



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 31 January 2024 commencing at 1:00pm.

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, 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 A Small	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager – Infrastructure
Ms F Chase	- Manager – Facilities
Ms T Hales	- Communications & Engagement Advisor – Recovery
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services
Ms G Wingfield-Smith	- Democracy Support Officer

2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council Prayer.

3. Apologies

That the apology from Councillor P A Johns be accepted and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Mayor Collis/Cr Wards

Carried

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

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

Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 December 2023 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Franklin

Carried

7. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

7.1 Dannevirke Community Board Minutes

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 18 December 2023 be received.

Crs Wards/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Tararua District Council - Code of Conduct for Elected Members

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy services dated 21 January 2024 that presented an updated Code of Conduct to elected members for consideration and adoption.

Members discussed whether to include in the Code of Conduct the requirement for any recommendation from an independent investigator to be binding upon the Council and proposed amending the Code so that any actions proposed by an independent investigator in response to a breach of the Code of Conduct would be recommended to Council for discussion and agreement on next steps to be taken.

That the Tararua District Council adopts the Code of Conduct appended to the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 21 December 2023 with an amendment to change references to requirements for any recommendations made by an Independent Investigator to be binding on the Council, to recommendations made by an Independent Investigator to be reported to Council for formal consideration.

Crs Gilmore/Wards

Carried

Councillor S A Wallace abstained from voting

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 21 December 2023 concerning the Tararua District Council - Code of Conduct for Elected Members be received.

That the Tararua District Council agrees to include the requirement for elected members who are undischarged bankrupts to disclose that fact, as set out in Clause 15(5) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Crs Franklin/Chase

Carried

9. Public Forum – James Beard

- 9.1 Mr James Beard spoke to the Council about transportation matters. He suggested that passenger rail be made available from Masterton to Dannevirke. He spoke about the distance to travel from Alfredton to Castlepoint, and noted it was a 40km shorter journey to travel via Castle Hill Road. He proposed that the Council work with the Masterton District Council and Waka Kotahi to have the unsealed portions of that road sealed. He circulated a copy of a map of the area he was speaking about.

10. Reports - Continued

10.2 Requests for Information Processed Under Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 10 January 2024 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 10 January 2024 concerning the Requests for Information Processed Under Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Crs Wallace/Gilmore

Carried

10.3 Mayoral Relief Fund - Criteria

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Executive dated 24 January 2024 that discussed changes to the Mayoral Relief Fund criteria.

That the report from the Chief Executive dated 24 January 2024 concerning the Mayoral Relief Fund - Criteria be received.

That the Council note the change in the grant criteria to allow for grants up to the following limits:

\$10,000 for individuals; and

\$30,000 for Community Groups, farmers, businesses including sole-entrepreneurs, and marae.

Crs Wards/Wallace

Carried

11. Portfolio Reports

- 11.1 Akitio / Pongaroa: Councillor Wards noted the attendance of officers over the Christmas / New Year period to address the water supply issues at Akitio, and thanked all that were involved in assisting to address the issues, including the local residents and the Akitio Ratepayers Association. She asked that a report be provided to the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee on a review of the matter. She also noted the repairs made to the roading in Pongaroa.
- 11.2 Woodville: Councillor Gilmore spoke about the Walk the New Highway event held in January that had over 1,500 people walking Te Ahu a Turanga route. He asked that thanks be passed to the iSite officers for their work in handling the ticketing for the event. He spoke about the exhibition at Rinitawa, showcasing young artists, and also the Woodville Motorcross event, noting this event was in its 61st year.
- 11.3 Norsewood: Councillor Wallace noted he was working with a group on improving communications in Norsewood. He noted the upcoming A&P Show in Dannevirke, and the Viking Festival in Norsewood, scheduled for 3 and 4 February 2024. He acknowledged the success of the radio controlled vehicles event held recently.
- 11.4 Passenger Transport: Councillor Franklin advised she was arranging a meeting with Horizons Regional Councillor Benbow. She spoke about the organising for the event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Polish Children being sent to Pahiatua during World War II that was currently underway.

12. Mayoral Matters

- 12.1 Her Worship the Mayor noted the shearing successes with the World Records set in the District.

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:

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 minutes – Council meeting held 20 December 2023</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons; and To protect commercial and industrial negotiations</i>	<i><Section (1)(a)(i)</i>
<i>Revocation and Replacement of Resolution re Chief Executive's Annual Review</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</i>	<i>As above</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)(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).*

Crs Chase/Peeti-Webber

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 2:12pm and resumed open session at 2:45pm.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 2:45pm.

Mayor