



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on Wednesday 18 December 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 (via Teams), S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mrs B Fowler	- Senior Financial Accountant (via Teams)
Ms F Chase	- Facilities Manager
Mr J Vince	- Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator (via Teams)
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

There were no requests for public forum.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Cr S A Wallace – civil noise nuisance

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

Councillor E L Peeti-Webber – item 9.6 Hoops in Parks

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 November 2024 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 December 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Crs Johns/Gilmore

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 4 December 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Sutherland

Carried

8.2 Minutes - Eketahuna Community Board

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 9 December 2024 be received.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Long

Carried

9. Reports

9.1 Recommendation from Audit and Risk Committee re Adoption of Annual Report 2023/24

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Senior Financial Accountant dated 13 December 2024, that presented a recommendation from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 11 December 2024 seeking adoption of the draft Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2024.

The Finance Manager spoke to the report and advised that Audit New Zealand had provided a clean unmodified audit for the Annual Report 2023-24. She outlined the minor changes made to the Annual Report which were:

- Animal Control revenue in advance – a higher level of accruals needed.
- Include as a vested asset a piece of road that had been vested back into Council. This needed to be recognised in Council’s financial statements and was shown as an uncorrected misstatement in the letter of representation. It was noted that this was not material.
- Parks assets and the Pukaha Loan, these were also shown as uncorrected misstatements.

It was proposed that a change to the recommendations be made regarding the Summary Annual Report, noting this would be available by the end of this week with Audit New Zealand reviewing that document today. An explanation was provided that the Summary Annual Report included the front part of the Annual Report, along with a summary of the financial statements. It was asked that authority be delegated to the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the Summary Annual Report.

That the Mayor and Chief Executive be delegated the authority to make any minor changes requested by Audit New Zealand and to sign the Statement of Compliance and Responsibility that is contained within the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2024;

That the Tararua District Council adopt the Annual Report 2023/24 in accordance with Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002; and

That the Tararua District Council delegate authority to the Mayor and the Chief Executive to sign the Summary Annual Report 2023-24.

Crs Long/Chase

Carried

9.2 **Progress Update on Direct Debit Issue**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Contractor dated 5 December 2024 that provided a progress update on the resolution for households impacted by the direct debit issue. The Chief Executive noted that for those people that Council had not yet managed to make contact with, they had been written to, phoned and visited without being able to make contact at this stage, and he spoke about a plan to address this.

That the report from the Contractor dated 05 December 2024 concerning the Progress Update on Direct Debit Issue be received.

Crs Sutherland/Wards

Carried

9.3 **Rationalisation of Land and Buildings**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 12 December 2024 that sought

approval to proceed with rationalising land and buildings identified in a recent review of community buildings, reserves and other land, where disposal has been recommended. Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing introduced Dafydd Pettigrew of Xyst Ltd who had provided the report on rationalisation of land and buildings, and was in attendance to answer any questions from Council.

In discussion, the consultation requirements that would apply to disposal of some parcels of land and buildings was noted and clarification provided of the process that would be used for engaging with the current users of those parcels, and what the public consultation would look like. It was explained that a LINZ accredited agent would double check the land status, and a legal review undertaken for any statutory obligations that may apply. Discussions with mana whenua would also take place, and then for each parcel of land there would be a bespoke programme depending on the circumstances that was applicable to each. Mr Pettigrew noted that the Reserves Act process was more stringent, and involved submissions and hearings, and would likely revert to that process. A preference was expressed for early contact with current users of land and buildings to ensure they understood that the land they use is flagged for future disposal. It was noted that individual disposal plans would be brought back to Council for endorsement.

That the Council pursue the disposal of the following assets:

39 Gregg Street, Dannevirke

39 Ransom Street Reserve, Dannevirke

Woodville Pioneer Museum (partial)

Weber Reserve

DVK Rural Bus Depot, Dannevirke

Land at Newman Road, Eketāhuna

Land at 16 Bengston Street, Eketāhuna

744 Waitahora Road, Waitahora

Land Surrounding the Old Maharahara Public Hall

That the Council engage LINZ-accredited agents and legal services to confirm land status and statutory obligations for each property under consideration for disposal.

That the Council consult with iwi and the public regarding the disposal of identified assets.

That the Council agree to the development of detailed disposal plans for each asset.

That the Council agree to working with the community to understand existing and future needs for the Pahiatua Community Hall, Library and Service Centre to inform decisions about future service needs and potential option to sell the Pahiatua Library and Community Hall property and relocate existing community activities to the Pahiatua Service Centre.

That the Council agrees to reassess the opportunity to dispose of, or repurpose, the Industrial land at Queen Street/Tudor & Tiraumea Roads, Pahiatua

following the findings of the s17a review of waste services scheduled to be completed in 2025.

That the Council agrees to reducing insurance coverage to demolition-only policies and limiting renovation investments to essential operational needs, for older, low-use buildings nearing the end of their lifecycle.

That the Council where practical, support having occupation agreements in place for all land and community buildings occupied by third parties; and

incorporate provisions in occupation agreements that shift responsibility for operational expenses, such as insurance and maintenance, to tenants, or reflecting these costs in annual rental charges on a case-by-case basis, provided tenants have the financial capacity to manage them; regularly review agreements to ensure rental fees are aligned with current market rates.

Crs Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

9.4 **Council Submission for the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Advisor dated 12 December 2024 that sought discussion of either making a Council submission on the Bill or considering support for Council's Iwi partners on this matter. In discussion various viewpoints were put forward:

- a submission against the Bill would show support for the Partnership Agreements with Council's Iwi Partners;
- concern that the Treaty Principles Bill was not a matter that the Council should have a formal view on;
- the Bill was not going to be supported past its first reading in Parliament;
- the Bill was flawed piece of legislation; and
- if a submission was going to be made against the Bill, that it be a short submission.

That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 12 December 2024 concerning the Council Submission for the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill be received.

That the Tararua District Council makes a short submission to the Justice Committee in opposition to the Principles of the Treaty/te Tiriti o Waitangi Bill.

Crs Chase/Peeti-Webber

Carried

Councillors P A Johns, M F Long and S A Wallace recorded their votes against the

motion.

Councillor K A Sutherland abstained from voting

The meeting adjourned at 10:47am and reconvened at 11:02am.

9.5 Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Update - Dec 2024

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator dated 11 December 2024 that provided an update on the progress of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Community Employment Programme for July to December 2024, and outlined plans for the remainder of 2024-25.

That the report from the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator dated 11 December 2024 concerning the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Update - Dec 2024 be received.

Crs Collis/Gilmore

Carried

9.6 Hoops in Parks

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 9 December 2024 that sought permission from Council to work with the Dannevirke Multisport Committee Incorporated to use Council land and build an outdoor basketball court facility at the Upper Domain in Dannevirke. Councillor E L Peeti-Webber had declared an interest in this matter, and did not vote, however upon request from Council provided clarification of how the proposed basketball hoop would be installed ancillary to the new skatepark, if the Council was successful in being selected as a recipient.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 09 December 2024 concerning the Hoops in Parks be received.

That Council agrees to, if Dannevirke is selected to receive a new basketball hoop, work with the Dannevirke Multisport Committee to install an outdoor basketball court at the Upper Domain.

Crs Wallace/Long

Carried

9.7 Adoption of Schedule of Meetings for 2025 and Change to Committee Structure

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 15 November 2024 that sought adoption of the schedule of meetings for the 2025 calendar year and also sought to formally disestablish the Chief Executive’s Performance Committee. It was noted that an old version of the meeting calendar had been included in error, and the current version was shared with members. Concern was expressed about the number of meetings, and it

was asked that consideration be given to holding two meetings on the same day, to minimise travel time for Councillors. It was agreed that more work would be undertaken on developing the schedule of meetings for 2025, noting that the meeting schedule derived directly from the Terms of Reference that had been adopted for each committee. An updated version would be brought to the Council meeting in January 2025 for further consideration.

That the report from the Manager Democracy Services dated 15 November 2024 concerning the Adoption of Schedule of Meetings for 2025 and Change to Committee Structure be received.

Crs Wallace/Chase

Carried

9.8 **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 2 December 2024 that provided information on the requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 from 1 November 2024 to 12 December 2024.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 02 December 2024 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

9.9 **Road Closure Requested Under the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974**

The Tararua District Council considered the report from the Alliance Manager dated 3 December 2024 that presented an application for road closure under the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 for Millstream Road on Saturday 15 February 2025.

That the report from the Alliance Manager dated 03 December 2024 concerning a road closure 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 road for the purpose of allowing the Dannevirke Car Club to hold a Car Club event:

Road name: Millstream Road

Date of closure: Saturday 15 February 2025

Period of closure: 7:30am – 4:30pm

Conditions Applied to the Granting of this Road Closure

That the Tararua Alliance in conjunction with the organiser will assess shortly prior to this event the condition of the road involved to determine its suitability for this purpose.

That if the Tararua Alliance identifies the road as being in an unsuitable condition arising from this assessment, then they have the discretion to request the organiser to withdraw the road from the route of this event.

That shortly after the event has been held, the Tararua Alliance shall carry out a drive over of the road that was closed for this event to assess its 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 Johns/Wallace

Carried

9.10

Road Closure Requested Under the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974

The Tararua District Council considered the report from the Alliance Manager dated 3 December 2024 that presented an application for road closure under the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 for Kohinui Road on Saturday 8 March 2025.

That the report from the Alliance Manager dated 03 December 2024 concerning a road closure application under the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government 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 road for the purpose of allowing the Pahiatua Lions to hold a Bush Cycle Tour event:

Road name: Kohinui Road

Date of closure: Saturday 8 March 2025

Period of closure: 9am – 2pm

Conditions Applied to the Granting of this Road Closure

That the Tararua Alliance in conjunction with the organiser will assess shortly prior to this event the condition of the road involved to determine its suitability for this purpose.

That if the Tararua Alliance identifies the road as being in an unsuitable condition arising from this assessment, then they have the discretion to request

the organiser to withdraw the road from the route of this event.

That shortly after the event has been held, the Tararua Alliance shall carry out a drive over of the road that was closed for this event to assess its 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

10. Correspondence

10.1 Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence:

- Letter from Her Worship the Mayor to all Cabinet Ministers
- Letter from NZTA to Her Worship the Mayor regarding evidence base for the proposed toll

11. Portfolio Reports

11.1 Councillor Gilmore reported on the Woodville school prize giving held at the Sports Stadium that he attended.

11.2 Councillor Franklin reported on the cell tower in Norsewood that was now operational, with just minor issues to be sorted out.

11.3 Councillor Peeti-Webber spoke about the Dannevirke Community Board meeting on Monday, where Hamish Schmidt presented on his future plans for the metal recycling area, accompanied by John Phillips. This involved putting in a separate loading and unloading bay rather than having this take place on the roadside. She also outlined other key improvements and equipment he was investing in.

11.4 Councillor Wallace spoke about the Christmas Party in the Park hosted by Radio Dannevirke at the A&P Showgrounds, and congratulated the Mayor for representing the Council at the Karaoke event with Chairperson Walshe from the Dannevirke Community Board.

12. Mayoral Matters

12.1 Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged the Toll Free campaign and how hard everyone worked towards that. She noted it had been a community-wide effort. She spoke about the busy year with a high number of meetings, but noted the

achievements and the amount of work progressed. She thanked the Executive Leadership Team and staff for the amount of work put in over the year.

13. Items not on the Agenda

13.1 Excessive Noise Nuisance

The Chief Executive provided an update, noting this was a Regulatory matter.

He advised that there had been many noise complaints about the new plant on Miller Street. In response an independent noise assessment was undertaken, and the independent noise reading showed the noise was below the set limit of 55db for that Zone. This meant that there was no Enforcement action that the Council could take, noting that the plant is located in an Industrial Zone.

Councillor Wallace noted his concerns that this was an issue of reverse sensitivity on the nearby residential dwellings. He believed that residents could file civil nuisance claims.

The Chief Executive noted that the Planning Team would be working with the company to see if there were ways that the noise could be mitigated.

14. Public Excluded Items of Business

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

Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes

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>Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</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)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.

The meeting went into public excluded session at 12:08pm and resumed open session at 12:10pm.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12:10pm.

Mayor