



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 27 March 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, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mrs A Small	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Ms F Chase	- Facilities Manager
Mr D Watson	- Manager – Special Projects
Mr P Wimsett	- 3-Waters Transition Manager
Mr M Dunn	- Manager – Programmes and Projects
Mr J Single	- Regulatory Services Manager
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Ms M Yule	- Project Accountant
Mr J Vince	- Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator
Ms S Ellis	- Democracy Support Officer

2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council Prayer.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Public Forum

Nikki Kilmartin of fluoride free Tararua, accompanied by a group of other ratepayers against fluoride, spoke to the Council to request a deference of the proposed fluoridation timeframe to 31 December 2024, in accordance with the allowances provided to other councils – most notably, Nelson City Council.

She stated her distaste for the inclusion of fluoride in the water supply, and likened it to forceful medication. She spoke about the detrimental health effects of fluoridation, including its effects on hypersensitive individuals and cumulative effect in the pineal gland, and questioned whether Council would be willing to give people poisoned water. She stated that 75 countries had stopped fluoridation initiatives due to these health concerns, and added that there existed more effective preventative measures against tooth decay.

With regard to the growing number of individuals in opposition to fluoridation, she stated that ~600 ratepayers had signed a petition against it, with the intent to present it to Council in due course. She added that the addition of fluoride had been ruled as unlawful and as a breach of Section 11 of the NZ Bill of Rights, and that the choice of ratepayers to not include fluoride on these grounds should be respected.

She reiterated her desire for the Council to follow Nelson City Council in postponing the addition of fluoride, and reminded all attendants of a public meeting to be held on 23 April 2024 at 7pm.

Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged the presentation and stated she had forwarded this to the Chief Executive, but added that there were some differences between the situation regarding the postponement of the Nelson City Council fluoridation and this Council, and that she was seeking further advice.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

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

Cr S M Gilmore – Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Cr E L Peeti-Webber – member of Dannevirke Multisport Complex Trust re Better Off Funding

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 February 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Crs Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

8.1 Eketāhuna Community Board minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 11 March 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Franklin

Carried

8.2 Explore Pahiatua Community Committee minutes

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 6 March 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Franklin

Carried

8.3 Positively Woodville Community Committee minutes

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 5 March 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Franklin

Carried

8.4 Dannevirke Community Board minutes

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 18 March 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Franklin

Carried

9. Reports

9.1 Change of Location for the Proposed Sheltered Seating at Fountaine Square

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Executive dated 20 March 2024 to consider changing the location of the sheltered seating area within the southern end of Fountaine Square, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville, to within the northern end of Fountaine Square on the Ormond Street side. Alternatively, the current proposed location in the southern end as per the previous resolution would be maintained.

That the report from the Chief Executive dated 20 March 2024 concerning the Change of Location for the Proposed Sheltered Seating at Fountaine Square be received.

That the Tararua District Council rescinds the following motion made 20 December 2023:

“That the Council approves the request from Woodville Women’s Institute to build a sheltered seating area within the southern end of Fountaine Square, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville, pending a discussion with Woodville Women’s Institute regarding position and final design.”

AND

That the Tararua District Council makes the following motion in its place:

“That the Council approves the request from Woodville Women’s Institute to build a sheltered seating area within the northern end of Fountaine Square on the Ormond Street side, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville.”

Crs Johns/Gilmore

Carried

9.2 Proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2024/2025 financial year.

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Regulatory Services Manager dated 07 March 2024 to seek approval and adoption of the proposed dog registration fees for the 2024/2025 financial year.

That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 07 March 2024 concerning the Proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2024/2025 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 2024 to 30 June 2025 be adopted:

Animal Control Advice

<i>Application and compliance advice</i>	<i>No charge</i>
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Dog Registration

Urban Domestic Dog

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
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<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	<i>\$</i>
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Urban Domestic Dog (Desexed)

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>
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<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>
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Preferred Owner Dog (Entire) Also includes current members of Dogs New Zealand (formerly NZ Kennel Club).

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$80.00
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	\$120.00

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

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$70.00
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	\$105.00

** 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).

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$90.00
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	\$135.00

Rural Domestic Dog

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$78.00
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	\$117.00

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

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$52.00
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	\$78.00

**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)

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	\$60.00
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	

**Providing a false statement when registering a dog is an offence subject to a \$3000 fine on conviction.*

Dangerous Dog - as classified under the Dog Control Act 1996

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	Base fee plus 50%
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	Additional 50% fee

<i>Disability assist dog with organisation certificate</i>	No charge
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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 Sutherland/Wards

Carried

9.3 Pensioner Housing Fees

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 12 March 2024 to provide a recommendation on Pensioner Housing fees and seek approval for the proposed fees for the 2024/2025 financial year; as well as to seek approval from Council to increase the self-imposed Pensioner Housing fee cap of 30% Gross Superannuation to 33% Gross Superannuation.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Pensioner Housing Fees be received.

That the Council approves the proposed Pensioner Housing fees and charges for the 2024/2025 financial year.

That Council approves increasing the self-imposed Pensioner Housing fee cap of 30% Gross Superannuation to 33% Gross Superannuation.

Crs Johns/Gilmore

Carried

9.4 Waihi Falls Toilet

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Programmes & Projects dated 12 March 2024 to present the current funding arrangements achieved with the Waihi Falls Toilet project and gain Council direction on whether to proceed or not.

That the report from the Manager - Programmes & Projects dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Waihi Falls Toilet be received.

AND

That the Council agree that the project proceed with a Council-funded portion of \$26,000 from the current renewal budget (depreciation reserves).

Mayor Collis/Chase

Carried

9.5 2024-2034 Long-term Plan Options Report

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Corporate & Regulatory dated 20 March 2024 to discuss and seek direction from the Council on management's analysis of options for the 2024-2034 LTP.

The Chief Executive referred to the discussions held at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 26 March 2024 and advised that although the report proposed releasing an unaudited Consultation Document to enable Council to meet the 30 June 2024 deadline, management's position on that had changed, and now recommended delaying adoption of the Long-term Plan until 30 June 2025 and instead preparing an enhanced Annual Plan. The reasons for this related

to:

- The significant unknowns with impact of changes in direction of Government that impacted Council's ability to make decisions in the area of three-waters in particular;
- More work required to be able to provide confidence in the figures being included in Long-term Plan and provide information to support Council's decision-making;
- Auditors due on site this week to start auditing the Long-term Plan information;
- Delay would allow officers more time to focus on providing a good Long-term Plan.

Her Worship the Mayor provided a brief overview of the long-term plan and the annual plan, and what items are generally included in each. She outlined the largest factors surrounding why this decision was required – namely the uncertainty surrounding 3 waters, and the roading issues caused by Cyclone Gabrielle. She spoke about the decision made in the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 26 March 2024 to vote against the deferral, and the rationale behind each option presented – deferral could clear up the uncertainty, but should there be no significant differences in six months' time it would have proved unnecessary, and the initial risks faced would still remain.

Her Worship the Mayor shared the opinion of the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson, outlining the risks associated with both options being considered.

Cr S Gilmore spoke in favour of the recommendation, to defer the adoption of the Long-term Plan to 2025 and adopt an enhanced Annual Plan instead (option 4). and noting this would provide opportunity for better understanding of 3 waters, NZTA Waka Kotahi funding, better understanding of budget and the risk of not having a level of confidence in budget figures past year two. There would also be opportunity for more clarity on District Plan, and more time to provide a clearer rationalisation plan. With regards to the political risk of delivering a LTP just before an election he stated that it was best to base the decision on what was best for the community rather than members' re-election prospects.

Cr P Johns spoke in favour of option 2, to proceed with adoption of a Long-term Plan by 30 June 2024, and sought clarification of what data was currently lacking that wouldn't be clear in six months' time.

Cr S Wards spoke in favour of option 4, noting her concern with the use of placeholder figures and her reluctance to commit to a plan with uncertainty in its budget figures, or to commit a budget to expenditures later found unnecessary.

Cr K Sutherland spoke in favour of option 4, and noted that Section 50 only applies for an LTP extension for 3 months; this would not apply with a deferred

LTP. He added that multiple Councils were considering extension to alleviate audit fees, and to account for changes under the water services bill, given the hard decisions to be made. He expressed a desire to consider the longevity of the LTP beyond the statutorily bound ten years, and to make decisions that would have a lasting impact - especially in regards to funding, and with 3 waters still a considerable uncertainty. He added that he felt the extended period would provide an opportunity to further assess infrastructure, and make an informed decision given a larger amount of available information.

Cr A Franklin spoke in favour of option 4, and agreed that further factual information was needed as opposed to placeholders in an LTP.

Cr S Wallace spoke in favour of option 2, and argued that rulings from central government would affect the LTP regardless of when they were instated. He stated that it was best to find the most appropriate long term option regardless of change.

Cr N Chase was in favour of option 2, and stated that it would be best to continue with the current information, as she didn't see how much would change. She expressed concern about having the same numbers six months on regardless.

Cr E Peeti-Webber spoke in favour of option 2, and stated that they have the majority of information required now to continue with the LTP, as well as not to waste more time.

Cr M Long spoke in favour of option 2, and expressed concern regarding the uncertainty surrounding 3 waters and roading funding.

Her Worship the Mayor spoke in favour of option 2, and moved such in Recommendation.

That the report from the Group Manager - Corporate & Regulatory dated 20 March 2024 concerning the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan Options Report be received.

That the Council adopts the option to release an unaudited 2024-2034 Long-term Plan consultation document for consultation to enable Council to meet the 30 June 2024 adoption deadline.

It was requested that a vote on the motion be taken by way of a division, with the outcome being as follows:

For	Against
Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs Collis	Cr Wards
Cr Chase	Cr Gilmore
Cr Johns	Cr Sutherland
Cr Peeti-Webber	Cr Franklin
Cr Long	
Cr Wallace	

The Mayor declared that the motion was carried.

Mayor Collis/Johns

Carried

9.6 Significance and Engagement Policy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Legal Counsel dated 14 March 2024 which presents the reviewed Significance and Engagement Policy for adoption by Council.

That the report from the Legal Counsel dated 14 March 2024 concerning the Significance and Engagement Policy be received.

That Council adopt the amended Significance and Engagement Policy.

That if Council determines any changes to the policy are required, the Chief Executive be delegated the power to make such amendments.

Crs Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

9.7 Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 12 March 2024 to seek adoption of the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy by Council. It was asked that both the terms iwi and Māori were used in future documents, as they encompassed all Māori. It was also asked to view the accompanying operational procedures document.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy be received.

That Council adopt the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy.

That if Council determines any changes to the policy are required, the Chief Executive be delegated the power to make such amendments.

Crs Chase/Wallace

Carried

9.8 Redirection of Three Waters Better Off Support Grant Funding

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 19 March 2024 to consider redirection of two allocations agreed for projects from the Better Off Support Package, to support the transition to Local Water Done Well. This would also involve the retention of an existing part of the allocations: \$50,000 for the skate park, as well

as \$200,000 for the Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) strategy general maintenance and action of in-progress initiatives. Cr E Peeti-Webber's conflict of interest re the proposed skate park was noted, and intention to leave the meeting for any deliberations relating specifically to that matter.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing dated 19 March 2024 concerning the Redirection of Three Waters Better Off Support Grant Funding be received.

That the Tararua District Council notes that the following approved projects under the Three Waters Better Off Grant Fund are currently unspent:

- **Actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy - \$1,500,000**
- **Upgrade of Council Owned Reserves - \$500,000**

That the Tararua District Council approve the application for a portion of the unspent Better Off Funding projects to be redirected to support the transition to Local Water Done Well, with the balance remaining allocated to a previously approved Better Off Grant Fund project as follows:

- **Local Water Done Well projects - \$1,750,000**
- **Actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy - \$250,000**

Crs Wallace/Sutherland

Carried

Crs S Gilmore and M Long recorded their votes against the motion

9.9 Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Report

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs dated 01 March 2024 that seeks to update Council on the completed and planned activities within the Tararua MTFJ Programme.

That the report from the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator dated 01 March 2024 concerning the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Report be received.

Mayor Collis/Gilmore

Carried

9.10 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 March 2024 to provide 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 March 2024 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Mayor Collis/Franklin

Carried

10. Portfolio Reports

Passenger Transport - Cr A Franklin reported on her attendance at a Passenger Transport meeting held by Horizons Regional Council. She spoke regarding a Passenger Transport review, criticising some downplayed elements, but ultimately pleased by the notable number of submissions from all over the district, as well as Palmerston North. She expressed optimism regarding further developments in public transport within the district, especially considering its inclusion in the LTP.

Connect Tararua - Cr A Franklin reported on her attendance at a Connect Tararua meeting. She noted that it was a very productive meeting, with renewed discussion centred around rural connectivity and Spark RCG towers near Norsewood, and the potential for establishment of a business case to include Norsewood in the next tranche of RCG towers to be constructed.

Te Maruata - Deputy Mayor E Peeti-Webber reported on her attendance at Te Maruata, a Māori local government arm of councils online conference. She noted a high and growing level of attendance, and the discussion of the proposed repeal of Māori wards in local government, that took place.

Norsewood – Cr S Wallace reported on his attendance at a Norsewood community meeting. He noted that it was a very positive event, with attendees highly receptive towards current initiatives and works undertaken by Council – especially in regards to wastewater, which could in part be attributable to the recent wastewater segment presented on television.

11. Mayoral Matters

Her Worship the Mayor congratulated the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing on her new role, and expressed gratitude for everything she had achieved during her time at Council.

12. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 3:45pm.

Mayor