

MINUTES

POLICY/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 9 June 2022

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- Cr Angus Gordon
- Cr Tracey Hiroa
- Cr Cath Ash [*via Zoom*]
- Cr Nigel Belsham
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Cr Gill Duncan
- Cr Richard Lambert
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Brian Carter
- HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

- Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
- Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager – Democracy and Planning
- Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services [*via Zoom*]
- Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
- Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture [*via Zoom*]
- Mr Jaime Reibel, Strategic Advisor – Economic Development
- Ms Jen Britton, Strategic Advisor – District Promotions
- Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

1	Welcome	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	3
7.1	Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings.....	3
8	Chair's Report	4
8.1	Chair's Report - June 2022.....	4
9	Reports for Information	4
9.1	Community Development Update - April and May 2022	4
9.2	Democracy & Planning Group - Operational Update.....	6

1 Welcome

The meeting opened at 11.05 am.

2 Apologies

No apologies.

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/PPL/024

That the minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 14 April 2022, 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 G Duncan. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings

The Committee noted that AGM reports and financials are required from MOU partners with Council, but that these were now unattainable from Project Marton with the organisation being defunct.

In response to a query, Ms Prince advised that Council does not contribute to Sport Whanganui, but did contribute approximately \$3,000 to Sport Manawatu for the Regional Sports Facilities Memorandum, as part of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

Resolved minute number 22/PPL/025

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

Cr R Lambert/Cr D Wilson. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - June 2022

Cr Gordon tabled his report.

Cr Carter joined the meeting at 11.15 am.

Cr Gordon asked if staff are able to complete a cursory overview of relevant policies that Council may have, with regards to soil stabilisation and erosion, prior to the next Committee meeting. Mr Beggs advised that he has not had a chance to read the tabled report and cannot commit to this at this stage. The Mayor advised that this would better be dealt with as a suggestion to the new Council (2022-25) for their consideration, as it is a 'big picture' question about where Council devotes their energy. There is also some central government policy that is taking place in this space.

Resolved minute number 22/PPL/026

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

Cr A Gordon/Cr G Duncan. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Community Development Update - April and May 2022

Sport Manawatu and Whanganui

Ms Prince advised that Council has committed \$3,399 to Sport Manawatu per annum, for years 1 – 3 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. In response to a query, Ms Prince advised that the money is contributing towards a new full time equivalent (FTE) role at Sport Manawatu in order for them to enact a regional sports facilities plan. Elected members requested an update from staff on what has been implemented within our district from this plan.

The Mayor noted that he believed Sport Whanganui were receiving funds from central government to provide facilities in our district. Staff will clarify if the funding to Sport Whanganui for this purpose is ongoing or has been removed.

Taihape Group Home Survey

There were a series of questions around the Taihape group home survey. In response to these, Mr Reibel advised that:

- The survey was conducted by the Taihape Community Development Trust.
- It did not commit to any housing facilities being developed.
- It was administered through secretaries of local groups and via a volunteer at the local New World.
- It is being extended as the results received so far are inconclusive.
- The contact information of respondents is being treated confidentially.

Kainga Ora

Mr Reibel advised that Kainga Ora received their mandate from the Annual Housing Plan, and until staff are able to get input into that plan, it is unlikely that Kainga Ora will allocate any extra funding to the district. The Mayor agreed, noting that when he has approached the Ministry of Social Development in the past about increasing housing, they have stated that the districts numbers do not justify it.

In response to a query, Mr Reibel advised that he is unsure how many Kainga Ora houses are in the district and that he has so far been unable to attain this information. Kainga Ora have indicated to Mr Reibel previously that they will look into it and advise.

Mahi Tahi Programme

Ms Britton advised that previous years have seen funding of \$500k per annum, but this has now been reduced to \$250k. The Mayor advised that this reduction in funding is concerning and something that he is currently lobbying central government on. [**Addendum:** the funding for the Mahi Tahi programme has since been revised to \$450k.]

In response to a query, Ms Britton advised that the funding received via this programme is based on the district's population (not unemployment). The Mayor advised that the district's unemployment figure was around 3% the last time he looked.

Cr Wilson advised that he employs several people under this programme and that there strict reporting requirements around it.

The Mayor noted that this Council has been one of the most successful ones under this programme and that it was concerning that funding was being reduced, especially in light of the 'Future for Local Government Review' that indicates that territorial authorities will likely become more involved in social/community welfare in the future.

Resolved minute number 22/PPL/027

That the report 'Community Development Update – April and May 2022' be received.

Cr G Duncan/Cr T Hiroa. Carried

9.2 Democracy & Planning Group - Operational Update

Mrs Gordon advised that staff's Policy and Bylaw Programme will be received with Council in a workshop in July 2022. She will read the Chair's tabled report and see if there is any crossover between the policies he has mentioned and the Policy and Bylaw Programme.

Resolved minute number 22/PPL/028

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

Cr F Dalgety/Cr R Lambert. Carried

The meeting closed at 11.58 am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Policy/Planning Committee held on 11 August 2022.

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Chairperson