



**RANGITIKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Making this place home.*

# ORDER PAPER

## YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 11 May 2021  
**Time:** 5.30 pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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**Chair:** Sophia Lewis  
**Deputy Chair:** Charly Ward  
**Membership:** Lisa Cruywagen  
Atawhai McDowell  
Jessie Lee Ellery  
Denise Pio  
Zoe Hayward  
Leymar Saili  
Sofie Kendrick  
Waiatatia Ratana-Karehana  
Lily Bartlett  
Cr Gill Duncan  
His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson

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<b>Locations:</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u>            Head Office            46 High Street, Marton         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u>            Bulls Information Centre-            Te Matapihi            4 Criterion Street, Bulls         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u>            Taihape Information Centre -            Taihape Town hall            90 Hautapu Street (SH1), Taihape         </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street, Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre- Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street, Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre - Taihape Town hall 90 Hautapu Street (SH1), Taihape	
<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street, Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre- Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street, Bulls				
<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre - Taihape Town hall 90 Hautapu Street (SH1), Taihape					
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**Notice is hereby given that a Youth Council Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Tuesday, 11 May 2021 at 5.30 pm.**

## **Order Of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Youth Council Prayer .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Forum .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest Declarations.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confirmation of Order of Business .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Mayoral Update .....</b>	<b>5</b>
	7.1 Mayoral Update - April 2021 .....	5
<b>8</b>	<b>Reports for Decision .....</b>	<b>12</b>
	8.1 Youth Council - May Report .....	12
<b>9</b>	<b>Next Meeting .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting Closed .....</b>	<b>13</b>

## **AGENDA**

### **1 Youth Council Prayer**

### **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, ..... be dealt with as a late item at this meeting.

### **6 Confirmation of Minutes**

Youth Council Meeting - 13 April 2021 (to be tabled).

## 7 Mayoral Update

### 7.1 Mayoral Update - April 2021

**Author:** His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson

1. Like the last few months my Mayoral Report is dominated by the Long Term Plan. Finally we got Audit approval and Council adoption of the LTP on Monday 12 April. The key notes in this are an average rate rise of just under 7%, however the variation is high. We will have some properties facing significant rate increases (up to 20%) and others facing a drop in rates. This has been brought about largely because we rate on capital value and the latest valuations by QV show significant valuation increases in rural north and urban south. The LTP also shows very significant infrastructure spends on the Three Waters provision of wastewater, drinking water and storm water as well as capital builds in our main centres. This will be reflected in debt. This Council, for the first time ever, will move into a position of significant debt over the LTP process. If we do everything that we say we are going to do, which may be problematic in terms of sourcing contractors, our debt will peak at nearly \$70m in the next few years then steadily decrease. For the first time since the adoption, we were able to go out and formally engage with our LTP meetings which to be honest have been going on for the last 6 weeks. I think that I have had around 25 LTP meetings with various groups either in the community or on maraes. For the first time we have been able to effectively use Live LTP presentations via Zoom which have been great with up to 60 people being online and feeding in via the chat function to ask questions.
2. I have also commented over several reports about the Government's vision on the delivery of the Three Waters. Their vision is one of aggregation where there will be either 5 or fewer companies in NZ delivering water services. So you may have, for example, a company in Wellington delivering water services for half the North Island. I previously expressed my concern over the lack of consultation on a choice that we are required to make this year that is simply the biggest decision that local Councils will ever face. The aggregation concept involves us passing over all of our wastewater and water plants to a new company including the reticulation. This also raises the issue over what Local Government will be involved in, in the future.
3. Last week I attended Zone 3 meetings held in Hastings. Again Three Waters dominated the conversations with Mayors and CEs. The Minister of Local Government Nanaia Mahuta Zoomed in but added little more to the conversation than what we already know or don't know. The concern around the Local Government sector is real and the implications are high. While in Hastings as part of Zone 3 we were taken for a tour over the Hastings area. The most notable things were firstly, Hastings has around 900 people living in motels funded by the Government and has had tens of millions of dollars invested by the Government in terms of providing new housing. We were also taken for a tour of the Opera House that has just been refurbished in Hastings. We weren't given the costings for this but my guess would be in the tens of millions if not the hundreds of millions of dollars. As part of the tour we also went to Havelock North which was where the contamination of water supplies occurred. Effectively we went to Ground Zero. Enormous sums of money have been invested not only in cleaning up the processes and plants to deliver Hastings and Havelock North with water, but also in terms of duplicating the reticulation network so if a main water line ruptures they have back-up positions. My guess is that there would be very few Councils in the country that could afford to do this. If I was to be cynical this may be one of the advantages in sitting in an electorate which was targeted to

## ITEM 7.1

change from National to Labour. At Zone 3 Stuart Nash the Minister of Economic Development also had a very frank conversation around economic development funding. He reiterated that the days of the PGF funding are gone but there is still the need for regional funding and it would probably be targeted at specific industries. He highlighted forestry as one of those key industries which opened the door to have a conversation with him offline around the Bio Forestry that is happening in our district. At the moment one of the difficulties we face is literally getting the right people into the country through immigration and Minister Nash has promised to act very quickly to solve that.

While at Zone 3 four remits were put to Zone seeking support to the Local Government Conference. All four remits were supported by Zone to progress. The remits included the Quorum and Voting Rights by Zoom rather than in attendance at Council. With regard to the remit from Manawatu District Council on Zoom attendance I have attached this to my Mayor's Report with the recommendation that we support MDC's remit.

4. On 8 April our Chief Executive and I had the opportunity to spend time with the NZ Heritage Board and the Maori Heritage Council in Wellington. This was an opportunity that I think would be incredibly rare to have in Local Government. I took to that meeting several things that I was interested in working with Heritage NZ on.
  - i) We will look at the options around replacing the Marton administration block with a new facility or a facility that retains some heritage aspects in the main street of Marton. My concern is that we can spend a lot of money drawing up all sorts of plans and diagrams etc and we could still then face a resource consent process with Heritage NZ. I have asked them to look at agreeing to a consultation process and then supporting the outcome of that process. This would be a ground-breaking position for Heritage NZ. The Board have agreed to have a formal discussion around the proposal in May and provide feedback to us from that.
  - ii) I have brought up the option of Council restoring and protecting the Grandstand in Memorial Park in Taihape. I have asked for financial assistance or at least support from Heritage NZ in applications that we may make for national funding through Lotteries. They seem to want to support this process.
  - iii) We have pledged as a district to tell the story of both cultures, European and Maori, in terms of our early heritage. I think there is a huge partnership opportunity with Heritage NZ to seek their support, technical skills and possible funding.

We will await the outcome of the meeting with Heritage NZ with bated breath but I think it went very very well.

5. On 17 April we saw the formal opening of the new Marton playground Te Āhuru Mōwai. I have spoken previously about this. What an incredible outcome. Lucy Skou and Brenna O'Neill had a vision and the amount of support from the Committee and the community to make it happen has been incredible. The park has been entered into the Playground of the Year competition which will be decided on in May. The playground also featured on Seven Sharp on 19 April. As a community a heartfelt congratulations and thanks to all those involved.
6. Over the last month I attended UCOL graduations in Palmerston North and Whanganui. The future of UCOLs is in the balance with a reorganisation of the education sector imminent. Our Whanganui DHB is in a similar position with the restructuring of health boards on the horizon. As a Council we need to show support for these, not only as our local industries and employers

but the service they provide for the district. Likewise, I congratulate Sue Wells for the work that she has done on the petition to retain banking services within our district. This will be a struggle but it is worth having our voice heard.

## Mayors Engagement

April 2021

1	Attended UCOL Whanganui Graduation Ceremony Attended Turakina LTP Community Consultation Meeting
6	Attended TRAK Meeting Attended Horizons Tutaenui Flood Control Scheme Catchment Meeting Attended online seminar – Help Shape LGNZ’s Future
7	Attended Taihape Network Meeting Attended an Online Live Video LTP Consultation
8	Attended and presented to Heritage NZ Board and Maori Heritage Council in Wellington to discuss earthquake prone Heritage Buildings in Rangitikei Attended Tutaenui LTP Community Consultation Meeting
9	Attended Regional Land Transport Plan Hearings in Palmerston North
10	Attended Open Day at Marton Fire Station
11	Attended LTP Community Consultation Meeting at Whangaehu Marae Attended LTP Community Consultation Meeting at Winiata Marae
12	Attended Regional Land Transport Plan Deliberations in Palmerston North Attended Council Meeting to adopt Consultation Document and draft LTP (via Zoom) Attended Papanui Community LTP Consultation Meeting
13	Attended a site briefing at Kensington Road Attended Moawhango Community LTP Consultation Meeting
14	Attended Ratana Kura Junior Neighbourhood Support Awards Attended an Online Live Video LTP Consultation
15	Attended Zone 3 Meeting (co-Chair) in Hastings
17	Attended Grand Opening of Te Ahuru Mowai Marton Playground Attended Okaire District LTP Briefing
20	Attend meeting with Ngati Parewahawaha re Green Space Artwork at Te Matapihi Attend Omatane Rural Water Supply Meeting
21	Attend CouncilMark Webinar

**ITEM 7.1**

	Attend Meet & Greet with Christopher Luxon MP and Ian McKelvie MP
22	Attend Ratana Marae LTP Consultation
23	Attended Marton Rail Hub Project Board Meeting #4
25	Attended various ANZAC Day services in the district
27	Attended monthly breakfast meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys
28	Attended Councillor Workshop – AON Insurance and Whanganui District Health Board
29	Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Council Meeting

**Attachments**

- 1. Manawatu District Council Proposed Remit 2021 LGNZ AGM - Quorum and Meeting Attendance**

**Recommendation**

That the 'Mayoral Update – April 2021' report be received.



## **Proposed Remit – Meeting Quorum and Attendance**

**Remit:** That LGNZ:

- Calls on the Government to introduce legislation that would update the Local Government Act 2002 to enable members attending meetings via audio link or audio visual link to be counted as forming part of the quorum of the meeting.

**Proposed by:** Manawatū District Council

**Supported by:**

### **Background Information and Research**

#### **1. Nature of the issue**

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out requirements for members to attend and vote at Council and Committee meetings.

In August 2014, the Act was amended to allow for the attendance of members via audio link or audiovisual link. The purpose of this amendment was to allow for attendance via an electronic link, either generally or for a specific meeting, in situations where physical attendance was impracticable or impossible. For example, where a member was unwell, unable to attend due to an emergency, or where the member was at a location that made it difficult to attend in person.

Although this amendment enabled members to attend meetings remotely, and participate in proceedings, it prohibited any member who was not physically present at the meeting from being counted as part of the quorum.

This meant that the quorum needed to enable the meeting to take place had to be formed by those members physically present.

#### **2. Background to it being raised**

As part of the preparedness for the Covid-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown in New Zealand, the Government enacted the Covid-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020 on 26 March 2020. This Act made temporary changes to the relevant section of the Local Government Act 2002, to enable members attending via electronic means to be counted as part of the quorum for the meeting.

The clause enabling members attending via electronic means to be counted as part of the quorum will be repealed when either the Epidemic Preparedness (Covid-19) Notice expires or is revoked.

Since coming into force on 25 March 2020, the Epidemic Preparedness (Covid-19) Notice has been renewed on 23 June 2020, 21 December 2020 and 17 March 2021. The Notice has a three-month lifespan, and is due to expire on 21 June 2021 unless renewed prior.

During the Level 4 Lockdown, and to varying degrees within Level 3 and 2 alert levels, Councils held their meetings, transacting business and making decisions with all or some members attending remotely via an electronic link. During this time many Councils that had not previously done so, began livestreaming their meetings to their websites ensuring public accessibility for Council decision-making.

For the past year the requirement for members to be physically present at a meeting to enable them to form the quorum for any meetings has not been in force.

This Council proposes that the attendance at Council and Committee meetings via electronic means over the past year has not negatively impacted on the ability of Councils to transact business at their meetings. From this Council's perspective this flexibility in attendance method has enhanced this Council's decision-making ability, for example in instances where an elected member needed to work from home to care for a dependent, or was out of the district at the time of the meeting, they were still able to attend the meeting, form part of the quorum, and participate in the decision-making.

There is also benefit for elected members in large rural districts where the travel time from their residence to attend any committee or Council meeting can be up to an hour or more. Although planned meetings are scheduled to make effective use of members' time while they are in attendance, from time to time extraordinary meetings are required for specific decision-making purposes, and are often not expected to be of long duration. Attending meetings remotely in these instances can be a more effective use of time and resources.

Therefore the Manawatū District Council asks that the Government amend the relevant part of the Local Government Act 2002 to formalise the ability to attend meetings via electronic means and form part of the quorum for such meetings.

**3. New or confirming existing policy**

Proposed change to existing legislation.

**4. How the issue relates to objectives in the current Work Programme**

This issue relates to the objective of improving the local government legal framework.

**5. What work or action on the issue has been done and what was the outcome**

Since coming into force on 25 March 2020, the Epidemic Preparedness (Covid-19) Notice has been renewed on a quarterly basis on 23 June 2020, 21 December 2020 and 17 March 2021. It is due to expire on 21 June 2021 unless renewed prior.

**6. Any existing relevant legislation, policy or practice**

- Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 23 "Quorum of councils and committees"
- Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 25A (1) and (4) "Attendance at meetings by audio link or audio visual link"
- Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 25B "Modifications to Clause 25A While Epidemic Notice in Force for Covid-19"

**7. Outcome of any prior discussion at a Zone or Sector meeting**

**8. Suggested course of action envisaged**

That an amendment to the Local Government Act 2002 be made to remove the following clause from Schedule 7, 25A Attendance at meetings by audio link or audiovisual link:

*“(4) Despite subclauses (1) and (3), a member of the local authority who is not physically present at the meeting is not to be counted as present for the purposes of clause 23.”*

This would enable attendance by members via audio link or audiovisual link to count as part of a quorum as set out in clause 23 “Quorum of councils and committees”.

## 8 Reports for Decision

### 8.1 Youth Council - May Report

Author: Kelly Widdowson, Strategic Advisor - Youth

ITEM 8.1

#### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 May update.

#### 2. Context

2.1 Youth Awards

2.2 Upcoming events

2.3 Where are we on our work plan

#### 3. Discussion and Options Considered

3.1 Youth Awards - As you know, Youth Awards has been postponed due to a lack of nominations. We need to set a new date for this event. Below are options for dates. We can keep the theme/décor/all your ideas. We will hold at Te Matapihi as there's no indication of when Memorial Hall will be finished. Ideally you will all be available for this event.

3.2 Upcoming events – Festival for the Future. Please mark these dates in your calendar. July 30<sup>th</sup>-Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. All expenses are paid for Youth Council. If you are unable to make it, you will need to find a replacement for your ticket 😊 It is an awesome event that is well worth going to!

3.3 Work Plan – Some valuable data was gathered from the open mic day. This means we can start to collate it and size it up against the work plan to help with further events/needs in the youth community. Well done team. Next step lets start planning some events and activities. Great work!

#### Attachments

Nil

#### Recommendations

1. That the "Youth Council – May Report" be received.
2. That a new date be set for the Youth Awards.

## **9 Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 08 June 2021 – 5.30pm, Taihape Area School, 26 Huia Street, Taihape.

## **10 Meeting Closed**