



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 4 June 2025 commencing at 9:30 am.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mrs B Fowler	- Senior Financial Accountant
Ms E Roberts	- Revenue Manager
Mr K van der Oord	- Communications Team Manager
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Reports

3.1 Deliberations on Matters Raised through Submissions on the Annual Plan 2025-26

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Finance Manager dated 26 May 2025 that provided information on matters for consideration during deliberations on the submissions received through the consultation process.

- 3.1.1 Footpaths in the Tararua District:** the Council discussed the options outlined, with clarification being sought on how the option for setting up a capital project would be funded. It was explained that this would be funded from the depreciation reserve, which was a change from the methodology formerly used due to footpaths previously attracting subsidies from NZ Transport Agency Waka

Kotahi.

During discussion it was noted that the option consulted on for increasing rates by \$150,000 for footpath maintenance related to the next two financial years. It was asked whether the new option proposed for a capital project could be set at \$150,000 for the 2025-26 financial year to fund additional maintenance for that year, and that further discussion be undertaken in the 2026-27 Annual Plan, enabling Council an opportunity to have a look at a wider footpath strategy.

That the Tararua District Council include a new Capital project for footpath maintenance of \$150,000 for the 2025-26 financial year to allow some renewal work to be carried out, noting that this will not increase rates.

Crs Gilmore/Wallace

Carried

Cr S M Wards recorded her vote against the motion

- 3.1.2 **Waisplash Carpark Proposal:** during discussion it was noted that the proposed recommendation delegated authority to the Chief Executive to enter into negotiations for the purchase of the property at 33 York Street. Clarification was sought about the process for development of the proposed carpark. In response it was noted that a report would need to be provided to the Council in the future regarding the development of the car park, which would include estimated costs. The project for development of the car park would need to be included in the Council's next Long Term Plan.

In response to a request for an outline of the expected timeframe, the Chief Executive advised that he would be making contact with the owners, and once due diligence had been undertaken, a report would be brought back to Council over the next month, depending on progress.

That the Tararua District Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive to negotiate the purchase of property at 33 York Street, and enter into a sale and purchase agreement for the property subject to confirmation by Council at a later meeting.

Crs Johns/Wallace

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:13am and resumed at 10:14am.

- 3.1.3 **Dannevirke Information Centre:** during discussion an update was sought on progress for bringing the functions of the Dannevirke Information Centre into the Council. In response it was noted that a list of the tasks undertaken had been provided to the Council, and these tasks had been factored into the recent integration of services work. It was noted that the level of service to the community would be increasing due to the longer opening hours of the Council's service centre. The comments made through submissions about the need for increased signage to direct customers to the Council service centre were

highlighted.

That the Council note the comments made through the submissions regarding the decision by the Dannevirke Information Centre Incorporated Society to cease trading.

Crs Johns/Sutherland

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:29am and resumed at 10:47am

- 3.1.4 **Charging of Uniform Annual General Charge on land that has multiple dwellings, information on Uniform Annual General Charge percentage, and spread of rates increase and impact on sectors including lifestyle properties:** during discussion clarification was sought about the considerations given to the Uniform Annual General Charge during the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process, and clarification of the figures provided. In response it was advised that the figures provided were based on the most recent Quotable Value dataset available to Council. To make changes to how rates were charged on land that had multiple dwellings, it was advised that a rating review would need to be undertaken and changes made to the Revenue and Financing Policy. This would require a significant amount of work, and during the development of the next Long Term Plan would be the appropriate timing. There would need to be a direction from Council to officers to provide advice to the Council to enable decision-making by Council on whether to undertake this review for the next Long Term Plan. Included in that advice could be a review of previous advice provided for past Long Term Plans. With regard to guidance on the percentage of the UAGC for this Annual Plan, it was advised that until the Local Water Done Well work had been completed it would not be an appropriate time to look at that. For the next Long Term Plan a more in-depth look could be taken on the application of the UAGC and consideration of fairness elements.

That further work be undertaken and brought back to Council for a further understanding of developing a revenue and financing policy for the next Long Term Plan.

Mayor Collis/Gilmore

Carried

That the Council undertake a review of the UAGC as part of the next Long Term Plan including a deep dive to understand implications.

Mayor Collis/Gilmore

Carried

- 3.1.5 **Town Signage:** it was noted that this item in the draft Annual Plan related to replacement of signage for Council's facilities, not to signage of town names at the entries to the district's towns. During discussion it was noted that some towns had welcome signage for their town that had been created by community groups.

3.1.6 **Sealing of Roads:** during discussion it was noted that a report had been provided to Council previously regarding the NZ Transport Agency requirements for sealing of rural roads, and that this could be made available to submitters on this topic.

3.1.7 **Local Water Done Well:** it was noted that the establishment costs for the proposed Council-controlled organisation had not yet been included into the draft Annual Plan, however when included would be cost-neutralised so there would be no rating impact.

3.1.8 **Remaining resolutions regarding Deliberations on Submissions on the Annual Plan 2025-26**

That the report from the Finance Manager dated 26 May 2025 concerning the Deliberations on Matters Raised through Submissions on the Annual Plan 2025-26 be received.

That the Tararua District Council note the matters raised through submissions on the draft Annual Plan 2025-26.

That the request to bring forward budget into the 2025-26 Annual Plan for the projects outlined in Section 8 of this report be approved, noting that there is no material impact on rates requirements.

That the Tararua District Council notes that further information will be provided to the extraordinary meeting of Council being held 11 June 2025 regarding any costs to be included in the Annual Plan regarding loan funding for establishment of the Council-Controlled Organisation for Water Services.

That the Tararua District Council note the feedback received from other submitters.

Crs Johns/Sutherland

Carried

3.2 **Finance and Performance - Management Report**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Finance Manager dated 17 May 2025 that provided an update on matters relating to financial and service performance.

That the report from the Finance Manager dated 17 May 2025 concerning the Finance and Performance - Management Report (as circulated) be received and the contents noted.

Crs Wallace/Chase

Carried

3.3 **Third Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 31 March 2025**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Finance Manager dated 17 May 2025 that provided the performance report for the nine months to 31

March 2025 and provided an indication of the year end results.

With regard to the capital projects deferred, it was noted that the Akitio Toilets project had been deferred due to funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund not being available. It was noted this was an important project and that there was potentially another tourism fund that may be possible to approach for funding for this project.

With regard to the Treasury report, it was asked that information be provided to show the achieved interest rate against the unhedged rate to show whether prefunding was beneficial to the Council.

It was also asked that clarification be provided on the number of debtors on agreement and number of debtors referred to Debt Management Central (DMC).

That the report from the Senior Financial Accountant dated 09 May 2025 concerning the Third Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 31 March 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

4. Closure

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12:42pm.

Mayor