

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 3 September 2026

Time: 10.00am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

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

In attendance

Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive
Ms Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Mr Johan Cullis, Group Manager – Regulatory and Emergency Management
Ms Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager
Mr Aaron Thornton, Manager – Animal Control
Ms Janna Harris, Corporate Planner
Ms Kezia Spence, Policy Analyst
Mr Aron Bremner, Economic Advisor
Ms Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome / Prayer

The meeting opened at 10.00am and Cr Wong read the Council Prayer.

There was a moment of silence to recognise the passing of Ms Dawn Hesketh and her contribution to the Rangitīkei District Council during her time as a staff member.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/225

That the apologies from Cr Paul Sharland be received.

Cr G O'Fee/Cr S Field. Carried

3 Public Forum

Mariaan and Moniek Veuger spoke on their experience within the TUIA mentorship programme, thanking HWTM Watson for the opportunity. They discussed how the programme has supported them to grow in confidence and follow their ambitions, especially considering the connections made with others during wānanga.

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/226

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 July 2026, as amended, be reconfirmed as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, noting the inclusion of resolved minute number 26/RDC/181, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

AND

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 August 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.

Cr A Buckendahl/Cr J Wong. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

HWTM highlighted Item 1 on the register, that a process will begin soon to consider the delegation of decision-making powers to Council Committees.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/227

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

Cr P Hiroa/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report – September 2026

The report was taken as read and HWTM highlighted the Bulls Junior Rugby Tournament on 29 August 2026 as an excellent event for Rangitikei and applauded the event organisers.

HWTM tabled the attendance report for Rural & Provincial on 6-8 August 2026 written by Cr Fi Dalgety. Elected members discussed the positive changes apparent during recent LGNZ events.

HWTM noted that Council has received confirmation from Waka Kotahi/NZTA that the FAR remains unchanged at 66%, which is a good outcome for Council.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/228

That the report Mayor's Report – September 2026 be received.

HWTM/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report – September 2026

Elected members discussed the Central Districts Water (CDW) transfer, especially the processes regarding risk prevention and communication of expected water charges to ratepayers.

HWTM noted that communication within CDW and amongst its stakeholders is very active and there are mechanisms in place to continue this following transfer.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/229

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

Cr C Raukawa/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Central Districts Water Ltd Exemption

Ms Macdonald confirmed this decision is also being taken to the other Councils within CDW (Horowhenua District Council and Palmerston North City Council). Elected members highlighted the cost savings which this decision allows.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/230

That the report "Central Districts Water Ltd Exemption" be received.

Cr S Field/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/231

That Council provide an exemption to Central District Waters Limited from being a Council Controlled Organisation granted under Section 7(5) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the period of 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026, if it is needed.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr D Baird. Carried

10.2 Control of Dogs Bylaw and Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy

Elected members considered the possible legislative changes to the Dog Control Act in early 2027, and discussed the realistic timeframes and value in making decisions based on current legislation.

Elected members discussed the enforcement capacity of the Bylaw and queried the processes of enforcement. Officers advised that infringements can be followed up by Animal Control officers and enforced if no solution can be reached with the owner. This is reliant on the public alerting Council via requests for service. Officers advised there are not a large number of infringements enforced as a consequence of this bylaw.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/232

That the report Control of Dogs Bylaw and Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy be received.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr S Field. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/233

That Council confirm that the draft Control of Dogs Bylaw and Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy without amendment be approved for public consultation.

Cr J Wong/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/234

That Council gives the Chief Executive authority to make minor editorial and formatting changes to the Statement of Proposal for the Control of Dogs Bylaw and Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy prior to publication for community consultation.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

10.3 Food Business Grading Bylaw 2021

Ms Harris highlighted there has been no enforcement action taken under the Bylaw, yet there has been action taken under the Food Act, and that councils are generally moving away from reviewing their Food Business Grading Bylaws.

Members questioned the cost of doing a review or revoking the bylaw now. Officers advised this would largely relate to staff time, and confirmed that leaving the bylaw to expire is the most cost-effective approach .

Elected members raised concerns regarding customers seeking out the grading certificates. Officers advised that there are other ways for customers to confirm food safety compliance within the Food Act, and that it is more so business owners rather than customers who support displaying grading certificates.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/235

That the report 'Food Business Grading Bylaw 2021' be received.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/236

That Council does not review the Food Business Grading Bylaw 2021 and let it be automatically revoked on 28 October 2028.

Cr J Wong/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

11 Recommendations from Committees

11.1 Recommendation from the 27 August 2026 Assets/Infrastructure Committee

Cr Wilson noted the discussion during the 27 August 2026 Assets/Infrastructure Committee highlighted the matter of delegations to be recorded as an action to be a broader conversation for Council. If there were to be changes suggested following this process, the Terms of Reference could be revisited at that time.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/237

That the report Recommendation from the 27 August 2026 Assets/Infrastructure Committee be received.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/238

That the Terms of Reference for the Assets/Infrastructure Committee be adopted.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

The meeting closed at 11.11am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 October 2026.

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Chairperson