

MINUTES

FINANCE/PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 28 April 2022

Time: 9.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- Cr Nigel Belsham
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Cr Brian Carter
- Cr Angus Gordon
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Gill Duncan
- 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
- Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture [*via Zoom*]
- Ms Karen Griffiths, Acting Manager – Financial Services [*via Zoom*]
- Ms Rebecca Bramley, Financial Accountant [*via Zoom*]
- Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor
- Ms Laurel Mauchline Campbell, Grants Assessor
- Cr Richard Lambert

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1 Welcome / Prayer

The meeting opened at 9.02 am. Cr Lambert read the Council prayer.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/040

That the apologies for Cr Hiroa and Cr Ash, and an apology for lateness for Cr Gordon, be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr G Duncan. Carried

3 Public Forum

No public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/041

That the minutes of the Finance/Performance Committee meeting held on 31 March 2022, without amendment, 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.

Cr B Carter/Cr D Wilson. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Finance/Performance Meetings

The Committee agreed to close item 7 (Revaluation impact across the sector).

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/042

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

Cr G Duncan/Cr D Wilson. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - April 2022

Cr Belsham noted that COVID-19 had caused delays in some of Council's significant projects, and had also lowered the amount of funding applications that the Committee would typically expect to see.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/043

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

Cr N Belsham/HWTM A Watson. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Community Initiatives Fund - Consideration of Applications for Round Two of 2021/22

The Committee agreed to retain the current process for discussing funding amounts.

Cr Gordon arrived at the meeting at 9.16 am.

Wanganui Neighbourhood Area Support Group

The Committee noted that this organisation has done very good work in the district, although they would have liked to have seen more information provided within the funding application.

Arohanui Hospice Service Trust

The Committee agreed to fund the full amount requested.

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Rangitikei Branch

The Committee agreed to fund the full amount requested.

Whangaehu Hall Trust

The Committee noted that this was a valuable hub for the community, and a useful asset for emergency use.

Remaining Funds

The Mayor suggested that the Committee set aside some funding for the Samoan Remembrance Day. The Committee agreed to contribute \$1,000 upon receipt of a request from the Samoan community, and requested that the Mayor make contact with them to initiate this process.

The Committee agreed to carry-forward the remaining funds to 2022/23.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/044

That the report 'Community Initiatives Fund – Consideration of Applications for Round Two of 2021/22' be received.

HWTM A Watson/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/045

That the Finance/Performance Committee approve the sponsorship of projects listed below, and disperse the Community Initiatives Fund as outlined to successful applicants:

- Whanganui Area Neighbourhood Support Groups Inc: \$1,160
- Arohanui Hospice Service Trust: \$978.32
- Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Rangitikei Branch: \$228
- Whangaehu Hall Trust: \$2,300

HWTM A Watson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/046

That the Finance/Performance Committee recommends to Council that the remaining funds of the Community Initiatives Fund 2021/22 (totalling \$14,823.68, less the \$1,000 for the Samoan Remembrance Day), be carried-forward to the Community Initiatives Fund for 2022/23.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/047

That \$1,000 from the remaining funds for the Community Initiatives Fund 2021/22, be provided for the Samoan Remembrance Day, including the use of the Marton RSA and Citizens Memorial Hall, upon receipt of a request from the Samoan community.

HWTM A Watson/Cr D Wilson. Carried

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Financial Snapshot - March 2022

In response to a query, Mr Tombs advised that there has been a significant year to date underspend for the Subsidies and Grants out of the 2021/22 budget. This is mostly due to the roading programme (e.g., Marton Rail Hub project being deferred), meaning that the funds have not come in from Waka Kotahi.

Regarding carry-overs of funds, the Mayor advised that the rating positions will be struck in June and that the Committee meeting in May will likely be the last opportunity to account for changes to

the capital works programme. Staff advised that they will identify the carry-overs as clearly as possible to elected members.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/048

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

Cr G Duncan/Cr D Wilson. Carried

10.2 Treasury and Debt - March 2022

Mr Tombs advised that staff are expecting a significant capital expenditure in the next three months, and the increased borrowing will assist in covering this. In response to a query, Mr Tombs confirmed that the interest on this borrowing is fixed at a set rate.

In response to a query about unpaid rates, Mr Tombs advised that this figure is the 'Receivables (excl. Rates) of \$1.9 million. Staff are actively managing outstanding rates.

The Committee requested that the liquidity ratio be included in future reports. This includes both the current rate for Council and the benchmark set by the NZ Local Government Funding Agency.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/049

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

Cr A Gordon/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

10.3 QV Monthly Report - February 2022

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/050

That the QV Monthly Report - February 2022 be received

Cr G Duncan/Cr D Wilson. Carried

10.4 HappyOrNot Report - March 2022

Mrs Gordon advised that there has been a low response rate than would normally be seen due to the closure of libraries and information centres because of Covid, staff expect this to increase in future months as Council facilities re-open to the public.

In response to a query, Mr Beggs advised that staff use their discretion when determining if action needs to take place from responses received via the HappyOrNot system. Staff will identify any trends and take appropriate action when needed. Any service requests (e.g., potholes) should be directed via the RFS (request for service) system.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/051

That the HappyOrNot Report – March 2022 be received.

Cr B Carter/Cr A Gordon. Carried

10.5 Community Initiatives Fund - Project Report Forms

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 22/FPE/052

That that following Project Report Forms for the Community Initiatives Fund be received:

- 2021/22 (Round 1) – Bulls and District Friendship Club
- 2020/21 (Round 2) – Wanganui Area Neighbourhood Support Groups

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Duncan. Carried

The meeting closed at 10.14 am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Finance/Performance Committee held on 26 May 2022.

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Chairperson