

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 12 March 2026

Time: 10.00am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- Cr Diana Baird
- Cr Alan Buckendahl
- Cr Fi Dalgety (Zoom)
- Cr Sandra Field
- Cr John Hainsworth
- Cr Graeme O'Fee
- Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa
- Cr Paul Sharland
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Jeff Wong
- HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

- Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive
- Ms Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager – Corporate Services
- Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
- Mr Graeme Pointon, Executive Legal Advisor
- Mr Aaron Thornton, Manager – Animal Control
- Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager
- Mr Darryn Black, Rooding Transport Manager
- Ms Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager
- Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - March 2026

Risk/Assurance Committee

Philip Jones Appointment was appointed as Chair of the Risk/Assurance Committee which followed the standard recruitment process, including advertising the position, shortlisting candidates, and interviewing three applicants.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/031

That the Mayor's Report – March 2026 be received.

HWTM/Cr D Baird. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/032

That Council does agree that:

That the Shareholder Agreement Terms of Reference for the Central Districts Water Shareholders Committee are amended:

- a. Clause 2 – add (t) Engaging with the Company on behalf of the Shareholders' Committee in relation to how the Company shall engage with mana whenua to give effect to te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles and establish and implements its Te Ao Māori framework
- b. Clause 6 – adjust 6(a) Quorum to remain at 5 members, but now require a member from each of the shareholder councils and Ngā Tapuwae o Hau.

Cr A Buckendahl/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - March 2026

Request to Waive Building Consent Fees for Ratana Te Manuao Project

Members acknowledged that the project is significant to Rātana and the wider district.

Concerns were raised regarding rates pressures and financial constraints, particularly in light of weather event cost implications to be discussed later in the Council meeting. Members also acknowledged that significant government funding is available and should be able to be utilised.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard

Members noted the high number of reported items and officers responded that this relates to the recent weather event.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/033

That the report Chief Executive's Report – March 2026 be received.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/034

That Council does not agree to waive building consent costs for the Ratana Te Manuao Project.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/035

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

Cr A Buckendahl/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Adoption of the Annual Plan 2026/27 & Co for Consultation

Public consultation is not required, as the proposal is not materially different from the Long Term Plan, however, Council is undertaking consultation as it feels it is important to give the community a chance to input into the process. A proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges and the Revenue and Financing Policy and Rates Remission Policy will be considered concurrently.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/036

That the report 'Adoption of the Annual Plan 2026/27 & Co for Consultation' be received.

Cr J Hainsworth/Cr D Baird. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/037

That Council confirms that there are no significant or material differences proposed between year 3 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and the Proposed Annual Plan 2026/27, therefore it will not consult on the Annual Plan 2026/27 under section 95A of the Local Government Act 2002.

AND

That Council adopts the Annual Plan 2026/27 & Co document and the Annual Plan 2025/26 supporting information for community consultation in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

HWTM/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/038

That Council adopts for community consultation, using the special consultative procedure outlined in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27 and the associated Statement of Proposal.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/039

That Council adopts the amended Revenue and Financing Policy and Draft Rates Remission Policy for community consultation in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Cr J Wong/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/040

That Council gives the Chief Executive authority to make minor editorial and formatting changes to the following documents:

- Annual Plan 2026/27 & Co and Annual Plan supporting information,
- Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/27,
- Amended Revenue and Financing Policy, and
- Rates Remission Policy

prior to publication for community consultation.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10.2 15 February Storm Event

It was noted that Turakina Valley Road closures remain marginal, with some roads open but not yet restored to full condition.

Members discussed the impact of Powerco outages, with some residents still without power.

Weather Event Recovery and Funding

Members discussed the significant costs arising from recent weather events and noted that Council cannot absorb the additional costs alone and will rely on NZTA funding.

The report indicates that some repair works are likely to be delayed, particularly on several roads, in order to prioritise resources and enable design work for repairs. Some sites are currently being stabilised with holding treatments while permanent solutions are designed.

Members also discussed the regional economic impacts, including the loss of future revenue due to delayed harvests and impacts on cropping, particularly maize across thousands of hectares.

It was noted that 31 districts have declared events in the past two years, with approximately 60% of the country recovering from similar weather events.

Members discussed whether rates increases would be required to fund recovery works. It was clarified that Option One does not include a rates increase, although a rates increase could be considered if reserves are not used.

Ms Macdonald advised that the recommended option is to use existing reserves, noting that the main downside would be the depletion of reserves allocated for roading and parks and reserves, which would require future discussions on rebuilding those reserves.

Councillors expressed support for the motion, noting that it would enable recovery works to proceed following the weather event, ensure funding is available, and allow the roading team and contractors to progress work without significantly impacting other programmes.

Members also confirmed the Parks recommendation, thanking staff for the work completed to reopen parks following the event. It was acknowledged that creative solutions had been implemented, and discussion included whether reductions in service levels could help minimise rating impacts while remaining within reduced expenditure.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/041

That the report '15 February Storm Event' be received.

Cr P Sharland/Cr S Field. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/042

That Council does approve Roothing Funding Option One, to fund the local share cost of \$598,125 for damaged sustained on the roading network following the 15 February weather event. The local share will be funded from a combination of targeted Roothing Reserve and cash reserves in the balance sheet.

Cr J Wong/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/043

That Council does fund the Parks and Reserves clean-up costs following the 15 February weather event by using a combination of reduced expenditure of \$70,000 and General Reserves of approximately \$50,000.

HWTM/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10.3 Finance/Performance 2025-2028 Terms of Reference

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/044

That the report Finance/Performance 2025-2028 Terms of Reference be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/045

That Council adopt the Finance/Performance 2025-2028 Terms of Reference for the 2025-2028 triennium as amended.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr J Wong. Carried

10.4 Adoption of Local Governance Statement

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/046

That the report Adoption of Local Governance Statement be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/047

That the Local Governance Statement 2025 – 2028 be adopted without amendment.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

11 Reports for Information

11.1 2026/27 Roading Funding

A report was requested outlining the roading processes and planned works programme, to provide clearer visibility of upcoming works. This would help signal to the community where work is scheduled and where projects may be deferred or reprioritised due to the diversion of resources.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/048

That the report 2026/27 Roading Funding be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

11.2 Finance Snapshot - January 2026

The income patterns were discussed, noting peaks and troughs are expected, although deliberate actions have been taken to level these where possible. Rates income should remain relatively steady, while timing gaps are typically associated with NZTA funding payments.

It was also noted that some capital expenditure (CAPEX) projects are unlikely to be completed by 30 June and will be reforecast in the next report.

Regarding external debt borrowings, two loan parcels matured and were rolled over in February. An update will be included in the next monthly report.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/049

That the Finance Snapshot – January 2026 be received.

Cr S Field/Cr J Wong. Carried

11.3 Statement of Service Provision: July 2025 - December 2025 (6 month)

Officers responded to questions that the measures can be changed at the time of the Long Term Plan.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/050

That the report Statement of Service Provision: July 2025 - December 2025 (6 month)

Cr J Wong/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

12 Minutes from Committees

12.1 Minutes from Committees

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/051

That the following minutes are received:

- Taihape Community Board Meeting – 19 November 25
- Ratana Community Board Meeting – 25 November 25
- Erehon Rural Water Scheme Meeting – 02 December 25
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting – 08 December 25
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting – 09 February 26
- Hunterville Community Committee Meeting – 09 February 26
- Marton Community Committee Meeting – 18 February 26
- Bulls Community Committee Meeting – 18 February 26
- Turakina Community Committee Meeting – 19 February 26

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

13 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session at 11.26am.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/052

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

1. Public Excluded Council Meeting – 12 February 2026
2. Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
3. Community Hall on Crown Land

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
13.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting – 12 February 2026	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 12 February meeting.	S48(1)(a)
13.2 - Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings	To consider actions 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)
13.3 - Community Hall on Crown Land	To enable sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. 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 A Buckendahl. Carried

14 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session at 12.17pm

Resolved minute number **26/RDC/053**

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

26/RDC/051 - 26/RDC/054

Cr J Wong/Cr D Wilson. Carried

The meeting closed at 12.17pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 April 2026.

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Chairperson