

# MINUTES

## TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 10 February 2026

**Time:** 11.00am

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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**Tumuaki:** Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Ngāti Whitikaupeka)

**Nga mema:** Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake)  
Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri)  
Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangī)  
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)  
Ms Gaylene Nepia (Ngāti Kauae Ngā Taurira)  
Dr Mike Paki (Ngā Ariki Turakina)  
Cr Alan Buckendahl  
HWTM Andy Watson

**Manuhiri:** Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive  
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy  
Ms Joanne Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs  
Ms Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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An update was provided on proposed northern and southern marae tours across the district. For the northern tour, three potential dates in March been identified.

It was noted that the purpose of these visits is to provide councillors with an opportunity to become more familiar with the location and significance of marae within the district, particularly for those who have not previously visited them.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/003**

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui February 2026

Ms Hiroa provided a verbal report and the Komiti highlighted the pre-hui discussion on Local Water Done Well including recent communications, requests for further information, and progress across related workstreams.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/004**

That the Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui February 2026 be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Adoption of Māori Responsiveness Framework and Adoption of Marae Development Fund Guidelines

Ms Pere introduced the Māori Responsiveness Framework.

Members noted that amendments are required to the map, including corrections to marae names. It was agreed that the Chair will work with Ms Pere after the meeting to clarify these changes. Clarification was sought on the definition of historic marae, particularly in cases where sites may no longer be active or standing.

Ms Manuel also presented the Marae Development Fund Guidelines to members.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/005**

That the report Adoption of the Māori Responsiveness Framework and the Marae Development Fund Guidelines be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/006**

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā adopts the Māori Responsiveness Framework with amendments.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/007**

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā adopts the Marae Development Fund Guidelines without amendment.

Ms M Raukawa/Dr H Gifford. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12.07 and returned at 12.20pm –and moved to item 10.3 Mayors Report.

## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor Report

The Komiti moved to this item after the Mayor's Report.

Dr Heather Gifford left at 12.40pm and HWTM Watson left during this item at 12.42pm.

Ms Gray answered questions that the marae funding has been allocated to support the rollout of signage for two marae per year on an incremental basis.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/008**

That the report Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor be received

Ms G Taiaroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

### 10.2 Marae Development Fund Completion Report

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/009**

That the report Marae Development Fund Completion Report be received.

Ms M Raukawa/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/010**

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā receive the completion report from Opaea Marae for the Marae Development Fund funding granted on 10 December 2024.

Ms M Heeney/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

### 10.3 Mayor's Report - December 2025

The Komiti moved to this item after the break.

HWTM Watson provided an update on recent developments, including engagement with Crown representatives regarding the Mōkai Pātea Treaty settlement and landlocked iwi land, noting ongoing discussions with multiple Ministers and Crown funding allocated to these issues.

HWTM Watson provide updates on the Rātana celebrations and acknowledged Ms Pere's support.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/011**

That the Mayor's Report – December 2025 be received.

HWTM A Watson/Ms M Heeney. Carried

#### **10.4 Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth**

Ms Gray provided an update on rezoning work to ensure sufficient land is available for future growth in Bulls and Marton.

It was noted that, following a government-imposed pause last year, an exemption has now been granted, allowing the process to proceed. Public consultation is the next step, with some pressure to progress this ahead of wider reforms in the sector.

Ms Gray noted that mana whenua implications have been identified, and notifications have been made to iwi authorities under the RMA, although it was raised that Rātana may not have been directly notified.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/012**

That the report Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth be received.

Dr M Paki/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

#### **10.5 External Consultations Update - February 2026**

An update was provided on recent submissions and legislative matters. This included media coverage of the Taranaki VTM offshore mining application, noting that Council submitted in opposition and a draft decision to decline has been issued, with the applicant invited to respond.

Submissions have also been made on water-related matters, including the rates cap/target limit. It was noted that Council is not proposing to submit on the Natural Environment Bill, although a draft submission on the Planning Bill was circulated to councillors.

Updates were also provided on broader reform, including proposals to simplify local government and potential regional council reorganisation. In relation to the Emergency Management Bill, it was noted that the Horizons CDEM group has prepared a collective submission on behalf of Council/

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/013**

That the report External Consultations Update – February 2026 be received.

Cr A Buckendahl/Ms M Heeney. Carried

**The meeting closed at 1.09pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti held on 14 April 2026.**

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**Chairperson**