



Rangitikei District Council

Policy and Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes – Thursday 14 September 2017 – 1:00 PM

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Present: Cr Angus Gordon (Chair)
Cr Richard Aslett
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Jane Dunn
Cr Soraya Peke-Mason
Cr Graeme Platt
Cr Lynne Sheridan
His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson

In attendance: Mr Ross McNeil, Chief Executive
Mr Michael Hodder, Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager
Ms Katrina Gray, Senior Policy Analyst/Planner
Mr Johan Cullis, Environmental Services Team Leader
Ms Nardia Gower, Governance Administrator

Tabled Documents **Item 5:** Chair's Report
Item 8: Low Emissions Economy Issues Paper – Productivity Commission

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies/Leave of Absence

Resolved

That the apology for the absence of Cr Ash be received.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Belsham

3 Members' conflict of interest

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

4 Confirmation of order of business

There were no late items.

The Chair noted that Ms Downs would speak to Item 10 will as the last item of the meeting.

5 Chair's Report

A report was tabled and was taken as read.

The Committee briefly discussed the need to explore the issue of fees during a workshop session, on the back of the Dog Control Policy and the fees for registered, unregistered and working dogs.

Resolved minute number	17/PPL/090	File Ref	3-CT-15-1
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That the Chair's Report to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 14 September 2017 be received.

Cr Gordon / Cr Sheridan. Carried

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number	17/PPL/091	File Ref	3-CT-15-2
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That the Minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 10 August 2017 be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr Aslett. Carried

7 Progress with strategic issues – Update

The Committee noted the commentary in the agenda.

Consulting on priority buildings in Marton, Bulls and Taihape will be an item on the Council agenda for 28 September 2017. Community committee/boards all meet in October and building owners and occupiers will be invited to those meetings.

8 Low emissions economy – Issues Paper from the New Zealand Productivity Commission

Ms Gray provided a presentation to assist the Committee to identify key points for inclusion in Council's submission. Main points raised in the discussion were:

- Unintended consequences of solutions for reducing emissions such as methane vaccinations.
- The merits of farming low animals that naturally produce less methane.
- Investigation on ground feed that when digested produces less methane or plants that absorb nitrate.
- Increased emphasis on on-site mitigation, or purchasing of off-site mitigation.
- National transport solutions, particularly increased investment in rail.
- The merits of incentives and regulation.

9 2017 Annual Residents Survey – Improvement Plan

Ms Gray took the report as read.

Resolved minute number **17/PPL/092** **File Ref** **5-FR-1-2**

That the report '2017 Annual Residents Survey - Improvement Plan' to the Policy/Planning Committee's 14 September 2017 meeting be received.

Cr Aslett / Cr Sheridan. Carried

His Worship the Mayor left at 1:07 – 2:15
Cr Platt and Cr McManaway left at 1:09 – 2:11
Cr Belsham left at 1:09 – 2:14

Resolved minute number **17/PPL/093** **File Ref** **3-CT-15-1**

That the update to the Communications Strategy to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 14 September 2017 be received.

Cr Sheridan / Cr Aslett. Carried

11 Update on Legislation and Governance Issues

Ms Gray spoke to the report highlighting that National Environment Standards for the Plantation of Forestry will take effect on the 1st May 2018. Currently rules vary between and within regions, the new set of standards seeks to establish national consistency, and will take into account downstream consequences. Choice of forestry species may become a consideration factor in new planting.

Recommendation:

Resolved minute number **17/PPL/094** **File Ref** **3-OR-3-5**

That the report 'Update on legislation and governance issues' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 14 September 2017 be received.

Cr Belsham / Cr Dunn. Carried

12 Rates Remission for Maori Freehold Land Policy - Review

Mr Hodder spoke to the memorandum, noting that due to the timing of Council and Council Committee meetings, the Policy/Planning Committee had been asked to review the policy Rates Remission for Maori Freehold Land prior to inclusion at Te Roopu Ahi Kaa.

Councillors discussed the merits of being able to apply a differential rate which could be adjusted around revenue and financial plans and be exempt of Long Term Plan involvement. A working group was suggested with members including the Finance/Performance Chair and members of Te Roopu Ahi Kaa.

Questions and issues raised for consideration by a working group include:

- How does Council identify that the land is productive
- How often is the production of land assessed
- Varying levels of revenue as a factor
- Number of land owners

Cr Peke-Mason declared a conflict of interest on this item.

Resolved minute number **17/PPL/095** **File Ref** **3-PT-1-18**

That the memorandum 'Rates Remission for Maori Freehold Land Policy - Review' to the Policy/Planning Committee's 14 September 2017 meeting be received.

Cr Peke-Mason / Cr Sheridan. Carried

13 Update on Youth Development Programme

Ms Gray spoke to the memorandum highlighting the new format of reporting on Youth Development, the upcoming funding applications and future activity schedule with corresponding outcomes.

The Committee suggested that advertising on the student commuter bus from Bulls to Fielding/Palmerston as an avenue of engaging students that are educated out of district.

Discussion with the Committee highlighted that outcomes vary dependant on the activity, with most seeking to increase skill and competency, including building positive relationships with each other and adult facilitators. Assessment on the types of youth that attend each type of activity is being planned enabling future specifically targeted events and activities.

Lions Club (through funding from the J B S Dudding) Trust run a youth driver's license programme out of Rangitikei College, with vehicle support from McVerry Crawford Motors.

Resolved minute number **17/PPL/096** **File Ref** **4-EN-12-4**

That the memorandum 'Update on youth development programme – September 2017' be received.

Cr Gordon / Cr Peke-Mason. Carried

Adjourned at 3:15

Reconvened at 3:30

14 Update on the Path to Well-being Initiative

Ms Gray took the memorandum as read.

Resolved minute number **17/PPL/097** **File Ref** **1-CO-4**

That the memorandum 'Update on the Path to Well-Being initiative and other community development programmes – September 2017' be received.

Cr Dunn / Cr Sheridan. Carried

10 Update on Communications Strategy

Ms Downs spoke to the memorandum extending a standing invitation to all Councillors and Mayor for content to include in the Rangitikei Line. Suggested for the upcoming addition was information pertaining to the Council Prayer being translated and read in Te Reo Maori in recognition of Te wiki o te reo Maori.

Ms Down noted that in the Annual Resident Survey a number of responders asked "What is Rangitikei Line?" As a result Council has contracted DryCrust to work with staff on strategies to raise awareness of the Councils communications channels. Linking each Rangitikei Line addition to the Council Facebook page is an initial step.

Ms Downs and Mr McNeil spoke to the Committee about varying levels of branding options and the opportunity to explore the broad scope of that branding from Council centric into district branding and new town signage. Factors to consider include Councils stance on bringing the management of Rangitikei.com in-house and how it could all fit together.

The Committee discussed the merits of towns marketing their own brand, driven by community groups vs the potential and new opportunity to create a collaborative approach to town and district.

There is current budget for directional assistance but resource beyond that would need to be discussed and agreed to. The roll out of new branding would be incremental with easy and cost effective stages happening first, i.e. online branding.

15 Questions put at previous meetings for Council advice or action:

None

16 Activity management

Mr Cullis spoke briefly to the attachments noting that two staff recently attended and advanced Civil Defence workshop in Whanganui.

- Community leadership
- Environmental services
- Community well-being

Resolved minute number	17/PPL/098	File Ref	5-EX-3-2
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That the activity management templates for September 2017 for Community Leadership, Environmental and Regulatory Services and Community Well-Being be received.

Cr Peke-Mason / Chair. Carried

17 Late items

18 Future items for the agenda

None

19 Next meeting

Thursday 12 October 2017, to follow Assets and Infrastructure (which begins at 1.00 pm)

20 Meeting closed

4.09 pm

Confirmed/Chair: _____

Date: