

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 7 May 2026
Time: 10.00am
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- HWTM Andy Watson
- Cr Diana Baird
- Cr Alan Buckendahl
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Cr John Hainsworth
- Cr Graeme O'Fee
- Cr Coral Raukawa
- Cr Paul Sharland
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Jeff Wong

In attendance

- Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive
- Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
- Ms Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager – Corporate Services
- Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager
- Mr Darryn Black, Roding Transport Manager
- Ms Crystal Johnston, Executive Assistant – Group Manager Assets, Infrastructure & Projects

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 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings 4

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings..... 4

8 Mayor’s Report 4

8.1 Mayor's Report - May 2026..... 4

9 Chief Executive’s Report 5

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - May 2026..... 5

10 Reports for Decision 8

10.1 Shareholders Agreement for Central Districts Water 8

11 Minutes from Committees..... 9

11.1 Minutes from Committees 9

12 Meeting Closed..... 10

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

Cost of Taking the Annual Plan to Consultation

Officers circulated an email to Councillors with further detail before the meeting. The cost was largely staff time and costs associated with newspaper advertisement. Members requested a dollar figure, which was noted in the follow up actions to provide.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/073

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

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - May 2026

This report was taken as read at 11:12am.

Zone 3 Elected Members Reports

Councillors were invited to speak to their respective reports.

Cr Dalgety thanked Council for the opportunity to attend and participate in the discussions. They noted the commonality of issues facing councils across the region and the similarities in challenges being experienced.

Cr Sharland also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend and acknowledged both Council and Cr Baird. The reports were well received by members.

A member raised a question regarding tourism and whether there were opportunities to generate revenue from visitors to help fund community facilities and infrastructure. In response, it was noted that Taranaki has a dedicated tourism organisation responsible for managing and promoting these activities. However, no specific examples were provided regarding mechanisms used to directly recover costs from visitors.

Rātana Offensive Odour Issue

Elected members discussed odour issues affecting the Rātana community. Members requested continued advocacy to Horizons Regional Council regarding the matter. It was noted that the odour is believed to originate from farming operations, specifically the application of waste products to surrounding paddocks. Members advised that this had been an ongoing issue for some time and that previous attempts to resolve the matter had achieved limited progress, prompting a request for Council support and advocacy.

A member thanked HWTM for the report and updates provided.

Mayor's Engagements

A member sought an update on the escalation plan relating to Taihape Health. HWTM advised that discussions had occurred with board members and the responsible Minister. Progress appeared to be on track and it was expected that necessary actions would be undertaken. It was noted that roof repairs remained a priority issue. Responsibility for progressing the project had transferred to the Ministry, and while the process had not been straightforward, both the Minister and HWTM were continuing to provide support and assistance.

A member requested feedback regarding the surgical robot recently introduced at Palmerston North Hospital. HWTM noted that the primary benefits of robotic-assisted surgery include increased dexterity, greater precision, and reduced invasiveness of surgical procedures.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/074

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

HWTM/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/075

That Council engages urgently with Horizons Regional Council in support of Ratana requesting that Horizons meet with the Ratana community to deal with ongoing offensive odour issues.

HWTM/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - May 2026

Events Held Across the District

Mrs Gordon acknowledged the cancellation of the Harvest Festival.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard

Members sought clarification regarding the high number of reported incidents and the measures Council is taking to reduce these. Officers advised that reporting and recording of incidents has increased as a result of Council actively encouraging reporting and implementing easier reporting processes. It was noted that many incidents recorded are near misses, and that many incidents, such as verbal abuse, are outside of Council's direct control. Members expressed support for the proactive reporting culture and the focus on maintaining the safety of staff and visitors. Mrs Gordon also noted positively that staff are able to report incidents without fear of repercussion.

Central Districts Water Update

Members commented on the recent pōwhiri, acknowledging it had been successful while also identifying several learnings arising from the event. These matters had been discussed with Council and within Te Rōpū Ahi Kā. Questions were raised regarding the process should a member Council

withdraw from Central Districts Water, with further discussion to occur later in the order of business. Mrs Gordon confirmed that documentation is in place outlining the process should a member Council seek to leave Central Districts Water.

Proposed Plan Change 3 Update

Members asked whether any key themes had emerged from submissions received. Officers advised that summary decisions requested is still being collated and will be circulated to elected members once available.

District Licensing Committee Member Appointments

Officers advised that a thorough process had been undertaken to reach the current stage and that Council had been presented with a range of options for consideration.

Discussion occurred regarding the five-year appointment period and whether changes in elected membership would affect representation. It was noted that where elected members change, new representatives would be appointed accordingly. Clarification was sought regarding whether the Mayor would hold an ex-officio role; it was confirmed this is not an ex-officio position and that Council determines representation appointments.

Members requested background information regarding the community representative appointment, noting prior experience serving on the committee. Officers provided a general overview of the individual's background. Clarification was also sought regarding whom the appointee had replaced, with officers noting this related to a number of community representatives.

Taihape Grandstand Agreement

Discussion occurred regarding whether provisions relating to subcontractors should be included in the agreement for future expansion works.

It was agreed that clause 5.3 should be clarified to explicitly state that all parties are required to agree to the scope.

Members queried whether the project scope would return to Council for consideration. Officers advised that the scope is expected to remain consistent with the current proposal, although potential additions, such as public toilets, may arise. Any such changes would be presented to Council.

A member requested an indication of the likely cost of the fire report. Officers advised that quotations had not yet been obtained, but the anticipated cost was estimated at approximately \$3,000–\$4,000.

Under clause 12 relating to reporting and communications, members requested that reporting include clear dates, milestones, and budget updates. Officers advised that staff are currently working with the community group on a project plan, which will incorporate these details.

HWTM returned 10.38am.

Discussion occurred regarding the implications should the community group be unable to complete the project and responsibility revert to Council. Officers advised that, as the asset is Council-owned,

ownership of all completed works would remain with Council. It was noted that the community group would undertake the work, with Council's role being to support and enable the project to proceed.

In relation to clause 2.6 concerning subcontractors, officers highlighted the risks associated with approving subcontracting arrangements. Officers advised that the matter had been brought to Council's attention because procurement requirements had previously been set aside. It was noted that the primary contractor may appoint subcontractors, and that associated expenditure could trigger the Procurement Policy. Council would therefore need to formally acknowledge and accept this arrangement via approval of the agreement.

Members discussed the current project funding allocation of \$685,000 and the possibility that additional funding may be required. Consideration was given to whether a lesser amount should be identified as Council's final funder contribution, noting that acting only as a final funder could create difficulties for the project. It was agreed that this aspect required further refinement and clarification.

A member queried whether delays in finalising the agreement could impact the community group's ability to apply for external funding. Officers advised that progressing the agreement was necessary to enable funding applications to proceed.

On page 13 of the agreement, a member raised a question regarding insurance requirements. Officers advised that the required level of insurance would be based on project expenditure and undertook to recheck the insurance provisions prior to signing the agreement.

Recommendation 5 was revisited for further discussion at 12.02pm.

HWTM returned to the Chair at 10:58am.

Impact on Strategic Risks

A member asked about the top three risks facing Rangitikei District Council over the next 12 months. The Chief Executive advised that these are outlined within the Strategic Risks section of the report, which considers both current and emerging risks. It was noted that there are approximately ten strategic risks identified in Council's Strategic Risk Register, all of which are considered of similar significance and importance to the organisation.

Mana Whenua Implications

A member sought clarification regarding the role of mana whenua representatives on the Shareholder Committee, specifically whether their role was advisory only or whether they held voting rights. Officers confirmed that mana whenua representatives do have voting rights on the Shareholder Committee.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/076

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

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/077

That officers are authorised to publicly notify the summary of decisions requested by submitters and their submissions, received for Proposed Plan Change 3, in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in clause 7 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Cr J Wong/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/078

That the following community and elected members are appointed to the Rangitikei District Council District Licencing Committee in accordance with section 193 of the and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 for a period of five years to 7 May 2031:

- Igor Maksimov (community member)
- Cr Wong
- Cr O'Fee
- Cr Buckendahl

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/079

That the Risk/Assurance Committee Terms of Reference for the 2025-2028 triennium be adopted without amendment.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/080

That Council endorses the Agreement between RDC and the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee (TGRC) for proceeding with the Taihape Grandstand Restoration project as a Community Led, Council Owned Facilities Upgrade project, with the following amendments:

11.3. Definition – Final Funder

Final Funder means the remaining portion of funding allocated to the Project that has not yet been committed or expended is retained for the completion of the Project. (Refer to resolved minute number 25/RDC/297 *“That Council is a final funder for the Taihape Grandstand”*).

Council will retain the amount of \$400,000 as the final funding and the balance of approximately \$285,000 is available to the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee through normal council procurement process, as per the agreement.

HWTM/Cr F Dalgety. Carried Unanimous

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Shareholders Agreement for Central Districts Water

The item presented related to the Shareholders Agreement. Mr Manning outlined the process followed to date and summarised the matters that had previously been agreed. He advised that

while a number of amendments had been made to the agreement, these were not considered significant. The changes were outlined, together with the rationale for their inclusion and the implications of the amendments.

Members were advised that Mr Dyhrberg had been closely involved in the development of the agreement and was available to respond to any technical questions.

Discussion focused on the proposed guarantees, the CDW Treasury Policy, and the potential for CDW to borrow from external parties. Officers advised that a global guarantee had been incorporated into the agreement to enable CDW to access lending from banking institutions. In response to a question from HWTM regarding Council's liability under the arrangement, officers confirmed that Rangitikei District Council's share would be 9%. The circumstances for triggering the guarantee were discussed.

Members noted that the same report had been presented to, and approved by, the other two participating councils.

A member asked whether the agreement had been fully approved by Ngā Tapūwae o Hau. Officers confirmed that it had.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/081

That Council as a shareholder of Central Districts Water, approves the attached Shareholders' Agreement with the recommended amendments, and delegates to the Chief Executive to sign any documents required to approve the Shareholders' Agreement on behalf of Rangitikei District Council.

HWTM/Cr P Sharland. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/082

That Council delegates to the Chief Executive of Rangitikei District Council, the ability to agree any minor, non-material changes to the Shareholders' Agreement prior to the final approval, and to report back to the Council on any changes made under this delegation.

HWTM/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

11 Minutes from Committees

11.1 Minutes from Committees

A member noted that the Erehon Rural Water Scheme minutes had not been included in the agenda papers. Officers advised that the minutes may not have been finalised in time for inclusion in the current meeting and would instead be presented to the next Council meeting for consideration.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/083

That the following minutes are received:

- Ratana Community Board Meeting – 10 February 26

- Taihape Community Board Meeting – 11 February 26
- Marton Community Committee Meeting – 18 February 26
- Bulls Community Committee Meeting – 18 February 26
- Turakina Community Committee Meeting – 19 February 26
- Omatane Rural Water Scheme Committee Meeting – 03 March 26
- Youth Council Meeting – 23 March 26
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Committee Meeting – 13 April 26
- Youth Council Meeting – 20 April 26

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

12 Meeting Closed.

The meeting closed at 12:10pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 May 2026.

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Chairperson