

MINUTES

FINANCE/PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 24 February 2022

Time: 9.30 am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- Cr Nigel Belsham
- Cr Fi Dalgety [*via Zoom*]
- Cr Cath Ash [*via Zoom*]
- Cr Brian Carter [*via Zoom*]
- Cr Dave Wilson [*via Zoom*]
- Cr Gill Duncan [*via Zoom*]
- HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

- Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
- Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
- Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager – Democracy and Planning
- Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services [*via Zoom*]
- Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture [*via Zoom*]
- Mr Danny Le Mar, Manager Financial Services [*via Zoom*]
- Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

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 Finance/Performance Meetings	4
8	Chair's Report	4
8.1	Chair's Report - February 2022	4
9	Reports for Information	4
9.1	Financial Snapshot - January 2022	4
9.2	Treasury and Debt - January 2022	5
9.3	QV Monthly Report - December 2021	5
9.4	LGFA - General Information	5
9.5	Council's Forestry Holdings.....	6
9.6	Funding for Consenting Works.....	6
9.7	HappyOrNot Report - January 2022	6
9.8	Statement of Service Performance: July - December 2021	7
10	Insurance Costs Approval	7
10.1	Insurance Costs Approval.....	7
11	Meeting Closed	7

1 Welcome / Prayer

Cr Belsham opened the meeting at 9.30 am and read the Council prayer.

2 Apologies

Cr Hiroa texted staff during the meeting and advised that she may join the meeting late.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/012

That the apology for Cr Gordon be received.

Cr B Carter/HWTM A Watson. Carried

3 Public Forum

No public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

The Public Excluded item 'Insurance Costs Approval' was addressed before item 6 (Confirmation of Minutes), and the Committee agreed to defer the item to the full Council meeting 24 February 2022.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/013

That the minutes of the Finance/Performance Committee meeting held on 27 January 2022, as amended, be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the Chair's electronic signature be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Amendment: Item 10.2 – change 'valuation period' to 'objection period' and add '... following the release of the new QV valuations'.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr G Duncan. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Finance/Performance Meetings

It was noted that the follow-up action relating to the Insurance Costs Approval should be amended to reflect the deferral to the full Council meeting.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/014

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Finance/Performance Meetings' be received.

Cr C Ash/Cr B Carter. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - February 2022

Cr Belsham thanked staff for their continued work during the current COVID-19 resurgence.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/015

That the tabled Chair's Report – February 2022 be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Financial Snapshot - January 2022

Mr Tombs advised that the figures included within the mid-year budget review are indicative and subject to a lot of future variables. He also noted that the budget item for Libraries (under Capital Expenditure +\$500k projects) will hopefully be removed by Council at its afternoon meeting today.

In response to a query regarding the ongoing presence of security guards at Council, Mr Beggs advised that he has asked his executive leadership team reviewing the requirement for this, as the end of their original three-month contract is approaching.

The Committee discussed the value of the mid-year budget review and noted that, although the figures are subject to change, they help to provide the Committee with insight around potential carry-overs before the end of the financial year.

The Committee requested that staff provide more context on the Activity Performance Report for Community Wellbeing (specifically the comments around 'Subsidies and Grants').

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/016

That the report 'Financial Snapshot – January 2022' be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.2 Treasury and Debt - January 2022

Mr Le Mar advised that Council has taken out an additional \$5M since the start of February 2022 that is not shown in the report. Roughly \$4.5M of the receivables are due to timing – the rates have been set but the invoices are not due until February.

In response to a query about whether the \$8m of debt is in alignment with forecasts in previous annual plans, Mr Tombs advised that spending would be higher towards June 2022 and that the debt will change towards the end of the financial year.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/017

That the report 'Treasury and Debt - January 2022' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.3 QV Monthly Report - December 2021

Mr Beggs advised that Council's regulatory team have seen a fewer number of consents, due to builders not having access to construction materials that they require to finish projects.

In response to a query, Mr Le Mar advised that data on building consent numbers are sourced straight from the QV report. QV tracks this data internally via the completion of valuations.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/018

That the QV Monthly Report - December 2021 be received

Cr G Duncan/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

9.4 LGFA - General Information

In response to a query, Mr Tombs advised that Council is currently in the process of becoming a guarantor within the Local Government Funding Authority.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/019

That the report 'LGFA - General Information' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.5 Council's Forestry Holdings

In response to a query around the thinning to waste that will be required in the coming years for forestry at Toe Toe Road and Mangaweka, Mr Tombs advised that he was uncertain if this had yet been planned and he will follow-up.

It was agreed that a full workshop was not required for this issue, and elected members were instead invited to email any specific questions to Mr Tombs.

The Mayor asked what the cost was to commission this report. Mr Tombs was uncertain, but advised that he will follow-up and find out.

The Committee discussed the merit of Council retaining forestry holdings, considering their low economic benefit to the district. It was requested that staff investigate what the net value of these holdings may be, as it was suggested that Council may be subject to a net loss when the cost of harvesting is taken into account.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/020

That the report 'Council's Forestry Holdings' be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.6 Funding for Consenting Works

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/021

That the report 'Funding for Consenting Works' be received.

Cr G Duncan/Cr C Ash. Carried

9.7 HappyOrNot Report - January 2022

Mrs Gordon advised that the number of responses were lower in January than normal, and that this will likely be the case for February as well, due to the need to close some facilities because of Omicron.

In response to a query about the recording of complaints on drinking water in Marton, Mrs Gordon advised that these are recorded within the Request for Service (RFS) system and will be reported to the Committee via the Statement of Service Performance Report. Other point of service reporting measures (e.g., QR codes at public sites) are being implemented and should be completed by March.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/022

That the HappyOrNot Report – January 2022 be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr D Wilson. Carried

9.8 Statement of Service Performance: July - December 2021

The Committee confirmed that this report should continue to come to the Finance/Performance Committee, and does not need to be duplicated for full Council meetings.

In response to a query, Mrs Gordon confirmed that Council had considered measurements as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan process. The Mayor, noting the reduced target, advised the district's roading network is going to deteriorate in future years. He further noted that Council used to have a target of 12 or 13%, but that this become unachievable due to a reduction in funding from both rates and Waka Kotahi.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/023

That the report 'Statement of Service Performance: July – December 2021' be received.

Cr G Duncan/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

10 Insurance Costs Approval

10.1 Insurance Costs Approval

Addressed at 9.33 am and before item 6 (Confirmation of Minutes).

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/024

That the Finance / Performance Committee recommend that the item "Insurance Costs Approval" be considered at the Council meeting being held on 24 February 2022.

HWTM A Watson/Cr D Wilson. Carried

11 Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 10.43 am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Finance/Performance Committee held on 31 March 2022.

.....

Chairperson