



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 26 May 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
Ms T Love	- Group Manager - Operations
Mr M Maxwell	- Group Manager - Economic and Community Development
Mr C McKay	- Finance Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- Manager Strategy and Climate Change
Mr D Watson	- Manager - Special Projects
Mrs S Walshe	- Senior Financial Accountant
Ms E Roberts	- Revenue Manager
Mr M Thomas	- Strategy and Policy Adviser
Mr D Geary	- Alliance Director

Speaker in the public forum as outlined

2. Council Prayer

- 2.1 Mayor Tracey Collis opened the meeting with a Karakia/Council Prayer.

3. Apologies

- 3.1 Nil

4. Public Forum

4.1 Establishment of a Maori Ward

- 4.1.1 Tama Ngatai-Ruaporo commended Council from a youth perspective on its decision to establish a Maori Ward for the 2022 election.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

5.1 Nil

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

6.1 Nil

7. Personal Matters

7.1 The passing of Robin Chapman-Taylor is noted (a manufacturing jeweller from Napier that retired to Dannevirke) who designed and crafted Council's mayoral chains for the Tararua District.

8. Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 *That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 April 2021 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

Crs Hull/Peeti-Webber

Carried

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

9.1 Nil

10. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

10.1 Woodville Districts' Vision

10.1.1 *That the report of the Woodville Districts' Vision meeting held on 4 May 2021 (as circulated) be received.*

Crs Franklin/Wards

Carried

10.1.2 Water Tanks

10.1.2.1 It is understood the two water tanks in Woodville were purchased through a successful funding application granted by the Horizons Regional Council.

10.2 Pahiatua On Track

10.2.1 *That the report of the Pahiatua On Track meeting held on 5 May 2021 (as circulated) be received.*

Crs Franklin/Wards

Carried

10.2.2 **Swimming Pool**

- 10.2.2.1 It is pleasing to note the article in the Bush Telegraph regarding the new community swimming pool in Pahiatua was well received, with five people signing up to the project's fundraising committee in response to that article.

10.3 **Dannevirke Community Board**

- 10.3.1 ***That the report of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 5 May 2021 (as circulated) be received.***

Crs Franklin/Wards

Carried

10.3.2 **Driver Licence Testing in Dannevirke**

- 10.3.2.1 Mayor Tracey Collis has been liaising with Dannevirke Community Board Deputy Chairperson Terry Hynes regarding requesting VTNZ to make available additional services as part of providing driver licence testing at Tararua Community Youth Services premises.

10.4 **Eketāhuna Community Board**

- 10.4.1 ***That the report of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 10 May 2021 (as circulated) be received.***

Crs Franklin/Wards

Carried

11. Reports

11.1 **Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031 Submissions**

- 11.1.1 ***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 20 May 2021 concerning submissions forwarded to the Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031 (as circulated) be received.***

Crs Peeti-Webber/Hull

Carried

- 11.1.2 ***That Council acknowledge the communities desire to encourage waste minimisation and a reduction in waste disposal and agree to implement the preferred option of kerbside recycling services for the four main urban towns in the district funded via a targeted rate, and continue with the ongoing waste reduction education programmes.***

Crs Johns/Wards

Carried

- 11.1.3 Cr Shirley Hull requested her dissenting vote be noted regarding the decision to proceed with implementing enhanced kerbside recycling services, taking into account the notable changes impacting on this project's feasibility concerning the contract roll out and potential Government policy changes relating to the possibility of a national container return scheme to improve waste recycling.

11.1.4 *That with the reinstatement of the four aspects of wellbeing (social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the district's communities) into legislation, Council introduce the preferred option of a new activity called Community Development and invest in two new roles, as supported by the community.*

Crs Franklin/Hull

Carried

11.1.5 *That recognising the financial challenges and opportunities discussed in the Financial Strategy and support expressed through the submissions received Council agree to:*

- The introduction of a dedicated debt repayment programme which ensures Council has continued financial resilience, and based on the preferred option to repay debt at a compounding rate of 2% of rates each year, and*
- The rates limits where rate increases in any one year will be maintained within the weighted average local government cost index, which is calculated by BERL and specifically reflects the types of costs faced by councils, PLUS three percent and PLUS two percent dedicated for additional principal debt repayment.*

Crs Sutherland/Peeti-Webber

Carried

11.1.6 *That to improve the district's resilience to the impacts of climate change on infrastructure Council support:*

- The continued current funding of \$1.6 million of emergency road works, with \$217,000 funded from rates being maintained as the preferred option for the roading financial reserves, and*
- The development of a Climate Change Strategy.*

Crs Wards/Johns

Carried

11.1.7 *That recognising growth is occurring in the district Council support:*

- The development of an overarching growth strategy underpinned by the projects included in the Long Term Plan, namely the review of the District Plan, Urban Master Planning, Housing Strategy, Climate Change Strategy and Sports, Recreation and Play Strategy and Water Demand Management Strategies.*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

11.1.8 *That Council continue to explore alternative funding streams by:*

- A change in policy in the 2024 Long Term Plan whereby a development contribution is charged for fair and reasonable costs to increase the capacity of infrastructure to cater for growth.*

- *Introducing rates that target forestry activities to offset any negative outcomes this activity has on the district's roading network and environment.*
- *Exploring further the user pays approach by targeted rates and fees and charges for those services that are for the benefit of users as opposed to the public good for all ratepayers.*

Crs Johns/Sutherland

Carried

11.1.9 *That the following matters raised in submissions be referred to the Works Liaison Committee for discussion and its direction:*

- *Renewal of well liners at Akitio water supply.*
- *Bush Multisport stadium roof in Pahiatua be insulated before they seek funding for heat pumps.*
- *Greater support from Council for Woodville swimming pool.*
- *Water tanks for homeowners be subsidised.*

Crs Isaacson/Hull

Carried

11.1.10 *That staff be requested to investigate and report prior to the next Annual Plan on:*

- *Providing carparking at Kauri Place in Pahiatua and Huxley Street drain is enclosed.*
- *Rotary Park in Pahiatua is developed into a dog park funded from private sponsorship.*

Crs Johns/Treder

Carried

11.1.11 *That recognising Council's commitment to the Manawatu River Leaders Accord investment be continued in improving the district's wastewater and stormwater discharges.*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

11.1.12 *That acknowledging the support conveyed for the development of cycling and walkways in the district Council agree to:*

- *Develop a Sports, Recreation and Play Strategy.*
- *Review and update the current Cycling/Walkways Strategy aligned to the Sports, Recreation and Play Strategy.*

Crs Johns/Isaacson

Carried

11.1.13 *That Council note management's analysis and comments set out in the attachment to this report as the recommended responses to submissions received on other matters raised through the 2021/2031 Long Term Plan consultation process subject to including reference to the following:*

- *With regard to the request to consider an alternative truck traffic route through Dannevirke convey to the submitter Council has no plans to further revisit that matter again as it was previously investigated several times, and the town's business sector is opposed to it proceeding.*
- *More information is to be provided to Council prior to the adoption of the Long Term Plan regarding the impact of the district valuation on outlier farming properties with significant increases and decreases in rates. These details will assist to explain significant shifts in rating valuations between the sectors and some properties where this is more pronounced.*
- *With regard to the request from Eketāhuna Health Centre for an annual grant of \$20,000 to \$30,000 to help continue providing primary health care services in the southern part of the district and carrying on preceptor training to UCOL student nurses Council will support them in advocating and lobbying to seek funding for that purpose.*
- *With regard to the two submitters expressing concern about Old Man's Beard provide to them a copy of Council's submission on that subject forwarded to Horizons Regional Council's Long Term Plan.*

Crs Wards/Franklin

Carried

- 11.1.14 *That management is requested to present to Council's next meeting options for consideration regarding the request from Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre for funding to assist undertake their Te Wānanga Taiao project to develop "the place environmental of learning".*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

- 11.1.15 The meeting adjourned at 2.55pm, and resumed at 3.10pm.

11.2 **Proposed Dog Registration Fees and Charges for the 2021/2022 Financial Year**

- 11.2.1 *That the report from the Manager Regulatory Services dated 19 May 2021 concerning proposed dog registration fees and charges for the 2021/2022 financial year (as circulated) be received, and*

That pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996, the following dog control fees (including GST) be set for the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

Animal Control Advice

Application and compliance advice

No charge

Dog Registration

Urban Domestic Dog

Fee if paid on or before 1 August

\$115.00

Late fee if paid after 1 August

\$172.50

Preferred Owner Dog

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$65.00
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<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	\$97.50
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** Preferred owner status may be revoked if paid after 1 August. If revoked, the applicable dog registration fee will apply.*

Rural Domestic Dog

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$50.00
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<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	\$75.00
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Working Dog*

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$50.00
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<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	\$75.00
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**Providing a false statement when registering a dog is an offence subject to a \$3,000 fine on conviction.*

Dangerous Dog - as classified under the Dog Control Act 1996

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	Base fee plus 50%
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<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	Base fee plus 50%
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<i>Disability assist dog with organisation certificate</i>	No charge
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Any new dog that is less than three months old after 1 August in any calendar year will be charged a pro rata of the dog registration for that year.

Other Fees

<i>Dog lead</i>	\$10.00
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<i>Dog collar - large/extra-large</i>	\$10.00
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<i>Dog collar - small/medium</i>	\$8.00
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<i>Barking dog collar hire</i>	No charge
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<i>Replacement registration tag or disc</i>	\$2.00
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<i>Application for preferred owner status</i>	\$72.50
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<i>Application for licence to keep three or more dogs (1ha or less)</i>	\$115.00
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<i>Application for a licence to register a boarding kennel (bylaw)</i>	\$200.00
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<i>Application for licence to register a breeding kennel (bylaw)</i>	\$200.00
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Crs Johns/Wards	Carried
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11.3 Third Quarter Financial Performance for the Period Ending 31 March 2021

11.3.1 Senior Financial Accountant Sarah Walshe elaborated on Council's financial position and variances to the revenue and expenditure budgets that are favourable overall. The main driver of this outcome is increased subsidies from the Provincial Growth Fund for Route 52 upgrade and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency funding for roading.

11.3.2 Finance Manager Cameron McKay spoke on Council's current external debt position as at 31 March 2021 that is \$45 million, all held with the Local Government Funding Agency.

- 11.3.3 The Long Term Plan projections indicate significantly increased debt levels peaking at just under \$80 million. However, one possible scenario arising from the three waters reform has the potential for significantly lower debt levels than forecast in the Long Term Plan.
- 11.3.4 This means caution is required when considering fixed rate hedging for managing interest rate risk. Council's decision made at this meeting through the Long Term Plan to repay debt at a compounding rate of 2% of rates each year also acknowledges Council is planning to prudently manage its anticipated future debt levels.
- 11.3.5 Finance Manager Cameron McKay spoke on the service performance measures indicating Council is on track to achieve 75% of the agreed measures compared to 77% last year.
- 11.3.6 Group Manager - Operations Tina Love outlined progress with undertaking projects included in the capital expenditure budgets programme. As at the end of March 2021 from a total budget of \$34.1 million for the 2020/2021 financial year the sum of \$16.5 million has been spent.
- 11.3.7 Overall Council is likely to spend less than the Annual Plan budget, with the majority of overspend on capital projects attributed to unplanned spending that is funded by external subsidy.
- 11.3.8 Revenue Manager Eleanor Roberts spoke on emphasis being placed to manage debtors and rates arrears. Council had 1,783 rating units in arrears at 1 July 2020 with 1,580 clearing their arrears at 31 March 2021 leaving 203 with an arrears balance. Total collected and approved write-off from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 was \$607,330.
- 11.3.9 Staff continue to work with Debt Management Central on the eleven abandoned land rating units to be sold under the provisions of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. A further three rating units have been identified to go through that process.
- 11.3.10 Council has six rating units that are Maori freehold titled land that staff cannot find the owner/s, or they have advised they are no longer using the land. The process set out in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 is being followed regarding these properties.
- 11.3.11 ***That the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 20 May 2021 concerning third quarter financial performance for the period ending 31 March 2021 (as circulated) be received and the contents are noted.***

Crs Peeti-Webber/Sutherland

Carried

11.4 Road Stopping - Mangatainoka

- 11.4.1** *That the report from the Manager Strategy and Climate Change dated 20 May 2021 concerning road stopping - Mangatainoka (as circulated) be received, and*
- That the Chief Executive be authorised to stop the two identified roads under the Public Works Act 1981, Section 116 and pursuant to Section 52(7) for the purposes of utilities, public structures and public services, and*
- That the two road sites be subject to survey as identified and set out in section 4 of the description of this report, and*
- That a meeting be held with the landowners impacted by this decision to inform them of the process being undertaken by the Council and to explain why this is necessary and what is involved, and*
- That copies of the public notice declaring the roads stopped and survey office plans of the stopped roads be forwarded to Land Information New Zealand to complete the process once they are prepared.*

Crs Johns/Hull

Carried

11.5 Staff Report

11.5.1 Akitio

- 11.5.1.1** The work being undertaken to keep Akitio Beach Community and Ratepayers Association informed about the foreshore protection consent, options for wastewater treatment, and maintenance and renewal needs for the water supply is appreciated.

11.5.2 Wastewater Resource Consent Renewals

- 11.5.2.1** Progress is being made with the Environment Court regarding the wastewater discharge consents for Eketāhuna and Pahiatua, and granting of them appears imminent.

11.5.3 Building Consents

- 11.5.3.1** Demand for new dwelling consents remains strong, and the table detailing applications for dwellings by location over the period from 2015 to January 2021 is noted detailing this trend throughout the district.

11.5.4 Illicit Dumping

- 11.5.4.1** It is pleasing to note the table detailing illicit dumping by location indicates less instances of this occurring in the 2020/2021 financial year.
- 11.5.5** *That the report from the Chief Executive dated 19 May 2021 concerning an update on key projects and items of interest to the Council (as circulated) be received.*

Crs Franklin/Johns

Carried

12. Portfolio Reports

12.1 Mayor and Councillors Report

12.1.1 A copy of the Mayor and Councillors May 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.

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

- Robin Chapman-Taylor - designer and crafter of the Council's mayoral chains for the Tararua District.
- Gifting of Pūkaha to the people of Aotearoa.
- Cultural Day at Eileen Mary.
- Norway Day at Norsewood.
- Land Diversification Forum.
- Downer Tararua Sports Awards.
- Dannevirke Spinners and Weavers Spin In day.
- Tararua funding information evening.
- Council extraordinary meeting to hear submissions on the Draft Long Term Plan and Maori Ward vote.
- Letters of support, condolences and visits.
- Events attended by the Mayor.
- Councillors portfolio reports.
- Wairarapa Times Age column by Mayor Tracey Collis.

13. Mayoral Matters

13.1 Nil

14. Items Not on the Agenda

14.1 Nil

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 5.10pm.

Mayor