

MINUTES



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 30 July 2026
Time: 10:00 am
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

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

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 Darryn Black, Roding Transport Manager
- Mr Warren Pedley, Manager Finance and Partnerships
- Ms Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager
- Ms Kezia Spence, Policy Analyst
- Ms Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome / Prayer

The meeting opened at 10.00am and Cr Sharland read the Council prayer.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies received.

3 Public Forum

Kyle Baird spoke about the resource consent process for his business and the challenges associated with obtaining consent, as advised by both Council's planners and his own planners. At this stage Mr Baird has not lodged a resource consent but advocated for Council to update the district plan.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/165

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 June 2026 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 P Sharland. Carried

That the duplication of the resolved minute number 26/RDC/143 be removed.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/166

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 June 2026 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.

HWTM/Cr P Sharland. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/167

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

Cr P Sharland/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - July 2026

Councillors highlighted the LGNZ – Zone 3 reports and those that attended thanked Council for the opportunity to attend.

LGNZ Remits

Councillors discussed proposed remits for LGNZ conference and ranked the level of support for each of these remits.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/168

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

HWTM/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/169

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 1 – Priorities for Dog Control Act Reform for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/170

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 2 – Improved Regulation of Vape Retailers for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr D Baird. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/171

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 3 – Financial Support for Government Reform Implementation Costs for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/172

Council does support Remit 4 – Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government Reform for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/173

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 5 – Devolution of Place-Naming Authority to Territorial Authorities for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/174

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 6 – Enhanced role for Government in supporting subnational diplomacy for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/175

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 7 – Bulk Funding of Transport Authorities for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr S Field. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/176

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 8 – Improving LTP Audit Requirements for the 2026 LGNZ AGM.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/177

That Rangitikei District Council does support Remit 9 – A Fairer Approach to Uneconomic Transport Infrastructure Funding for the 2026 LGNZ AGM

HWTM/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/178

That Council rank in prioritisation as listed below:

- Remit 9 – A Fairer Approach to Uneconomic Transport Infrastructure Funding
- Remit 3 – Financial Support for Government Reform Implementation Costs
- Remit 8 – Improving LTP Audit Requirements
- Remit 7 – Bulk Funding of Transport Authorities

- Remit 4 – Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government Reform
- Remit 1 – Priorities for Dog Control Act Reform
- Remit 5 – Devolution of Place-Naming Authority to Territorial Authorities
- Remit 2 – Improved Regulation of Vape Retailers
- Remit 6 – Enhanced role for Government in supporting subnational diplomacy

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/179

That Council does delegate His Worship the Mayor to finalise and sign the 2026 Statement of Intent between the New Zealand Defence Force and Palmerston North City Council, Manawātū District Council, Rangitikei District Council and Ruapehu District Council.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - July 2026

Approval to appoint one or more independent hearings commissioners for Proposed Plan Change 3 and delegate appropriate functions to them

Councillors discussed the approach taken by other councils and Ms Gower highlighted that it varies across councils and she described the process that would be undertaken.

Councillors discussed concerns about delegating this responsibility. His Worship the Mayor noted that, given the complexity of the Hearings Commissioner certification process, delegation was a responsible and practical approach.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/180

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

Cr P Sharland/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/181

That Council approves that either a sole independent commissioner or up to three (3) independent commissioners be appointed to the Hearing Panel for Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth and delegates the Chief Executive and Mayor to determine those appointments.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/182

That Council delegates to the independent hearings commissioner or hearings panel all necessary powers, duties and functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider, hear, deliberate and decide on all submissions and further submissions received on Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Operative Rangitikei District Plan.

HWTM/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/183

That Council approves the reinstatement of the Taihape untreated water charge of \$1.88 per m³ in Council's Fees and Charges 2026/27.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Simplifying Local Government - Head Start Pathway

The Mayor highlighted the value of Central Districts Waters relationships and Council's interest in continuing conversations with these councils about amalgamation. The Mayor noted this could be highlighted in a letter to the Minister that goes alongside the Memorandum of Understanding and joint letter.

Councillors noted that Ruapehu, Manawatū and Tararua District Council have opted out of the Head Start pathway and instead have endorsed signing the joint letter and Memorandum of Understanding as a proactive approach to reform. There are still councils in the region to hold meetings and make a decision on which approach to take.

Councillors highlighted that there has been limited amount of time but that this has been a priority with significant work undertaken and discussion held between councillors, chief executives, and the mayors in the region.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/184

That the report Simplifying Local Government - Head Start Pathway be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/185

That Council does not submit an outline proposal under the Government's Head Start pathway for local government reform.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Hiroa. Carried Unanimous

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/186

That Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to continue exploring local government reform models outside the Head Start pathway that seek to achieve the Government's objectives while retaining local representation, local decision-making and local accountability, including working collaboratively with other councils where appropriate.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/187

That Council authorises His Worship the Mayor to communicate Council's position to the Minister of Local Government and the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport - outlining Council's willingness to take an active role in Local Government reform and intent to work collaboratively with other councils (as required).

Cr P Sharland/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/188

Authorises His Worship the Mayor to finalise and sign a joint letter and/or memorandum of understanding with other councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region to the Minister of Local Government, noting Council's willingness to take an active role in local government reform and intent to work collaboratively with other councils.

Cr A Buckendahl/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

11 Reports for Information

11.1 Finance Snapshot - June 2026

Cr Wilson left at 11.35am and returned at 11.38am.

Officers advised that this is interim reporting for the end of the financial year.

Councillors questioned the Better Off Funding – Taihape Town Hall and officers responded that due to being behind schedule, that this meant the funding we expected to see claimed has not occurred. The funds for the project are still available and will be claimed at the time of each appropriate stage of the project.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/189

That Council receive the Finance Snapshot June – 2026 Report

Cr F Dalgety/Cr D Baird. Carried

12 Minutes from Committees

12.1 Minutes from Committees

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/190

That the following minutes are received:

- Policy/Planning Committee – 12 March 2026
- Hunterville Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committee Meeting – 13 April 2026
- Bulls Community Committee – 22 April 2026
- Community Grants Committee – 29 April 2026
- Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Committee – 30 April 2026
- Creative NZ Community Committee – 20 May 2026
- Assets/Infrastructure Committee – 28 May 2026
- Risk/Assurance Committee – 28 May 2026
- Finance/Performance Committee – 28 May 2026
- Hunterville Community Committee Meeting – 03 June 2026
- Hunterville Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committee Meeting – 08 June 2026
- Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti Meeting – 09 June 2026
- Erewhon Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committee Meeting – 08 June 2026
- Rātana Community Board Meeting – 09 June 2026
- Taihape Community Board Meeting – 10 June 2026
- Marton Community Committee Meeting – 10 June 2026
- Turakina Community Committee Meeting – 11 June 2026
- Bulls Community Committee Meeting – 17 June 2026
- Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting – 08 July 2026

Cr P Sharland/Cr D Baird. Carried

13 Recommendations from Committees

13.1 Recommendations from Community Committees and the Taihape Community Board - Small Projects Fund and the Community Grants Committee

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/191

That the report Recommendations from Community Committees and the Taihape Community Board - Small Projects Fund and the Community Grants Committee be received.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr D Baird. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/192

That Council approves carry-forward of \$494.72 for the Turakina Community Committee for the 2026/27 financial year, noting that there are earmarked funds.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/193

That Council approves carry-forward of \$1176.00 for the Taihape Community Board for the 2026/27 financial year.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/194

That Council approves carry-forward of up to \$1,363.47 for the Bulls Community Committee for the 2026/27 financial year, noting that there are earmarked funds.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/195

That Council approves carry-forward of up to \$2276.00 for the Hunterville Community Committee for the 2026/27 financial year.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/196

That Council approves carry forward of \$3,717.70 for the Community Initiatives Fund for the 2026/27 financial year.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/197

That Council approves carry forward of \$1,620 from the Event Support Scheme for the 2026/27 financial year.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

13.2 Recommendation from Hunterville Community Committee

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/198

That the report recommendation from Hunterville Community Committee be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr S Field. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/199

That Council receives the recommendation from the Hunterville Community Committee regarding the Hunterville Swimming Pool's Certificate of Fitness and notes the actions taken by officers.

Cr S Field/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

14 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session at 11.52am.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/200

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

- 1 Public Excluded Council Meeting – 11 June 2026 and 25 June 2026
2. Sale of 304-318 Broaway, Marton
3. Recommendation from Chief Executive Performance Committee

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
14.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting – 11 June 2026 and 25 June 2026	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 11 June and 25 June meeting.	S48(1)(a)
14.2 - Sale of 304-318 Broaway, Marton	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)

	s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	
14.3 - Recommendation from Chief Executive Performance Committee	To consider matters of employment and to protect privacy. 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 S Field. Carried

15 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session 12.13pm

Resolved minute number **26/RDC/207**

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

22/RDC/201 - 22/RDC/206

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

The meeting closed at 12.13pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 August 2026.

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Chairperson