



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 27 May 2026 commencing at 9:30am.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

- | | |
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| Mrs N Phillips | - Chairperson, Dannevirke Community Board |
| Mr T Hynes | - Deputy Chairperson, Dannevirke Community Board |
| Ms K Meerman | - Programme Director – Wairarapa Tararua Water |
| 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 |
| Mrs S Walshe | - Finance and Revenue Manager |
| Mrs B Fowler | - Senior Financial Business Partner |
| Mr E Mills | - Senior Financial Accountant |
| Mr E Priest | - Project Management Office Team Leader |
| Ms F Chase | - Facilities Manager |
| Mrs A Dunn | - Manager – Democracy Services |

2. Council Prayer

Councillor Keshaan Te Waaka commenced the meeting with a karakia timatanga (opening 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 Te Waaka – Item 3.1 of Public Excluded Agenda “Dannevirke Campground Management Model Change Request”

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 29 April 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Crs Johns/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

8.1 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee

In response to a question regarding the source of funding for the \$137,000 grant referenced in the minutes, it was clarified that the funding was sourced externally and did not come from Council funds.

A query was also raised about the relocation of the contents of the Civil Defence cabinet to the Bush Multisport Building, specifically whether the Council’s Emergency Management Officer has access to the facility. It was agreed that this information would be confirmed and reported back to Council.

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 07 May 2026 be received.

Crs Kennedy/Johns

Carried

8.2 Minutes - Eketāhuna Community Board

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 04 May 2026

be received.

Crs Corlett/Amboy

Carried

9. Minutes Action List

9.1 Decision Action Items

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

Crs Wards/Wallace

Carried

10. Reports

10.1 Local Water Done Well - Transition Programme Update

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Strategic Advisor dated 22 May 2026 that provided an information update for the Council on the Waiti Waters establishment and transition programme.

Katherine Meerman, Programme Director – Wairarapa Tararua Water, was in attendance and spoke to the progress achieved. It was noted that Stage 1 had been completed, including the legal establishment of the company and appointment of the Board. Since its establishment, the Board has progressed several key workstreams.

Recruitment for the Chief Executive closes tomorrow, and consultation with staff regarding pathways to employment with Waiti Waters had been completed. Work was also underway on developing the Statement of Expectations in collaboration with Councils and iwi partners.

That the report from the Chief Strategic Advisor dated 22 May 2026 concerning the Local Water Done Well - Transition Programme Update be received.

Crs Wards/Naylor

Carried

10.2 Recommendation from Committee re Adoption of Treasury Risk Management Policy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services that presented a recommendation from the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held 21 April 2026 seeking adoption of the Treasury Risk Management Policy.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 14 April 2026 concerning the Recommendation from Committee re Adoption of Treasury Risk Management Policy be received.

That the Tararua District Council adopt the Treasury Risk Management Policy

including Liability Management and investment Policies dated May 2026.

Crs Naylor/Johns

Carried

10.3 **Third Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 31 March 2026**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Senior Finance Business Partner dated 11 May 2026 that presented the performance report for the nine months ended 31 March 2026 to the Council for consideration, and provided an indication of the year-end result.

Eden Mills was introduced as the new Senior Financial Accountant responsible for quarterly reporting, the Annual Report, and audit liaison.

With regard to capital expenditure, it was noted that some capital projects had experienced delays, with potential carry forwards expected. The 75–80% capital delivery target may require revision.

Clarifications were provided regarding the Dannevirke Impound Supply project, including design adjustments and use of liquidated damages provisions to manage contractor performance risk. Information was sought about what further approval was needed for the Urban Growth Strategy rezoning proposal which had been noted in the report as awaiting Government approval. It was advised that an answer would be provided.

In response to a question, it was advised that procurement processes were incorporating novation clauses to ensure smooth transition of liabilities to Waitī Waters if required.

An update was sought regarding progress on design clarification for the Pahiatua Pool and whether a confirmed timeline was in place. It was noted that significant effort was currently being made to engage with the vendor to clarify revised design details, and confirm updated costings associated with the redesign.

Work was ongoing to establish a firm deadline for the vendor to provide this information, to enable agreement to be finalised and progress the project into the construction phase. It was further confirmed that reporting on the Pahiatua Pool project would be provided to the Infrastructure and Projects Committee, where ongoing updates would be formally presented.

A report on the digitisation of Council building records was requested for a future Council or committee meeting.

Assurance was sought that progress on capital expenditure for water projects would be actively tracked and regularly reported to the Performance Management Committee.

Operating expenditure variances were discussed, with approximately two-thirds attributable to NZTA funding. Treasury variances reflected hedging and

prefunding strategies.

It was noted that the year-end result was expected to be slightly ahead of budget.

Debt levels remain within limits, with earlier reporting error corrected.

Debtors show a slight reduction in overdue balances; continued engagement with ratepayers experiencing difficulty was noted.

Rates rebate processing timeframes were confirmed as being reflected within the current financial year.

A write-off relating to forestry royalties was explained as cost neutral.

That the report from the Senior Finance Business Partner dated 11 May 2026 concerning the Third Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 31 March 2026 be received.

Crs Wards/Wallace

Carried

10.4 **Establishment of Chief Executive's Performance Committee**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026 that provided information about the Chief Executive's Performance Committee established by the Mayor under Section 41A Local Government Act, sought appointment of members to the committee and presented the committee's Terms of Reference for formal adoption.

A question was raised regarding whether iwi representatives could attend meetings of the Chief Executive's Performance Committee. It was clarified that this would not be appropriate, as the Committee was responsible for matters relating to the employment of the Chief Executive.

Clarification was sought on whether reports from the Committee would be made publicly available. It was noted that this would depend on considerations of confidentiality.

It was highlighted that part of the Committee's work included seeking feedback from iwi. This feedback would inform and support the information considered by the Committee.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026 concerning the Establishment of Chief Executive's Performance Committee be received.

That the Tararua District Council adopt the following membership for the Chief Executive's Performance Committee established by the Mayor under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002:

Mayor Scott Gilmore (Chairperson), Councillor Sharon Wards (Deputy

Chairperson), Councillors Peter Johns and Steve Wallace.

That the Tararua District Council adopt the Terms of Reference for the Chief Executive's Performance Committee as appended to the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026.

Crs Amboy/Kennedy

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 12 May 2026 that provided information on the requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Crs Corlett/Amboy

Carried

11. **Portfolio Reports**

11.1 **Portfolio Report - Rural**

The Tararua District Council considered the report from the Deputy Mayor dated 20 May 2026 that provided an update from the Rural Portfolio members.

That the report from the Deputy Mayor dated 20 May 2026 concerning the Portfolio Report - Rural be received.

Crs Wards/Corlett

Carried

12. **Mayoral Matters**

Mayor Scott Gilmore provided an update on local government reform and recent community engagement meetings.

He thanked councillors, staff, and attendees for their support and participation across eight community meetings. Key themes identified included strong dissatisfaction with the reform timeframe and limited information from central government.

Feedback across the district reflected a diversity of views, and further engagement with stakeholders, including iwi and sector groups such as Federated Farmers, is ongoing.

The Mayor noted that:

- Officers will prepare a timeline and process for next steps.
- Legal advice obtained through LGNZ highlights risks if the process is not followed correctly.
- An Extraordinary Council meeting may be required to enable public discussion and decision-making.

A question was raised as to whether information had been sought from the Government under the Official Information Act. It was noted that this may be pursued; however, there were challenges, as to date the written information that was available did not always align with public statements.

It was observed that some written materials present the process as less onerous than it had been portrayed in media commentary and statements from the relevant Minister.

It was acknowledged that the Council's response will, in part, depend on the direction provided by the community, including whether there is a desire to formally oppose the proposals and advocate for alternative options.

Members noted that there were strong views within the community, including expressed disappointment regarding the process being undertaken.

13. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

14. Public Excluded Items of Business

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

Confirmation of Minutes

Dannevirke Campground Management Model Change Request

Decision Action Items

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>

Decision Action Items	To protect the privacy of natural persons	<Section (1)(a)(i)
Dannevirke Campground Management Model Change Request	To protect the commercial position of a third party	<Section (1)(a)(i)
Confirmation of Minutes	To protect the privacy of natural persons	<Section (1)(a)(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.

s7(2)(b)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

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/Naylor

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 10:51am and resumed open business at 11:28am.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and the meeting closed with karakia whakamutunga at 11:29am.