



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

HUNTERVILLE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 3 June 2026

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Hunterville Town Hall
Bruce Street
Hunterville

Chair: Mr Justin Adams

Deputy Chair: Ms Kelsey Smith

Membership: Ms Sandra Carroll
Ms Charissa Lawlor
Ms Lesley Shaw
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Alan Buckendahl (Alternate)
HWTM Andy Watson (Ex Oficio)

Purpose of the Committee

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines provided¹.
- Particularly, to help ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure, by promoting its use and advising community members on how to use it.
- To be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.
- To engage with wider/small communities of the ward represented.

Quorum

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 23 November 22) 11.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, i.e. half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

At least 1 Elected Member must be present at the meeting.

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor, 0800 422 522 (ext. 917), or via email

kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz

¹ Appended to the Delegations Register

Notice is hereby given that a Hunterville Community Committee Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Hunterville Town Hall, Bruce Street, Hunterville on Wednesday, 3 June 2026 at 5.30pm.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt as a late item at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Huntermville Community Committee Meeting held on 1 April 2026** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Huntermville Community Committee Meeting - 1 April 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Huntermville Community Committee Meeting held on 1 April 2026 [**as amended/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.

MINUTES



UNCONFIRMED: HUNTERVILLE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2026
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: **Hunternville Town Hall
Bruce Street
Hunternville**

Present Mr Justin Adams
Ms Sandra Carroll
Ms Charissa Lawlor
Ms Kelsey Smith
Ms Lesley Shaw
Cr Fi Dalgety

In attendance Ms Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer
Mr Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Officer

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**ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1**

1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 6pm.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/011

That the apology from HWTM Watson be received.

Ms S Carroll/Ms C Lawlor. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

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

Amendment – on Page 11 – change the date of minutes confirmation to the 8th of April.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/012

That the minutes of Huntermville Community Committee Meeting held on 9 February 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.

Ms C Lawlor/Ms S Carroll. Carried

7 Follow-up Actions from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Huntermville Community Committee Meetings

The committee would like to merge actions 1 and 5 in regards to stream maintenance. After the recent storm event HWTM was going to contact Horizons around the streams maintenance to reduce risk of future flooding. The Chair will draft a letter to Horizons on behalf of the Community Committee.

Action 2 – Ms Lawlor had been in contact with the NZTA around consent for the signage, also the words “Lancia” need to be darkened on the sign. She also gave an update on progress with the sign installation process. The sign need to also reference (for further information) linking to the Amon Statue in Bulls and also link to the Hunterville Museum – Ms Bovey to action this.

Action 3 – the Police had asked for 2 Hunterville residents to be nominated to be part of the interview panel for the new Rural Community Officer – Ms Lawlor and Cr Dalgety were nominated with Ms Smith and Ms Carrol available if required.

Action 4 – Ms Carrol advised that the local RSA had been in touch with DOC and the Defence Force and the Inglis Bridge parts have been located and they are happy to meet with interested locals to discuss a way forward. The committee committed to setting up a meeting and also a sub group with the RSA to look at solutions for access to the Reserve and options for the bridge.

Action 6 – In progress

Action 7 - Cr Dalgety has a meeting with the CE on Monday 13th April to discuss.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/013

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Hunterville Community Committee Meetings be received.

Ms C Lawlor/Ms S Carroll. Carried

7 Chair’s Report

8.1 Chair's Report - April 2026

The Chair gave a verbal report.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/014

That the Chair’s Report –April 2026 be received.

Ms C Lawlor/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

8 Reports for Decision

9.1 Deputy Chair - Hunterville Community Committee

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair. Ms Lesley Shaw nominated Ms Charrissa Lawlor this was seconded by Kelsey Smith. Ms Lawlor accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/015

That the report Deputy Chair – Huntermville Community Committee be received.

Ms L Shaw/Ms K Smith. Carried

Committee Recommendation

That Ms Charissa Lawlor be appointed Deputy Chair of the Huntermville Community Committee.

Ms L Shaw/Ms K Smith.

9 Reports for Information

10.1 Small Projects Fund Update - April 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/016

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – April 2026 be received.

Ms S Carroll/Ms K Smith. Carried

10.2 Mayor's Report - March 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/017

That the Mayor’s Report – March 2026 be received.

Ms C Lawlor/Ms S Carroll. Carried

10.3 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026

The report was taken as read. The committee members did note that it would be good to have more detail on what funders had applied for funding for.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/018

That the Funding Schemes Update – April 2026 be received.

Ms K Smith/Ms S Carroll. Carried

10.4 Community Response Plan - Huntermville

Mr Paul Chaffe spoke to the Community Response plan report. After discussion the committee requested 600 copies of the “Are you prepared” checklist with a QR code to direct to the response plan online. The checklist would be delivered with the Huntermville Bulletin.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/019

That the report Community Response Plan – Huntermville be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Ms C Lawlor. Carried

10.5 Annual Plan 2026/27 Consultation

There was a brief discussion on the Annual Plan. The committee did note that only 2 days notice of the Annual Plan consultation meeting in Huntermville made it very difficult for locals to attend.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/020

That the report Annual Plan 2026/27 Consultation be received.

Ms L Shaw/Ms S Carroll. Carried

10 Discussion Items

11.1 Meeting Dates and Times

The committee confirmed the new meeting time going forward would be the first Wednesday in the month starting at 5.30pm. The next meeting date would be the 3rd of June.

Resolved minute number 26/HCC/021

That the new meeting time for the Huntermville Community Committee is the first Wednesday of the month with the meeting commencing at 5.30pm, every second month.

Mr J Adams/Ms C Lawlor. Carried

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Huntermville Community Committee held on 3 June 2026.

.....
Chairperson

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Huntermville Community Committee Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Huntermville Community Committee meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for follow up, and a brief status comment.

2. Decision Making Process

2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

Attachments:

1. Follow-up Actions [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Huntermville Community Committee Meetings be received.

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1		Upkeep of Porewa & Ongo Streams	Fi	Committee requested to merge actions around both streams to one update in their April 2026 meeting. Cr Dalgety advised the Mayor will follow up with Horizons around stream maintenance and the Chair will draft a letter from the committee to Horizons as well.	In progress
2		An update on the Master Mechanic signage	Mel/Charissa	Verbal update during the small projects fund. Charissa waiting on advice from NZTA on consent for sign. To darken the word "Lancia" on the sign and add a reference to the Amon Statue in Bulls and Hunterville museum for more information on the back of the sign. She will also be working with Pio Rowe who will be assisting with this Community Leg project.	In progress
3		Update on the policing situation in Hunterville	Andy	Police requested 2 representatives from the community to sit on the interview panel Fi Dalgety and Charissa Lawlor nominated.	In progress
4	14-Apr-25	Simpson bush reserve Inglis bridge	Committee	Update from April 2026 meeting. Sandra Carrol had an update from the Hunterville RSA that the bridge is in bits in storage and may not be in good enough condition to re-build. A group of interested representatives from the committee and RSA will be formed to meet with DOC and the Defence force to discuss regaining public access to the reserve and discuss what options there are for the bridge.	In progress
5	14-Apr-25	Ambulance Building	Committee	Opportunity to update this action	In progress
6	1-Oct-24	This item was requested from the committee: baths re wheel chair side door needs concrete and fixing presently has metal difficult for a wheel chair	Fi	Fi advised that she had a meeting with the CE on the Monday following the committee meeting to discuss options for getting the CCC.	In progress
7	1-Oct-24	Can the committee have 600 copies of the Are you prepared notice printed with a QR code to be delivered to the community.	Paul Chaffe		In progress

ITEM 8.1

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - June 2026

Author: Justin Adams, Chair

The Chair may provide a verbal or tabled report.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report –April 2026 be received.

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - June 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

1. Having just returned from a family holiday, this report will be a little disjointed with the noting of things over the last few weeks that may have already had coverage by Comms or Council. My appreciation to Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson for very ably standing in for me is foremost in my mind. While I was away our district faced the possibility of a weather declaration, the new Central Districts Water Board was put in place and major decisions were made by Council on the Marton Pool and Marton Water project. These were big decisions and I was able to Zoom in to the Council meeting on the day and support them. We now have a future with the Marton Pool and while the water strategy project is frustrating in the delay, the money spent on the new bores is not wasted and what we are wanting is the best option for treatment processes. I and Council are committed to keeping you updated on progress over the next few months. The run-up to Council on these decisions takes time and skill answering questions raised and checking that the right information is available to Councillors. It was a pity that the Harvest Festival had to be cancelled but it was the right call. Dave handled all of this incredibly well – thanks.

2. Central Districts Water is now live and will take effect 2027. I have included some photos from the establishment of the new Board and it was a pity that I was away for the powhiri to welcome the new Board. The next milestone will be the setting of what is known as the Statement of Expectations set by the Shareholder Committee representing the three Councils and Iwi aspirations and direction to the entity. The performance of the entity will be held to account through both this process and the Commerce Commission.



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3. Like so many others in our district I took part in ANZAC Day services. It is a time for us to reflect on the sacrifices made by young men and women who left our shores, so many of them not to return. My thanks to all of those who took part. The Rangitikei has a proud military history. With Waiouru to the north of us, and Base Ōhakea and Linton Military Camp to our south, many defence force staff call our district home. We’re incredibly grateful for their service to our country, and the contribution that they make to Rangitikei. As part of the day I attended the Ohingaiti service at 10am. The young students from Huntermville School and locals read excerpts from letters sent home from the front which I found particularly moving. We will remember them.

4. Local Government New Zealand have initiated regular Zoom Meetings for members with the Minister of Local Government Simon Watts. The 17 March session was Chaired by LGNZ President Rehette Stoltz and the salient points were -
 - 200 members of LGNZ were on the call including our CE Carol and Councillor Diana Baird.
 - Minister Watts thanked the sector for their work and made the point that Senior Ministers were aware of the scale of reforms that the sector faced.
 - The Minister gave assurance that New Zealand is in a good space around fuel security.
 - He then wanted to highlight several of the reforms before engaging in a Q&A session.
 - i) Simplifying Local Government legislation
 - Consultation/Submission process now closed and under review
 - Regarding timeframes proposed at 2 years – the Minister said that several councils want Government to move with pace, so timelines are currently being reviewed.
 - There was the comment that “one size doesn’t fit all” and there will be regional differences.

- Government wants to move at pace was repeated.
- ii) Rates Capping
 - Government is looking at a range-based model
 - Feedback to Government is supportive of the direction for the rates cap
 - The Minister said that final design is not there yet, but legislation should be in place before the election
- iii) Ratepayer Assistance
 - A Steering Group has been set up to look at this.
- iv) Dog Control Legislation
 - Current status is not acceptable
 - Notes the three fatalities in Northland resulting from dog attacks
 - Multi-ministers involved in this review and there will be more on this later
 - The Government is keen to work with the LGNZ sector here
- v) RMA Reform
 - Ministers Bishop and Watts are working closely on this
 - Fewer consents will be required perhaps halving the need
 - Reform process is on track
 - The reforms will help councils to meet rates cap

- Q&A Session –

- Timelines for Regional Councils? *No further comment and it had been referenced earlier.*
- Boundary issues for authorities aligned to reform? *Minister Bishop has responsibility in this space.*
- The issue of compensation to property owners over land reclassification – has this been factored into rates pegging? *No clear answer.*
- The question of the costs of audit amidst the backdrop of rates pegging? *Being looked at by Government was the response.*

5. On 21 March I attended the final tribute to 50 years of operation of the Marton OpShop - a High Tea at Rangitikei College. Over the preceding week there was a series of events celebrating this. Rangitikei is built on voluntary organisations, often started by church groups, service groups and our communities and the OpShop is a classic example of this. It has been a remarkable progression over the 50 years lead initially by Ted Calkin, Betty Corballis and Clifford Brown and carried on through Marton Christian Welfare and the current team headed by Mike O’Regan. Our community has benefitted by over \$50m worth of community support, made possible by the huge number of volunteers at the OpShop and by the gifting of the community who supply it. Recently the OpShop was named in 2nd place nationally as the Best OpShop in the country – congratulations, this is well deserved. I have included a photo of the cutting of the cake.

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6. Taihape Health Update – this has been and still is a roller coaster ride. The collaboration between Otaihape Health Trust and Mokai Patea Services to take over, by way of a longterm “peppercorn” lease, the old hospital at Taihape currently run under Te Whatu Ora initially seemed to be straightforward and a fantastic solution for Taihape and the Rangitikei. Progress has been slow but a Zoom meeting with Minister Simeon Brown in June seemed to provide ministerial direction that it should proceed quickly. Effectively he instructed officials to proceed, the key element being the sale of the buildings for \$1, roof replacement and the ground lease at the peppercorn rental. Since that time, health officials have reneged on that direction especially by asking for a huge unrealistic rental cost. I wrote to the Minister in April and have written again this week asking for an urgent meeting. I know that our MP Suze Redmayne is actively supporting us. If this is not dealt with quickly, we as a community need to take action and politicise it as loudly as possible. Jude MacDonald and Piki Te Ora Hira and all involved need our support.
7. The 2026 Ford Ranger NZ Rural Games took place in Palmerston North on 15 March. Once again a hugely successful event with many of the competitors coming from the Rangitikei. Normally I would attend the welcoming powhiri which this year unfortunately clashed with another event, however I did support the Awards Night on 13 March where Marton’s own fencer Tim Stafford was a finalist in the NZ Rural Sportsman of the Year. Tim’s year was defined by a stunning treble of major titles – the Silver Spades, the East Coast Fencing Rivalry in the USA demonstrating NZ standards on the world stage and the Golden Pliers, NZ’s premier solo fencing competition. Tim is more than a champion fencer – he is a leader and stands for skill, integrity and passion in NZ’s rural sports community. Winning the Golden Pliers twice in one decade defines a career – congratulations on your achievements Tim!

8. Last weekend I attended the 2026 Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge event in Turakina. This annual event has been running since 2015 and the number of people there, I believe, was a record this year. The combination of wet weather the week preceding to make the driving obstacles difficult and two days of dry weather just prior provided a very successful mix. I can't tell you who won the event but I can say that as a parking attendant the crowds absolutely loved it and I understand that a large number of people travelled from around the country to watch, many of whom took up local accommodation options – a huge plus for our district.

9. The winners of the 2026 Community Volunteer Awards have now been notified and published on our website and social media pages. Thank you to everyone who took the time to put in nominations recognising the extraordinary work so many volunteers do within our district. Myself and Elected Members are visiting each of the 5 winners to present their awards at separate personalised ceremonies starting on 1 May. Pictures and more information will be available on our website following those events.

10. On a final celebratory note, just before I went away I attended the Ballance Farm Environmental Awards where Jarred and Bronwyn Clode and the Te Hou Farms team were named the 2026 Supreme Winners, an achievement that they should be justifiably proud of. Te Hou farms is two-thirds owned by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Developments Ltd in partnership with Āti hau Whanganui Incorporation. I have included a link for further details - [Jarred & Bronwyn Clode | New Zealand Farm Environment Trust](#)



ITEM 9.1



Deputy Mayor’s Engagements

During the Mayor’s annual leave absence, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson attended the following engagements

- 27 March – Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting with all three Councils. I attended on Zoom and Cr Fi Dalgety attended in person. These are important meetings as we continue to form our relationships with CDW and our three Councils.
- 4 April - Bulls Rugby Club 150th Jubilee
- Met with Chief Executive regularly including making the unfortunate decision to cancel the 2026 Harvest Festival due to predicted Cyclone Vaianu.
- Zoom meetings with CDEM Regional Mayors and CE’s regarding potential impact of Cyclone Vaianu. This was useful in understanding Council processes and while I have confidence in them, confidence can lead to complacency and we should never be complacent when events like this arise. I am confident we have a robust system in place. I thank the Chief Executive for keeping Elected Members well informed during the weather event.
- 11 April - Gumboot Day in Taihape – thanks to the organising groups for a very well run event myself and my wife enjoyed a great day out. P.S. Thanks for the pickled onions!
- 13 April – tangi of Thomas Curtis, former longstanding member of the Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti and well respected for his work on iwi matters in our district.
- 14 April – Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting.
- 14 April – Rangitikei Rural Support Group meeting – discussed opportunities to work together with their significant networks in Civil Defence. This is a very well respected group with good network connections.
- 15 April – Coroner’s Court Hastings – inquiry into the Cyclone Gabrielle deaths, in particular Mr George Luke who died on the Taihape-Napier Road. I attended mainly out of respect to the family and in support of our Chief Executive and Roding Manager who was called upon to give evidence.

Mayor’s Engagements

March 2026

13	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Quarterly Regional Relationship meeting with NZTA</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended NZ Rural Games Awards Evening</p>
14	<p>Attended NZ Ford Ranger Rural Games</p> <p>Attended Child Cancer Red Bucket Appeal Mayoral Challenge</p> <p>Attended Marton OpShop 50th Celebrations</p> <p>Attended Bulls RSA AGM</p> <p>Attended Alistair Stewart’s Gold Star Celebration with Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade</p>
17	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended LGNZ zoom with Minister of Local Government</p> <p>Attended Citizenship Ceremony</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
18	<p>Attended monthly comms meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended Bulls Town Centre Projects walkabout</p>
19	<p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Balance Farm Environmental Awards</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended National MPS Accelerate35 Meeting</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Field Days Event</p>
21	<p>Attended Annual Plan Public Meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Marton OpShop 50th Celebrations – Function for Past/Present Volunteers</p>
23	<p>Attended Ngā Wai Tōtā Hui in Ohakune</p> <p>Attended Youth Council Meeting</p>
24	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly online meeting</p> <p>Attended Taihape Town Centre Projects walkabout and Annual Plan Public Meeting</p> <p>Attended RCA Forum Special General Meeting online</p> <p>Attended Taihape Wellness Development Hui</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
25	<p>Attended Community Volunteer Awards Meeting</p> <p>Attended meeting with MSD Regional Commissioner</p> <p>Attended Federated Farmers meeting with Mayors</p>

April 2026

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22	<p>Attended Mokai Patea Services Kaumatua Ora Wananga</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Zoom on Fuel Crisis</p> <p>Attended Taihape Grandstand Community Meeting</p>
23	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Marton Town Centre Projects walkabout</p> <p>Attended Local Government sector meeting with Ministers re fuel response</p>
24	<p>Attended Rural Communities Chapter Hui online</p>
28	<p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Dawn Parade</p> <p>Attended Ohingaiti ANZAC Day Function</p> <p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Ceremony at Cenotaph Marton Park</p>
26	<p>Attended Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge in Turakina</p>
28	<p>Attended Mayors Briefing before Council with staff</p> <p>Attended meeting with Minister Peters at Parliament</p> <p>Attended logging meeting with Daran Ponter</p> <p>Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
29	<p>Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting</p>
30	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Meeting</p> <p>Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Workshop</p> <p>Attended Finance/Performance Committee Workshop</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Workshop</p> <p>Attended Campaign Launch of surgical robot at Palmerston North Hospital</p>

May 2026

1	<p>Attended presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Katie Deere</p>
4	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended presentation of Mayor’s Recognition Award to Jo Rangooni</p> <p>Attended meeting with TUIA Rangatahi</p>
5	<p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Hui</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
6	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Council Meeting – Annual Plan Hearing</p>
7	<p>Attended Council Meeting and Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended meeting with FRV Chief Executive re Solar Farms</p> <p>Attended Manawatu-Rangitikei Federated Farmers AGM</p>

Attachments:

1. **LGNZ four-monthly report December-March (under separate cover)**
2. **Zone 3 - March 2026 - Elected Member Report - Cr Fi Dalgety (under separate cover)**
3. **Zone 3 - March 2026 Elected Members Report - Crs Baird & Sharland (under separate cover)**

ITEM 9.1

Recommendation

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

9.2 Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government

Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

1. Reason for the report

- 1.1 To update the Huntermville Community Committee on the Government's latest direction for simplifying local government, and to ask committee members to help encourage their communities to take part in Rangitikei District Council's June engagement.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Government's [November 2025 proposal to replace regional councillors with Combined Territories Boards](#) made up of mayors has changed.
- 2.2 Following consultation, the Government has moved to a staged approach:
 - a voluntary Head Start pathway for councils ready to reorganise/amalgamate quickly; and
 - a later backstop process for areas that do not progress through Head Start.
- 2.3 The Head Start pathway is focused on structural reform. In simple terms, this means councils can propose creating new unitary authorities. A unitary authority brings together the functions of a regional council, such as Horizons Regional Council, and a territorial authority, such as Rangitikei District Council, into one organisation.
- 2.4 Proposals can cover all or part of a region, and may include neighbouring councils from different regions where that makes sense. The Government has said Head Start proposals must be submitted by 11.59pm on Sunday 9 August 2026.
- 2.5 You can read more about the May 2026 Government announcement, the Head Start pathway, and Mayor Andy's reaction below:
 - [Mayor Andy Watson Rangitikei must have a say on simplifying local government](#)
 - [Letter from Minister of Local Government, Hon Simon Watts](#)
 - [Information from DIA](#)

3. What could this mean for Rangitikei

- 3.1 The way local government is structured affects how decisions are made, how services are delivered, and how local communities are represented.
- 3.2 In his recent opinion piece, Mayor Andy Watson said the Government's direction is clear, and while the timeframe is very tight, Councillors have a responsibility to ensure Rangitikei voice is heard. Mayor Watson also noted that larger councils do not automatically mean lower rates, and that any proposed cost savings need to be understood alongside possible trade-offs.

4. June Community Engagement

- 4.1 Before Council decides what path to take, the Mayor and Councillors want to hear from the community.

- 4.2 From June, Council will be holding public meetings across the district and opening an online survey. This engagement will ask people what matters most to them, such as;
- keeping local decision-making close to rural communities,
 - protecting the local identity of Rangitikei,
 - improving council processes,
 - understanding possible costs and savings,
 - protecting local services,
 - strengthening the regional influence of Rangitikei.
- 4.3 The purpose of this engagement is to make sure people understand what is happening, why it matters, and how they can share what is important to them.
- 4.4 Public meeting dates <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/local-government-reforms/simplifying-local-government>
- 4.5 Requests for additional public meetings can be made to info@rangitikei.govt.nz.

5. Role of this committee

- 5.1 The Huntermville Community Committee is a trusted local voice and an important link between Council and communities. Council is asking committee members to help spread the word and encourage people in their communities to have their say during the June engagement period.
- 5.2 This could include:
- sharing the material provided at this meeting
 - encouraging people to attend a public meeting
 - directing people to the online survey
 - helping people understand that this is about the future shape of local government and local voice.
- 5.3 This approach supports Rangitikei District Council's communications and engagement strategy, which recognises Community Committees and community groups as key partners who can help amplify Council initiatives and support meaningful two-way engagement with residents.

6. Supporting information

- 6.1 The Huntermville Community Committee will be provided with additional communications material at the meeting to distribute through their communities. Should you require additional material to support your local conversations, please contact comms@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the report Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government be received.

9.3 Small Projects Fund Update - June 2026

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

ITEM 9.3

1. Allocation

1.1 The yearly allocation of the 2025/26 Small Projects Fund for the Huntermville Community Committee is \$2,276. This includes CPI.

2. Breakdown

2.1 Earmarked funds of \$1,316.64 for the Master Mechanic Signage project. This has not been paid.

2.2 The remaining funds available for the Huntermville Community Committee is \$959.36.

3. Discussion Item

3.1 The opportunity for members to report on any ideas for projects.

Recommendation 1

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – June 2026 be received.

Recommendation 2

That the Huntermville Community Committee [does/does not] recommend to Council to carry forward remaining funds \$_____ and earmarked funds of \$_____

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Overview

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitikei District, these are:
- Community Initiatives Fund
 - Events Sponsorship Scheme
 - Creative Communities Scheme
 - Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 29 April 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Friends of Taihape Charitable Society - \$10,000
 - Brain Injury Association Whanganui - \$ 2,250
 - People First New Zealand Inc - \$1,000
 - Taihape Neighbourhood Support - \$2,250
 - Bulls & District Community Trust - Bulls Hip Hop \$ 2,000
 - Rangitikei Forest and Bird - \$989.30
 - St Margarets Mobile Art Expo - \$1,000
 - Bulls Toy Library - \$1,920
 - Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble - \$1,297
 - Sport Whanganui - \$1,934
 - Taihape & District Museum & Historical Society - \$ 700

3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 29 April 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Bulls & District Community Trust - Wear-a-Bull Arts
 - Bulls Junior Rugby Club
 - Rangitikei Netball

- Bulls Rugby Football Club

4. Creative Communities Scheme

4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:

- Demonstrate growth over time
- Develop and support local artistic communities
- Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged

4.2 Creative NZ has allocated \$24,397.80 + GST to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.

4.3 Decisions for round one for 2025/26 were made on the 20 May 26 and below are the successful groups.

- Developpe Studio
- Square Edge Community Arts
- Mataroa School
- Opaea Marae Trust
- Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble
- The Art of Seeing Academy

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.

6. Further Information

6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>

7. Rangitikei Grant Finder – Grant Guru

7.1 The Rangitikei District Council has joined forces with one of New Zealand and Australia's most powerful grant search engine, GrantGuru, to deliver a free one-stop-shop grants portal.

How it works

7.2 The Funding Finder hand-picks grants and funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector

grants available. It also provides advice and top tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise the chances of receiving funding.

- 7.3 GrantGuru is regularly updated with new information and grants. It features all council grants and initiatives. It replaces the Generosity NZ portal which previously was available through the Rangitikei Community Hubs.
- 7.4 Register via the website: <https://grantguru.com/nz/rangitikei>
- 7.5 Please reach out to our Funding Specialist if you require more information about Grant Guru, Charissa Lawlor, charissa.lawlor@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – April 2026 be received.

10 Meeting Closed.