explained that if Council was to sell a parcel of land for a use and that this does not eventuate within a specific period of time then Council can purchase this land back.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/014**

That the report 'Sale of Kensington Road – weightings' is received.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr B Carter. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/015**

That Council sets the weightings for non-financial considerations at 10%.

Cr D Wilson/HWTM Carried Against Cr Loudon.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/016**

That Council will use the non-financial attributes as per the Disposal of Surplus Lands and Buildings Policy without amendment.

Cr G Maughan/Cr D Wilson. Carried Against Cr Loudon.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/017**

That Council includes a buy-back clause in the Kensington Road sale agreement if development of the site does not proceed as outlined in the tender within 3 years of the land being sold.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr J Wong. Carried Against Cr Maughan

**10.3 Project Updates Report - February 2025**

The meeting adjourned 2.58pm and returned at 3.11pm.

**Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation**

Officers undertook to make sure that it is clear that the relevant party in these conversation is ANZCO Bulls.

**Marton Water Strategy**

Officers updated that there is substantial testing on the new bore site. There has been discussion in the community that the material feeds back into dams and not into the settling ponds. Officers confirmed that this information is incorrect.

### Marton Offices and Library

The recommendation from staff is that the EOC build will be similar to the design by Ruapehu District Council in National Park. This will be located on the grass site that is currently not occupied with any buildings. This building can be changed from a public meeting space to an EOC very quickly.

### Taihape Town Hall

The contractor will continue work as agreed by the scope and will provide an alternative as well. Officers intend on this coming to council by the end of March.

### Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

The Mayor left the Chair at 3.31pm and returned at 3.33pm during this item.

Councillors reiterated the desire for the pool to be open for the next season, and that this may include the sectioning off of the pool.

It was noted there has been a significant amount of misinformation in the Marton community on this topic.

### Taihape Hautapu Bridges

Officers noted that this project is completed.

#### **Resolved minute number 25/RDC/018**

That the report 'Project Updates Report – February 2025' be received.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr P Sharland. Carried

#### **Resolved minute number 25/RDC/019**

That Council authorise staff to proceed with preliminary design works for the new Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) independent of the Marton Offices and Community Hub project.

HWTM/Cr S Loudon. Carried

## **11 Reports for Information**

### **11.1 Hearing of Submissions - Rātana Road Renaming**

This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting after Item 3 - Public Forum.

Mr Taiaroa spoke against the renaming of the road and explained that the Ratana road name is of special significance.

Mr Taiaroa stated he had called a meeting with landowners and they are not in favour of the road name being changed and had spoken to the president of the Church who was also not in favour of this either.



Mr Taiaroa stated he did not want the road to be renamed to a weed or a crayfish, and that the road should continue to be named Ratana.

Mr Taiaroa responded to questions about the Rātana Community Board who have been part of the process, and stated that the topic should have gone to the Church President and then taken to Ratana landowners association in which Mr Taiaroa is the Chair of this.

Mr Taiaroa responded to questions about the issue is with the numbers and understands that there is a difference between the two sides of the roads, however he noted that mail is still received.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/020**

That the report Hearing of Submissions - Rātana Road Renaming be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr G Maughan. Carried

## **12 Minutes from Committees**

### **12.1 Minutes from Committees**

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/021**

That the following minutes are received:

- Finance and Performance Committee- 28 Nov 24
- Turakina Community Committee- 05 Dec 24
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Committee- 09 Dec 24
- Hunterville Community Committee- 09 Dec 24
- Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti - 10 Dec 24
- Taihape Community Board- 11 Dec 24
- Marton Community Committee- 11 Dec 24
- Bulls Community Committee- 22 Jan 24

Cr D Wilson/Cr R Lambert. Carried

## **13 Public Excluded**

The meeting went into public excluded session 3.45pm.

### **Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/022**

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

- 1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 19 December 2024
- 2 Public Excluded Council (special) Meeting - 6 January 2025
- 3 Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
- 4 Mayors Taskforce for Jobs - contractor appointment
- 5 Roading Maintenance Services Contract Approval - C1152
- 6 Marton Water Strategy Update
- 7 Chief Executive Appointment

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>13.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 19 December 2024</b>	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 19 December meeting.	S48(1)(a)
<b>13.2 - Public Excluded Council (special) Meeting - 6 January 2025</b>	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the Special Council meeting on the 06 January.	S48(1)(a)
<b>13.3 - Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings</b>	To consider the matters arising from previous 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)
<b>13.4 - Mayors Taskforce for Jobs - contractor appointment</b>	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities	s48(1)(a)(i)
<b>13.5 - Roading Maintenance Services Contract Approval - C1152</b>	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations.	s48(1)(a)(i)

	s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities	
<b>13.6 - Marton Water Strategy Update</b>	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position	s48(1)(a)(i)
<b>13.7 - Chief Executive Appointment</b>	To enable discussion on sensitive information relating to staff.  To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(a) - Privacy	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 P Hiroa/Cr B Carter. Carried

## 14 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session 4.56pm.

### **Resolved minute number 25/RDC/023**

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

25/RDC/023 - 25/RDC/033

Recommendations from the Council to be released to the public

Agreed by Council:

That Council appoints James Towers Consultants Limited to deliver the Community Employment Programme (known as Mayors Taskforce for Jobs) for a contract period of 2 years, subject to external funding, starting 1 July 2025.

The Council confirms the appointment of Carol Gordon to the role of Chief Executive, for an initial term of three years commencing on 1 March 2025, on a total remuneration of \$281,188.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

**The meeting closed at 4.56pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 March 2025.**

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**Chairperson**