

MINUTES

POLICY/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 9 December 2021

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

Cr Angus Gordon
Cr Tracey Hiroa (*via Zoom*)
Cr Cath Ash (*via Zoom*)
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Gill Duncan (*via Zoom*)
Cr Richard Lambert (*via Zoom*)
Cr Waru Panapa
Cr Dave Wilson
HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager – Democracy and Planning
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture
Ms Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner
Ms Nardia Gower, Manager – Community Development
Ms Jen Britton, Strategic Advisor – District Promotions
Mr Jaime Reibel, Strategic Advisor – Economic Development
Ms Kelly Widdowson, Strategic Advisor – Youth / Rangatahi
Ms Aly Thompson, Welcoming Communities Coordinator
Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome

The meeting opened at 1.00 pm.

2 Apologies

Nil.

3 Public Forum

No public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

No changes.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/028

That the minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 14 October 2021, 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 N Belsham/Cr W Panapa. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings

In response to a query, Ms Gower advised that the external funding for the Swim For All programme only subsidises the cost of transportation to the pool.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/029

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings' be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr D Wilson. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - December 2021

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/030

That the Chair's Report – December 2021 be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr N Belsham. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Welcoming Communities Update - November 2021

Ms Thompson advised that the external funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment is for \$50,000 per year, for three years. An additional \$10,000 of funding has been received from Immigration NZ.

In response to a query, Ms Thompson advised that there are 15 other councils taking part in the Welcoming Communities programme, led by Immigration NZ.

Ms Thompson will approach the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the future to seek their input and/or funding assistance.

In response to a query about whether Council's involvement in this programme will make it easier for skilled overseas workers to move to the district, Ms Thompson advised that she was unsure but this is a subject that she has raised with Immigration NZ.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/031

That the report 'Welcoming Communities Update - November 2021' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr W Panapa. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/032

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that:

- All elected members sign the Welcoming Communities Statement of Commitment for Rangitikei.

Cr N Belsham/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Democracy & Planning Group - Operational Update

The Committee discussed recent issues around freedom camping in the district. The Mayor noted that this is a particular issue that has arisen in Bulls recently. The Committee agreed to wait for Central Government to make their position clear with legislation around freedom camping before staff focus on this issue.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/033

That the report 'Democracy & Planning Group – Operational Update' be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

10.2 Community Development Update - October and November 2021

Ms Gower noted that the libraries have seen a lot of requests from people for assistance with getting their vaccine certificates.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/034

That the report 'Community Development Update - October and November 2021' be received.

HWTM A Watson/Cr W Panapa. Carried

10.3 MoU Partner Organisations Update - December 2021

In response to a query, Ms Gower advised that funding for the MOU for Partner Organisations is reviewed via the Long Term Plan, and deliverables are reviewed yearly. Should the Harvest Fair event be cancelled, staff will consider options for the funding that was committed the MOU and bring this back to the Committee in 2022.

Staff will attempt to obtain the final AGM minutes and/or financials for Project Marton and bring this back to the Committee.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/035

That the report 'MoU Partner Organisations Update - December 2021' be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr D Wilson. Carried

10.4 District Promotions and Destination Management Plan Update - October and November 2021

In response to a query, Ms Britton confirmed that she was happy with the public response to the Destination Management Plan, Social Point Interaction and Face-to-face interaction. Ms Britton will

present the draft strategic document to the next Committee meeting, which will include more information on the deliverable outcomes and associated timelines.

In response to a query about the Destination Management Plan Implementation Group membership, Ms Britton advised that this is made up of several business owners, tourist operators, internal staff, elected members and possibly TRAK members. Additionally, there may be room for other stakeholders from the wider community.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/036

That the 'District Promotions and Destination Management Plan Update - October and November 2021' be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/037

That the Policy/Planning Committee appoint the following councillors as members of the Destination Rangitikei Implementation Group.

- Cr Dalgety
- Cr Duncan

Cr A Gordon/Cr W Panapa. Carried

10.5 Economic Development Update - October and November 2021

HWTM left the meeting at 2.29 pm and returned at 2.34 pm.

In response to a query about engagement with external agencies on social housing, Mr Reibel advised that staff have been in touch with Habitat for Humanity, Manawatu Community Trust and a third organisation. Habitat for Humanity have indicated that they will partner with any other organisations within the district to develop social housing, and they have access to external funding which can be used to purchase land and develop housing.

The Committee noted that it while it could be understandably difficult for staff to obtain figures from local businesses (e.g., the number of new jobs created), it was worthwhile to continue seeking this information and presenting it to the Committee in future reports.

Cr Panapa asked if it was within the scope of the strategy to consider housing for families rendered homeless due to fire. Mr Reibel advised that it was not within scope, and that a first option in these occurrences would be emergency housing which can last up to seven days, and a second option would be long-term rental subsidies.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/038

That the 'Economic Development Update - October and November 2021' be received.

Cr A Gordon/HWTM A Watson. Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3.05 pm and re-convened at 3.15 pm.

10.6 Youth Development Update October - November 2021

Ms Widdowson advised that five applications have been received for the 2022 Youth Council, with two of them coming from the Taihape area.

In response to a query about the safety of the boxing programme (Forge Boxing), Ms Widdowson advised that the participants are required to wear mouth guards and head gear. Additionally, participants are unable to spar unless a suitable adult is supervising, they are not allowed to aim for the head, and the class is taught by a professional boxer.

In response to a query around the future of the Marton Lobby, Ms Widdowson advised that staff are looking to close this permanently, as the cost/benefit of operating it is not sufficient.

In response to a query, Ms Gower advised that the Taihape Lobby is now occupied by the northern branch of the Mahi Tahī employment programme. Mokai Patea services will continue to be involved, and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa have met with staff to discuss the needs of rangatahi; they are now producing their own framework from that meeting.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/039

That the report 'Youth Development Update October - November 2021' to the 9 December 2021 Policy/Planning Committee meeting be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

11 Late Items

11.1 Ms Nardia Gower's Resignation

The Committee acknowledged Ms Gower's resignation and thanked her for all of her work for Council, including her volunteer work in Marton.

The meeting closed at 3.39 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Policy/Planning Committee held on 10 February 2022.

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Chairperson