



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on Wednesday 27 November 2024 commencing at 9:30am.

1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), N L Chase, A K Franklin, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr D Batley	- Evergreen Consulting
Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager (via Teams)
Ms G Nock	- Strategy and District Development Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor (via Teams)
Ms A Charmley	- Planning Services Manager
Ms K Stevens	- Community Partnerships Coordinator
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services
Ms S Ellis	- Democracy Support Officer

2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with Prayer.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Public Forum

Keith Joblin, Vince Neall and Tom Shannon gave a presentation on a proposal for a UNESCO Geopark in the Te Apiti Manawatu Gorge area, and sought feedback from the Council.

Keith Joblin explained what a Geopark was, how it was a map that showed geographical sites of interest in the area, and talked about how UNESCO fits into this. They explained:

- A Geopark is a Virtual Park;
- Sites remain under the sole jurisdiction of landowners and private, local, tribal, government agencies;
- UNESCO does not have any management authority over the Geopark area, and
- UNESCO Geopark status does not imply restrictions on economic activity inside a Geopark.

Vince Neall then spoke, and showed some examples of Geoparks around the world, and then spoke about the first Geopark to be established in New Zealand, being the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark.

He spoke about the features of significance in Te Apiti Manawatu Gorge area that meet the criteria for a UNESCO Geopark. The neotectonics are the feature that would be highlighted.

Keith Joblin then outlined their implementation strategy, which included how they proposed to make it happen, and how much it would cost. Over a ten year plan, expect to cost \$541,000. They have been working on funding support, and have secured \$48,000 towards this to date. Their plan for a phased implementation would see them seeking a contribution of \$11,570 per year from each agency involved, including the Tararua District Council.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

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

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 October 2024 (as circulated), Extraordinary Council meeting held on 5 November 2024 (as circulated), Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 November 2024 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 15 November 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Crs Johns/Franklin

Carried

8. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

8.1 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 6 November 2024 be received.

Crs Franklin/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8.2 Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 5 November 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

8.3 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 18 November 2024 be received.

Crs Collis/Johns

Carried

Councillor N L Chase left the meeting at 10:24am and rejoined at 10:25am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27am and reconvened at 10:37am.

9. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

The need to consider an urgent late item of business came to light during the meeting. The item sought for inclusion is for consideration and approval of a request for temporary road closure for the Woodville Christmas Parade.

That the Tararua District Council accept as a matter of late business a request for Temporary Road Closure for the Woodville Christmas Parade.

Crs Gilmore/Wards

Carried

10. Reports

10.1 Draft of the Proposed District Plan for pre-consultation purposes

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Planning Manager dated 20 November 2024 that presented the draft of the Proposed District Plan for adoption by Council for pre-consultation purposes. Mr Daniel Batley, of Evergreen Consulting and the Planning Manager introduced the draft District Plan

that is proposed for pre-consultation with the community.

That the report from the Planning Manager dated 20 November 2024 concerning the Draft of the Proposed District Plan for pre-consultation purposes be received.

That the Council adopt the draft of the Proposed District Plan for pre-consultation purposes and note that the pre-consultation will extend over three (3) month period between 28th November 2024 to 1st March 2025.

That the Chief Executive be authorised to approve any final edits required to the Draft Proposed District Plan.

Crs Wallace/Johns

Carried

10.2 **Proposed Solar Farm - Dannevirke Wastewater**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Advisor dated 21 November 2024 that provided an update on the proposed solar farm planned to be sited on pond 4 of Dannevirke Wastewater at Makirikiri Road. The Chief Advisor noted there was still some work to be done, and they were at the stage of having engineers on site to confirm the design. In discussion a question was asked about any contractual ability to withdraw from the agreement should there be significant adverse impacts for the plant. The Chief Advisor in response noted the main risk being worked through was around impact of wind on the panels. In terms of insurance there would need to be an understanding of the insurance that the owner of the installation would have on the solar panels and what this covered. It was also asked where the costs would lie should the Council need to do some work on its pond that required the removal of the solar farm, for example, removal of sludge. It was asked that more certainty be provided in the next update around costs and benefits.

That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 21 November 2024 concerning the Proposed Solar Farm - Dannevirke Wastewater be received.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Sutherland

Carried

10.3 **Contestable Fund Process**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Strategy and District Development Manager dated 13 November 2024 that provided an outline of the revised process for the Contestable Fund. It was noted that two funding rounds would be held during the remaining six months of this financial year. In discussion, the process for considering international representatives for funding was sought, noting that many of these applicants only have a short period of notice that they've been selected for an international event and need to seek funding. It was suggested that the process include opportunity for urgent consideration of applications such as international representatives. An amount could be tagged within the contestable fund to set aside for use for international

representatives if required. Another option that could be considered for discussion in the next Annual Plan, would be to fund the International Representative fund. With regards to the consideration of applications, it was asked that the report cover the reasons for declining any applications and it was noted that this information would be included.

That the report from the Strategy and District Development Manager dated 13 November 2024 concerning the Contestable Fund Process be received.

Crs Johns/Wards

Carried

10.4 **Operational Projects Update**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 19 August 2024 that provided an update on the following three projects:

- Rationalisation of Land and Buildings;
- Section 17A Reviews of Swimming Pools and Camping Grounds; and
- Reserve Management Plan.

The final report on the Rationalisation project was due to be brought to the December Council meeting for consideration.

It was noted that the results from the Section 17A reviews would feed into the development of the Annual Plan for 2025-26.

The next steps for the Reserve Management Plan, following iwi input, would be public consultation.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 19 August 2024 concerning the update on operational projects be received.

That Council agrees to a workshop with Elected Members to go through the draft Rationalisation report.

That Council agrees to a workshop with Elected Members to go through s17a reviews for swimming pools and camping grounds.

That Council agrees to a workshop with Elected Members prior to consulting with the community for the adoption of the Reserve Management Plan.

Crs Wallace/Long

Carried

10.5 **Report from Local Government New Zealand - July to October 2024**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Mayor dated 13 November 2024 that presented the update report from Local Government New Zealand for the period July to October 2024.

That the report from the Mayor dated 13 November 2024 concerning the Report from Local Government New Zealand - July to October 2024 be received.

Crs Johns/Chase

Carried

10.6 **Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the manager – Democracy Services dated 13 November 2024 that provided information on requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 13 November 2024 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Crs Johns/Sutherland

Carried

11. Correspondence

11.1 **Toll Free Tararua Submitters Letter**

A copy of the letter sent by Her Worship the Mayor to submitters regarding the NZTA Tolling Proposal for Te Ahu a Turanga was shared for information. It was advised that this letter had been sent to people that had advised Her Worship the Mayor that they had submitted, and also sent to the MPs for information. She noted that NZTA had held an out of cycle meeting to consider the tolling proposal, and she had been declined an opportunity to speak to NZTA at this meeting. Her Worship the Mayor noted that she had made an Official Information Request to NZTA for the number of submissions they had received on the tolling proposal, however they declined to provide this information. She noted that she had forwarded that response on to the Office of the Ombudsman for review of the decision to decline release of that information.

12. Portfolio Reports

12.1 Councillor Peeti-Webber noted she had attended the Lions Christmas Lunch and noted the success of the event, and the benefit to the elderly in the community.

12.2 Proposed closure of Bush Telegraph – concerns were noted about the impact on the community that the loss of this form of communication would have.

Concerns included needing to be able to place public notices in a newspaper circulating within the district, as required by legislation, as other newspapers did not cover the whole district, and also for many in the district it was their only source of news. It was noted that the Dannevirke Community Board had made a submission in support of keeping the Bush Telegraph going. Her Worship the Mayor noted she was looking at what could be done.

- 12.3 Councillor Franklin spoke about the recent Polish Reunion and noted the success of the event and thanked Councillors for their help on the day, and acknowledged everyone involved, especially the local schools, for making the event such a success. She also spoke about the opening ceremony for the Little Poland Park in Christchurch that she attended with Her Worship the Mayor. She also noted the RCG tower for Norsewood should be completed by Christmas.
- 12.4 Councillor Wards spoke about a conversation with a retired nurse she met in Melbourne that grew up in Eketāhuna. They had a long conversation about the cost of wastewater.
- 12.5 Councillor Gilmore reported on attendance at Rural and Provincial Sector meeting, which was mainly focussed on Local Water Done Well. He noted there were attendees from Australia that talked about Rates Capping, which is a potential Government policy, sharing their experiences and some drawbacks. There was a treasury update, and MP Kieran McAnulty spoke about Emergency Management.
- 12.6 Councillor Wallace congratulated the organisers of the Polish reunion, and noted that four Government Ministers attended from Poland, but none from New Zealand. He spoke about the appointment of a new Chief Executive for Transpower, and spoke about the Zone meeting and the announcement of a bipartisan agreement with infrastructure by Minister Chris Bishop, and asked about whether a similar agreement could be made for energy supply.

13. Mayoral Matters

Nil

14. Items not on the Agenda

14.1 Late item – Temporary Road Closure

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Alliance Administrator dated 27 November 2024 that presented a request for temporary Road Closure under the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, for the purpose of holding the Woodville Christmas Parade.

That the report from the Alliance Manager dated 27 November 2024 concerning a road closures application under the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government

Act 1974 (as circulated) be received, and

That pursuant to Section 342 (1)(b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, the Council resolves to close the following roads for the purpose of allowing Positively Woodville to hold the Christmas Parade event:

Road name: Bowen Street, Ormond Street, Pollen Street, Ross Street

Date of closure: Saturday 14 December 2024

Period of closure: 7am – 3pm

Road name: Fergusson Street

Date of closure: Saturday 14 December 2024

Period of closure: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Road name: Vogel Street

Date of closure: Saturday 14 December 2024

Period of closure: 11:30am – 12:30pm

Conditions Applied to the Granting of these Road Closures

- 1. That the Tararua Alliance in conjunction with the organiser will assess shortly prior to this event the condition of the roads involved to determine their suitability for this purpose.**
- 2. That if the Tararua Alliance identifies any road or roads as being in an unsuitable condition arising from this assessment, then they have the discretion to request the organiser to withdraw such road from the route of this event.**
- 3. That shortly after the event has been held, the Tararua Alliance shall carry out a drive over of the roads that were closed for this event to assess their condition.**

Advisory Note

That should the Council incur any additional maintenance costs as a consequence of the event, then those expenses shall be recovered from the event organiser.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

15. Public Excluded Items of Business

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this

meeting, namely:

Land Purchase - Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply - Delegation to Negotiate - 27 November 2024

Chief Executive Key Performance Indicators 2024-25

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>Chief Executive Key Performance Indicators 2024-25</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</i>	<i><Section (1)(a)(i)</i>
<i>Land Purchase - Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply - Delegation to Negotiate - 27 November 2024</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).

s7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.

Crs Wallace/Franklin

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 12:15pm and resumed open session at 12:30pm.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12:30pm.

Mayor