



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 29 April 2026 commencing at 9:30am.

## 1. Present

Mayor – Mr S M Gilmore, Crs S M Wards (Deputy Mayor), A J Amboy, P A Johns, E F Kennedy, P M Naylor, E L Peeti-Webber, K E R Te Waaka (via Teams), and S A Wallace.

### In Attendance

Mrs N Phillips	- Chairperson, Dannevirke Community Board
Mr T Hynes	- Deputy Chairperson, Dannevirke Community Board
Mr C Haines	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Engagement
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Operations
Ms T McDonald	- Chief Financial Officer
Ms J Smith	- General Counsel
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Strategic Advisor
Ms F Chase	- Facilities Manager
Mr J Single	- Regulatory Services Manager
Mrs J Wood	- Compliance and Monitoring Team Leader
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

## 2. Council Prayer

Councillor E L Peeti-Webber commenced the meeting with a karakia timatanga (opening prayer)

## 3. Apologies

***That the apology from Councillor C L Corlett be approved and leave of absence granted for the meeting.***

***Crs Wallace/Naylor***

***Carried***

#### **4. Public Forum**

There were no requests for public forum.

#### **5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

The following item of late business was notified for consideration:

##### *Statement of Expectations – Waitī Waters*

The purpose of the item is to seek feedback from Council on the draft Statement of Expectations for Waitī Waters, in public excluded session, for the Mayor to take to the Waitī Waters Stakeholders Forum being held on 1 May 2026.

The reason the item was not included on the agenda for the meeting was due to the draft statement not being ready prior to this agenda being published.

The consideration of the item cannot be delayed until a later meeting due to the need for timely consideration from Council prior to the Stakeholders Forum on 1 May 2026.

***That the item “Statement of Expectations – Waitī Waters” be accepted as a late item of business.***

*Mayor Gilmore/Johns*

*Carried*

#### **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 25 March 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.***

*Crs Amboy/Peeti-Webber*

*Carried*

#### **8. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports**

##### **8.1 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board**

In response to a question, the Deputy Chairperson of the Dannevirke Community Board provided clarification that they were working with the designer on options for a “Welcome to Dannevirke” flag design for displaying at times when a sponsored flag was not being used.

***That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 20 April***

*2026 be received.*

*Crs Amboy/Naylor*

*Carried*

**8.2 Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee**

*That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meetings held 07 2026 be received.*

*Crs Johns/Naylor*

*Carried*

**8.3 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee**

*That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 01 April 2026 be received.*

*Crs Naylor/Johns*

*Carried*

**9. Minutes Action List**

**9.1 Decision Action Items**

The need for a due date to be included for each item on the list was highlighted.

*That the report providing an update on decision action items be noted.*

*Crs Amboy/Wallace*

*Carried*

**10. Reports**

**10.1 Recommendation from Committee re 2026 Audit Fee Proposal - Audit New Zealand**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 22 April 2026 that presented a recommendation from the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held 21 April 2026 seeking authorisation for the Mayor to sign the 2026 Audit Fee Proposal from Audit New Zealand on behalf of the Tararua District Council. It was noted that the Audit fee proposal letter referred to “audits” plural in error.

The meeting discussed concerns with the level of audit fees, noting the impact to ratepayers of the significant cost of audit, with the cost of over \$305,000 making up a significant budget line for this Council. The Council noted that audits were important to provide confidence to the community of Council’s operations but there needed to be a less costly and more efficient way of undertaking the audits which needed to be taken up with Central Government, noting the Government’s focus on reducing the level of rates for ratepayers. The meeting agreed that the Mayor would write to the Minister of Local Government to express the Council’s

concern with the high costs of audit.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 22 April 2026 concerning the Recommendation from Committee re 2026 Audit Fee Proposal - Audit New Zealand be received.***

***That the Tararua District Council authorise the Mayor to sign the 2026 Audit Fee Proposal from Audit New Zealand on behalf of the Tararua District Council.***

***That the Mayor write to the Minister of Local Government expressing concern with the cost burden imposed on ratepayers through the audit requirements.***

***Crs Johns/Amboy***

***Carried***

## 10.2 **Recommendation from Committee re Audit New Zealand Letter for Debenture Trust Deed Engagement and Audit Plan**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 22 April 2026 that presented a recommendation from the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held 21 April 2026 seeking authorisation for the Mayor to sign the Audit Engagement Letter on behalf of the Tararua District Council.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 22 April 2026 concerning the Recommendation from Committee re Audit New Zealand Letter for Debenture Trust Deed Engagement and Audit Plan be received.***

***That the Tararua District Council authorise the Mayor to sign the Audit Engagement Letter on behalf of the Tararua District Council.***

***Crs Peeti-Webber/Naylor***

***Carried***

## 10.3 **Dannevirke Domain Deer Park**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Facilities Manager dated 19 March 2026 that sought direction from the Council on decommissioning of the Dannevirke Deer Park.

The Facilities Manager introduced Mr Puke Ngatai, Council’s casual Deer Park Manager. The Facilities Manager advised of a typographical error in her report in paragraph 4.3.1, which should show the projected replacement cost for the deer fencing to require a \$249,000 investment.

In speaking to her report, she noted that discussions had been had with members of the Dannevirke Community Board about future options for the Dannevirke Deer Park to see if there were alternative ways of sustaining the park, however the complexity of alternatives meant that they recommended that the Deer Park be decommissioned.

In response to questions about costs for site rehabilitation, it was noted that rather than investing in capital expenditure for replacement deer fencing, they would be able to reduce that cost by decommissioning and returning the area to green space.

It was also advised that once returned to green space, engagement could be undertaken with the community to understand what else that space could be used for and encourage community groups to assist.

In response to a question about leasing the space for grazing until a viable plan for alternative use was agreed, it was noted that was an option with both advantages and disadvantages, but would still require maintaining and upgrading the existing fencing and water supply. The setting up of a lease agreement would also constitute a change of the activity and the land would then become rateable.

In response to a question about whether any of the savings post decommissioning would be reflected into rehabilitation of the land or rates relief the Facilities Manager advised that hopefully both would occur.

***That the report from the Facilities Manager dated 19 March 2026 concerning the Dannevirke Domain Deer Park be received.***

***That the Tararua District Council approves to decommission the Deer Park and;***

***That the Tararua District Council approves the decommissioning process indicated in section 5 – Decommission Process.***

***Crs Johns/Wards***

***Carried***

#### 10.4 **Proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2026/2027 financial year.**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Regulatory Services Manager dated 20 March 2026 that sought formal adoption of the proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2026/27 financial year as required by section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

The Regulatory Services Manager highlighted the requirement under the Dog Control Act to set the Dog Registration Fees by resolution and publicly notify these in a newspaper at least once during the month prior to the fees coming into effect. He also noted that the proposed increase was in line with inflation.

Members asked that in future reports a comparison be provided of the existing fees with the proposed fees.

***That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 20 March 2026 concerning the Proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2026/2027 financial year. be received.***

***That pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996, the following dog***

registration fees (including GST) for the year 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 be adopted:

**Animal Control Advice**

**Application and compliance advice** **No charge**

**Dog Registration**

**Urban Domestic Dog**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$164.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August** **\$**

**Urban Domestic Dog (Desexed)**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$128.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August** **\$192.00**

**Preferred Owner Dog (Entire) Also includes current members of Dogs New Zealand (formerly NZ Kennel Club).**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$88.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August\*** **\$132.00**

**Preferred Owner Dog (Desexed) Also includes current members of Dogs New Zealand (formerly NZ Kennel Club).**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$ 76.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August\*** **\$114.00**

**\* Preferred owner status may be revoked if paid after 1 August. If revoked, the applicable dog registration fee will apply.**

**Over 65's Canine Companion (available to Over 65's that do not qualify for Preferred Owner).**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$94.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August** **\$141.00**

**Rural Domestic Dog**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$88.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August** **\$132.00**

**Dogs NZ Rural Domestic Dog, (Current members of Dogs New Zealand, (formerly NZ Kennel Club).**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$62.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August** **\$93.00**

**\*may be revoked if paid after 1 August. If revoked, the applicable dog registration fee will apply.**

**Working Dog**

**(First 5 Dogs full fee then additional dogs are registered at tag fee only)**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **\$66.00**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August**

**Dangerous Dog - as classified under the Dog Control Act 1996**

**Fee if paid on or before 1 August** **Base fee plus 50%**

**Late fee if paid after 1 August** **Additional 50% fee**

*Disability assist dog with organisation certificate*

*No charge*

*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.*

*All other fees and charges relating to Animal Control will be presented later this year for adoption, included in the Tararua District Council Fees and Charges schedule.*

*Crs Wallace/Johns*

*Carried*

10.5 **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 14 April 2026 that presented 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 14 April 2026 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.*

*Mayor Gilmore/Naylor*

*Carried*

**11. Portfolio Reports**

11.1 **Horizons Regional Council Passenger Transport Committee meeting held 17 March 2026**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Councillor dated 17 April 2026 that presented information on the recently held meeting of the Horizons Regional Council Passenger Transport Committee. Councillor Naylor noted the debate and support from wider committee around the fact that the regional transport connections that was due to be in the Horizons Regional Council's Annual Plan this year had been deferred and the risk that the regional transport connections may not make it into Horizons Regional Council's next Long Term Plan. This was something to be aware of and he would be pushing to make sure that this was still an item going forward for their Long Term Plan. The second item was regarding mobility transport options and he noted he would be undertaking investigations to see whether we could access NZTA funding for mobility transport in our district.

*That the report from the Councillor dated 17 April 2026 concerning the Horizons Regional Council Passenger Transport Committee held 17 March 2026 be received.*

*Crs Naylor/Johns*

*Carried*

## 11.2 **Portfolio Report – Communications and Engagement**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Councillor dated 21 April 2026 regarding the Communications and Engagement Portfolio.

Councillor Naylor noted the great support he had received from Council's Communications team who were keen to look at how Council could engage with the community at greater levels. He spoke about the Budget Challenge engagement tool noting the good feedback coming from the community.

The Mayor also noted his thanks to the innovation of the Communications team to deliver the Budget Challenge inhouse to drive conversations another way and asked the Chief Executive to pass on his thanks to the team.

***That the report from the Councillor dated 17 April 2026 concerning the Portfolio Report – Communications and Engagement be received.***

***Crs Naylor/Amboy***

***Carried***

## 11.3 **Portfolio Report – Youth**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Councillor dated 22 April 2026 regarding the Youth Portfolio.

Councillor Te Waaka noted that it had been a very busy couple of months and her and Councillor Amboy were starting to see the fruits of their efforts in connecting with youth in the district.

***That the report from the Councillor dated 17 April 2026 concerning Portfolio Report - Youth be received.***

***Crs Te Waaka/Amboy***

***Carried***

## 11.4 **Portfolio Report – Portfolio Report - Marae, Kōhanga Reo and Kura**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Councillor dated 22 April 2026 regarding the Marae, Kōhanga Reo and Kura Portfolio.

Councillor Te Waaka noted how distinct and different each of these communities were and how it had been very interesting for her and Councillor Peeti-Webber visiting each marae and understanding the needs of every hapu and community in each area. Councillor Peeti-Webber noted they had received great feedback and noted the positive relationships developed through the Emergency Management Advisor and Community Engagement Officer through recent civil defence events, so were building on those relationships.

It was asked whether a high level report on some of the groupings of needs could be provided that would help Council understand some of the needs and priorities

and to have data around this.

***That the report from the Councillor dated 17 April 2026 concerning the Portfolio Report - Marae, Kōhanga Reo and Kura be received.***

***Crs Te Waaka/Peeti-Webber***

***Carried***

#### **14. Mayoral Update - April 2026**

The Mayor noted that they could speak about ANZAC Day ceremony attendance, and there would be an opportunity for members to provide formal reports to next month's Council meeting. He thanked all Councillors for their attendances at the services held throughout the District, noting there was a significant turnout to ceremonies. Members spoke about their attendances at the ceremonies held throughout the district, noting the turnout by the community.

***That the report from the Mayor dated 21 April 2026 concerning the Mayoral Update - April 2026 be received.***

***Mayor Gilmore/Amboy***

***Carried***

#### **15. Items not on the Agenda**

Nil

#### **16. Public Excluded Items of Business**

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

***Confirmation of Minutes***

***Water Services Organisation - Wairarapa Tararua Water Limited - Changes to Draft Constitution and Shareholders' Agreement***

***Statement of Expectations – Waitī Waters***

***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.***

<b><i>General subject matter to be considered</i></b>	<b><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></b>	<b><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></b>
<b><i>Confirmation of Minutes</i></b>	<b><i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</i></b>	<b><i>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</i></b>

<b>Water Services Organisation - Wairarapa Tararua Water Limited - Changes to Draft Constitution and Shareholders' Agreement</b>	<b>To protect legal privilege</b>	<b>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</b>
<b>Statement of Expectations – Waitī Waters</b>	<b>To protect information provided; and to protect commercial and industrial negotiations</b>	<b>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</b>

***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.***

***s7(2)(g) The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.***

***S7(2)(c)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence***

***S7(2)(i) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations***

***Crs Naylor/Johns***

***Carried***

The Council went into public excluded session at 10.35am and resumed open session at 11:52am.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and the meeting closed with karakia whakamutunga at 11:53am.