



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 24 February 2021 commencing at 1.00pm.

1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), A K Franklin, S A Hull, C J Isaacson, P A Johns, K A Sutherland, R A Treder and S M Wards.

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Taylor	- Manager - Democracy Services
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager- Corporate
Mr C Chapman	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Mr C McKay	- Finance Manager
Ms T Love	- Group Manager - Operations
Mr D Geary	- Alliance Director
Mr P Wimsett	- Manager Strategy and Climate Change
Mr P Sinclair	- Community Assets and Property Manager
Ms E Roberts	- Revenue Manager
Mr M Maxwell	- Group Manager - Economic and Community Development
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager - People and Capability
Ms V Tomlinson	- Woodville Districts' Vision Chairperson

2. Council Prayer

2.1 The Mayor opened the meeting with a Karakia/Council Prayer.

3. Apologies

3.1 Nil

4. Public Forum

4.1 Nil

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 The following matter is notified as an item of general business not on the agenda for discussion at today's meeting:

- Council meetings dress code

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

6.1 Nil

7. Personal Matters

7.1 Nil

8. Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 *That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 January 2021 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

Crs Franklin/Treder

Carried

9. Any Matters Arising from the Minutes not otherwise dealt with in the Agenda

9.1 **Sale of Former Infracon Depot in Woodville** (Item 9.2)

9.1.1 Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui-a-Rua is getting their funding arrangements organised to purchase from Council the former Infracon depot property in Woodville.

10. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

10.1 **Dannevirke Community Board**

10.1.1 *That the report of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 1 February 2021 (as circulated) be received.*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

10.2 **Eketāhuna Community Board**

10.2.1 *That the report of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 15 February 2021 (as circulated) be received.*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

10.2.2 **Water Supply Levels Signs**

10.2.2.1 The roll-out of signage is under way, and it is anticipated the supplier will complete installing them by the end of this month.

10.2.3 **Connectivity**

10.2.3.1 It is intended the connectivity black spots on Nireaha Road will be addressed as part of reviewing the project once all towers are operating.

10.2.4 **New Residents Welcome Afternoon Tea**

10.2.4.1 It is noted the Board is proposing to arrange an afternoon tea to welcome new residents to Eketāhuna, with the tentative date being 13 June 2021.

10.3 **Pahiatua On Track**

10.3.1 *That the report of the Pahiatua On Track meeting held on 3 February 2021 (as circulated) be received.*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

10.3.2 **Inglis Road to Nikau Corner Maintenance**

10.3.2.1 Maintenance work is being undertaken on Inglis Road to Nikau corner.

10.4 **Woodville Districts' Vision**

10.4.1 *That the report of the Woodville Districts' Vision meeting held on 2 February 2021 (as circulated) be received.*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

11. Reports

11.1 **Roading 2021-2024 Block Funding Adjustment**

11.1.1 *That the report from the Alliance Asset Manager dated 18 February 2021 concerning 2021-2024 Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency roading block funding application adjustment (as circulated) be received, and*

That the recommended changes made in response to the Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency funding request as outlined in this report be accepted and endorsed by Council.

Crs Johns/Sutherland

Carried

11.2 **Six Months Council Performance for the Period Ending 31 December 2020**

11.2.1 Finance Manager Cameron McKay elaborated on Council's financial position and performance as at the midway point of this financial year, and variances to the revenue and expenditure budgets.

11.2.2 An unfavourable operating variance was achieved, with the main contributor to this outcome being in the water supplies activity where it was budgeted to receive external funding for one of its shovel-ready project applications that was subsequently unsuccessful. Government has since released the three waters reform package, with Council signing a Memorandum of Understanding to receive \$5.02 million.

11.2.3 The roading and footpath activities budget is also an unfavourable variance mainly made up of Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency funding not yet received for footpath work on Pahiatua Main Street upgrade, and road maintenance works being progressed ahead of schedule due to the mild winter.

11.2.4 Council continue to focus on managing its interest risk position through maintaining a mixture of floating and fixed interest debt from a mid to long-term perspective, with the level of borrowing forecast to increase.

11.2.5 Excluding baseline measures and those measured later in the year, Council is on track to achieve 73% of its performance measures compared to 77% last year.

11.2.6 Group Manager - Operations Tina Love outlined progress with the capital works programme that Council has spent \$10.2 million of its \$31.5 million budget for this financial year. Good progress is being achieved with only one project not yet started (Dannevirke town centre pavers renewal), and 28 of the 145 projects have been completed.

11.2.7 Revenue Manager Eleanor Roberts spoke on work undertaken to manage rates debtors in arrears. As at 1 July 2020 there were 1,783 rating units in arrears, with 1,507 clearing the amount owed at 31 December 2020 leaving 276 with an arrears balance.

11.2.8 The total collected and approved write-off from 1 July to 31 December 2020 was \$448,456.

11.2.9 ***That the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 17 February 2021 concerning six months Council performance for the period ending 31 December 2020 (as circulated) be received and the contents are noted.***

Crs Peeti-Webber/Franklin

Carried

11.3 **Staff Report**

11.3.1 **Annual Dog Re-registration**

11.3.1.1 It is noted that 6,674 dogs have been registered, with 174 dogs remaining unregistered (which is a reduction of 58 unregistered dogs since December).

11.3.1.2 As part of following up those dogs still to be re-registered it is proposed this matter is the subject of an article included in the Council's Bush Telegraph page.

11.3.2 **Resource Consents**

11.3.2.1 It is requested if possible to provide an understanding of growth occurring in the district information be included through the staff report district planning section regarding the number of resource consent subdivision applications received by location for each town in the district.

11.3.3 **DigitalSpaces -Tararua Digital Hub**

11.3.3.1 Statistics for use of the DigitalSpaces - Tararua Digital Hub will be provided through reporting to the Economic Development and Marketing Committee.

11.3.4 **Banks Phasing Out Cheques and Banking Services**

11.3.4.1 The Mayor is collating information to provide an understanding of the impact on the district's communities of bank closures, reduced trading hours and the phasing out of cheques.

11.3.4.2 The intention is to enable concerned residents and businesses to share their challenges in banking to help Council advocate to keep banking services in the district's towns.

11.3.4.3 Mayors from rural and provincial councils have written to the Prime Minister with their concerns about the loss of rural banking services, and urged the Government to consider setting up a formal inquiry into the impact of branch closures.

11.3.4.4 If that inquiry concludes there is a negative impact, Government should require all major commercial banks operating in New Zealand (as part of their licence to operate) to provide a level of service which redresses the issue.

11.3.4.5 In the letter sent to the Prime Minister it is emphasised without Government intervention nothing that is not economically viable will be supplied by industry which places profits before social good.

11.3.5 **Tararua Golf Tournament**

11.3.5.1 The assistance of Cr Peter Johns is acknowledged in ensuring the success of the Tararua golf tournament for New Zealand Motor Caravan Association members held over the weekend from 6 to 8 February 2021.

11.3.6 ***That the report from the Chief Executive dated 17 February 2021 concerning an update on key projects and items of interest to the Council (as circulated) be received.***

Crs Wards/Johns

Carried

12. Portfolio Reports

12.1 Connect Tararua

12.1.1 Cr Alison Franklin reported it is anticipated the link up of the towers to provide improved connectivity in the district will be completed by early April this year.

12.2 Mayor and Councillors Report

12.2.1 A copy of the Mayor and Councillors February report is tabled, and the information set out in that document is circulated for reference as an attachment to the agenda relating to these minutes.

12.2.2 Matters included in the Mayor and Councillors report are as follows:

- Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu Tararua Highway procurement information evening
- Eketāhuna Golf Club 50th anniversary
- Dannevirke A and P show and Viking festival held at Norsewood
- New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Tararua golf tournament
- Jazz in the park 2021 community event at Dannevirke Lower Domain and silent movie being planned in Woodville Fountaine Square
- Danne-Vegas to Herby 4x4 event
- Huarahi Tūhono Weber to Wimbledon update
- Events attended by the Mayor
- Letters of support, condolences and visits
- Councillors portfolio reports

13. Mayoral Matters

13.1 Woodville Art and History Incorporated

13.1.1 The Council agree to provide the following letter of support to Woodville Art and History Incorporated for their funding application to the Lotteries Commission:

Council supports Woodville Art and History Incorporated in its endeavours to establish public galleries in Woodville. In May 2019, Council provided rent free access to the former Council i-SITE and Library for a period of two years to establish the galleries. This is an excellent location on State Highway 3 and near State Highway 2 with over 7,000 vehicles traffic count per day. It will benefit from the now commenced \$620 million Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu Tararua Highway - the new road that will replace the former State Highway 3 through the Manawatu Gorge.

Covid-19 interrupted the project but stage one is nearing completion to open art galleries to the public, with Council recently approving funding for exterior painting in further financial support of the project.

The Society has now approached the Council to initiate negotiation for a long-term lease of five years plus five years.

This is a project that meets the Council criteria of the “Council helping communities helping themselves”, and it is pleased to support the Society’s application for Lotteries Commission funding for this project.

14. Items Not on the Agenda

14.1 Council Meetings Dress Code

14.1.1 Cr Kerry Sutherland raised the question whether it is still appropriate and/or necessary for men to wear ties as a dress code standard at Council meetings?

14.1.2 It is noted that while a formal and tidy standard of dress is expected at Council meetings it is an individual’s choice whether this includes wearing a tie.

14.1.3 The meeting adjourned at 2.59pm, and resumed at 3.14pm.

15. Public Excluded Item of Business

15.1 *That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

Proposed sale of 67 Wakeman Street in Pahiatua

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

<i>General subject matter to be considered</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<i>Proposed sale of 67 Wakeman Street in Pahiatua</i>	<i>To protect commercial and industrial negotiations</i>	<i>Section (1)(a)(i)</i>

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48 (1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

s7(2)(i) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Crs Hull/Isaacson

Carried

15.2 ***That the report from the Group Manager Plant and Property dated 17 February 2021 concerning the proposed sale of 67 Wakeman Street in Pahiatua (as circulated) be received, and***

That delegation be provided to the Chief Executive to negotiate and enter into an agreement to engage a registered real estate agent to market and sell the property by auction or tender to realise the most advantageous price for Council based on the framework set out in this report.

Crs Hull/Isaacson

Carried

15.3 ***That open meeting be resumed.***

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

15.4 ***That the decision taken with the public excluded be confirmed in open meeting.***

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 3.23pm.

Mayor