

# RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu

### MINUTES

THE MEETING OF RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 37 AYR STREET, OHAKUNE  
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL 2023, AT 10:05AM

### PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

#### Present | Tuhinga

Mayor	Weston Kirton
Deputy Mayor	Vivienne Hoeta
Councillors	Robyn Gram
	Janelle Hinch
	Channey Iwikau
	Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase
	Lyn Neeson
	Rabbit Nottage
	Brenda Ralph
	Korty Wilson

#### In Attendance | I Tae Mai

Clive Manley	Chief Executive
Vini Dutra	Executive Manager Infrastructure
Pauline Welch	Executive Manager Community & Economic Development
Warrick Zander	Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services
Tasha Paladin	Governance Manager

#### By Zoom

Fiona Ferrar	Acting Manager, Finance, Strategy & Governance
Sonny Houpapa	Executive Manager Iwi Relationships
Paul Wheatcroft	Executive Manager Communications
Chris Hankey	Senior Management Accountant
Melissa Jackson	Manager Policy & Strategy
Vivita Matanimeke	Strategy & Policy Advisor
Candice McNaught	Manager Community Relationships & Wellbeing
Rina Hepi	Manager Community & Recreational Facilities

#### External Speakers

Ewen Skinner	Morrison Low	<b>12</b>
Karen Lam	Morrison Low	<b>12</b>

**1 Opening Karakia | Karakia Timatanga**

Councillor Korty Wilson

**2 Apologies**

The Chairperson invited notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting.

No apologies were received.

**3 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Wilson and Councillor Hinch declared their interest in Item C3 Ngāti Rangī Proposal to Lease 11 Thames Street, Ohakune being considered in Public Excluded business.

**4 Notification of Additional Items**

There were no additional items not on the Agenda.

**5 Confirmation of Order of Meeting**

The order of the meeting was confirmed.

**6 Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders**

There were no requests for public participation.

**7 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting****RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Iwikau

*That the Council:*

- 1 Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Ruapehu District Council meeting held Wednesday, 22 March 2023 as attached, a true and correct record*

<b>8 Proposed Dog Registration Fees and Charges 2023/2024</b>
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The Meeting adjourned briefly at 10:16AM and reconvened at 10:18AM

Members received a report proposing the revised dog registration fees and charges for the 2023/24 financial year. Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 required Council to publicly notify the dog registration fees at least one month before the start of the registration year, hence the need for a concurrent approval process with Council's other Fees and Charges. The report seeks the Council's approval of the fees to enable dog owners to use the early incentive discount.

No changes to the current registration categories were recommended during the last two dog registration financial years. In view of this and with a 'catch up, keep up' lens, Council is seeking a review of such fees and looking at linking the increases to the CPI index of 7.2 per cent. Council's Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Members asked if consideration had been given to disabled owners of dogs. Officers advised that there was not a need to modify the fee structure as Section 39(3) of the Dog Control Act 1996 allows for officers to emit, reduce, or refund the dog control fee or part of the fee on a case-by-case scenario where it is satisfied that there are special grounds for doing so. Council's Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services asked that any requests for consideration be made to him.

Members expressed their concerns about the increase in fees and how it would impact on farmers with multiple working dogs. The "user pays" approach was considered unfair on working dogs as there was no tangible service delivered to this category. Members felt the time to increase fees was not now, and Council should be giving empathy back to dog owners. It was noted the risk associated with keeping the fees at the current rates would be an increase in rates requirements for the service delivery.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

Seconded: Cr Nottage

*That the Council:*

1 *Receives the Report **Proposed Dog Registration Fees and Charges 2023/2024.***

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Cr Gram

*That the Council:*

2 *Approves the proposed Dog Registration Fees and Charges for 2023/2024 as set out in the table below.*

<b>Proposed Fees and Charges</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Non-Working Dogs</b>		
Entire dogs	\$145	\$160
Entire dogs (paid by 30 June)	\$97	\$106
Neutered dogs	\$100	\$110
Neutered dogs (paid by 30 June)	\$67	\$73

Responsible Dog Owner	\$38	\$42	
<b>Working Dogs</b>			
Working dog	\$33	\$37	
Working dog (paid by 30 June)	\$22	\$25	
<b>Hunting Dog</b>			
Hunting dog	\$37	\$41	
Hunting dog (paid by 30 June)	\$25	\$27	
<i>Note: the hunting dog classification applies only to dogs that are used for pig and deer hunting in the conservation estate – not waterfowl hunting dogs.</i>			
<b>Dangerous Dog Classification</b>			
Registration will be 150% of the level that would apply if the dog were not classified as a Dangerous Dog. For example: Non-working Dog / Entire \$160 x 150% = \$240			
<b>Dog – Impounding</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	
First impounding – all dogs	\$80	\$90	
Second impounding – all dogs	\$170	\$180	
Third impounding – all dogs	\$285	\$285	
Daily sustenance and care	\$15	\$17	
Registration investigation	\$30	\$33	
Surrender Fee	\$45	\$50	
Dog replacement tags	\$3.50	\$4	
Licence Fee for more than two dogs (excluding Rural zoning)	\$42	\$45	
Micro-chipping	\$25	\$25	
Hire of dog trap	Per Week	\$21	\$25
	Plus Bond	\$100	\$110
Replacement of Trap	Current Cost of Replacement Value		

The Motion was CARRIED 6 votes to 3.

**9 Adoption of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy**

Members received a report presenting the Council’s Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy that was first adopted in February 2018. The policy has undergone its first five-year review with only minor amendments being inserted:

- (a) Slight rewording of the policy objective area of the policy for ease of understanding.
- (b) The principles have been updated to reflect the Council’s wellbeing goals.
- (c) The map of the Ruapehu district has been updated.

Council’s Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members’ questions.

Under the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 the Council is required to have a local Easter Sunday shop trading policy; Council’s Policy is due for review every five years. The Policy permits Easter Sunday trading in the whole of the Ruapehu District, and there is no requirement for businesses to register or apply to the Council to operate on Easter Sunday. Members requested the policy be advertised in advance of Easter 2024 to assist businesses and the public.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Adoption Report: Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy 2023**; and*
- 2 *Adopts the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy 2023 which permits shop trading on Easter Sunday at the individual business owners' choice in the whole of the Ruapehu District.*

**10 Update on the Affordable Water Reform Programme**

Members received a report for information outlining key details, as known at the time of preparing the report, of the changes announced by Government 13 April 2023, to the Water Services Reform Programme. Council's Chief Executive spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Council's Chief Executive sought Members' direction on exploring the option to join with another entity. He advised the new structure of 10 entities may not be beneficial to the District; the Ruapehu District is currently in the Manawatū/Whanganui Entity, however, if 75 per cent of the entity were in agreement to combine with a neighbouring entity such as Taranaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti - Gisborne, Hawkes Bay or Wellington, Wairarapa, and 75 per cent of the neighbouring entity were also in agreement, a larger entity could be formed, and potentially bring a greater economy of scale and harmonisation for the rate payers. Members advised their preference for the Chief Executive to keep abreast of the topic.

Mayor Kirton and the Chief Executive will be attending the Local Government New Zealand Zone Three meeting 27 and 28 April and will look to gauge the opinions of other territorial authorities on the revisions to the reform programme.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

Seconded: Cr Gram

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Update on the Affordable Water Reform Programme** for information; and*

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Cr Wilson

- 2 *Agrees in principle to investigate the feasibility of joining with a neighbouring water services entity under the new model presented within the Affordable Water Reform Programme.*

<b>11 Councillor attendance at LGNZ Conference and Awards: 26 to 28 July 2023, Ōtautahi Christchurch</b>
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Members received a report outlining the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference programme scheduled for Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 July 2023 in Ōtautahi Christchurch. The report sought endorsement from the Council for the Mayor and Chief Executive's attendance, and invited nominations for a Councillor to also attend. Council's Chief Executive spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Wilson  
 Seconded: Cr Neeson

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Councillor attendance at the LGNZ Conference and Awards: 26-28 July 2023, Ōtautahi Christchurch**;*
- 2 *Approves that His Worship the Mayor, Mayor Kirton attends the LGNZ Annual General Meeting (AGM), conference, and Awards between 26 and 28 July 2023, in representation of Ruapehu District Council;*
- 3 *Approves that Ruapehu District Council Chief Executive, Clive Manley, attends the LGNZ AGM, conference, and Awards between 26 and 28 July 2023 in representation of Ruapehu District Council;*
- 4 *Approves that His Worship the Mayor is the presiding delegate at the LGNZ AGM. The Chief Executive is the alternate delegate at the LGNZ AGM;*
- 5 *Notes that the Council is entitled to two votes at the 36th LGNZ AGM. The voting entitlement of each member authority is determined by that authority's subscription level; and*
- 6 *Approves that Councillor Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase attends the pre-conference Te Maruata hui on 26 July 2023, and the conference and Awards between 27 and 28 July 2023 in representation of Ruapehu District Council.*

<b>12 Section 17A Review Process: Economic Development, Regional Tourism Organisation and isites</b>
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*Note: Deputy Mayor Hoeta left the meeting at 11:25AM and re-entered at 11:27AM*

Members received a report outlining the process for the Section 17A review for the three activities of Economic Development, Regional Tourism and isites deliver. Council's Executive Manager Community & Economic Development spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. Ewen Skinner and Karen Lam of Morrison Low were in attendance to explain the process it proposed to take.

A Section 17A review, commonly abbreviated to s17A, is a requirement under the Local Government Act to undertake a review that considers options for the governance, funding and delivery of infrastructure, local public services and local regulation that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) in-house delivery
- (b) delivery by a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), whether wholly owned by the local authority, or a CCO where the local authority is a part owner
- (c) another local authority
- (d) another person or agency (for example central government, a private sector organisation or a community group).

Officers sought Elected Members guidance on Iwi engagement, and Morrison Low expressed its openness to extending the timeframe and widening the pool of interviewees for feedback. All feedback would be used to inform the structure of the s17A review which would then feed into the Economic Development strategy.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Section 17A Review Process – Economic Development, Regional Tourism Operator and sites**; and*
- 2 *Agrees that all Councillors and the Mayor will be interviewed by Morrison Low for the development of options going forward.*

<b>13 Document Signed and Sealed: 12 New Road, Taumarunui</b>
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Members were presented with a report seeking Council's endorsement of the documents signed under Seal by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Report **Document Signed and Sealed: 12 New Road, Taumarunui**; and*
- 2 *Approves the actions by the Mayor and Chief Executive in executing the following documents:*

<b>Relocatable Refundable Bond Agreement</b>	Owner:	Tatiana Hopcroft
	Description:	12 New Road, Taumarunui

<b>14 Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 31 March 2023</b>
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*Note: Councillor Hinch left the meeting at 11:35AM and re-entered at 11:37AM  
Councillor Iwikau left the meeting a 11:39AM and re-entered at 11:45AM*

Members received a report monitoring Council's financial performance against the Annual Plan 2022/23. Council's Senior Management Accountant spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Council's Executive Manager Infrastructure advised the bridge delays would likely have a financial impact and would be presenting a report to the May meeting of Council. Members were advised that operational funding was not rolled over to the new Financial Year. Any Capital Works to be carried over would be reported to Council, and projects would be reassessed as part of the Long Term Plan process.

At the time of the meeting Council had not received any updated guidance on the Affordable Water Reform programme in relation to the entity taking on Council's associated debt. Council's Chief Executive will be meeting with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) the following week which will present the first opportunity to discuss the topic.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase  
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

*That the Council:*

1 *Receives the Report **Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 31 March 2023***

**15 Mayor's Monthly Report**

Members received a report advising Elected Members of appointments and meetings undertaken by the Mayor during March 2023. The report also outlines fee waiving applications approved (if any) by the Mayor during the same period. Mayor Kirton spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Neeson  
Seconded: Mayor Kirton

*That the Council:*

1 *Receives and notes the Report **Mayor's Report** for information.*

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Iwikau  
Seconded: Cr Hinch

1 *That the meeting continues past the 2-hour mark.*

**16 Chief Executive's Monthly Report**

*Note: Councillor Ralph left the meeting at 12:16PM and re-entered at 12:18PM*

Members received an update of the organisation's activity over the February 2023 period. The report provides a snapshot of the wider legislative environment and focus from a regional perspective, an overview of the wellbeing of the District, and highlights key achievements and activity over the period, including significant projects from the Chief Executive's perspective since the last Council meeting. Council's Chief Executive spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Members expressed their concerns with the level of litter and poorly kept verges in the township of Waiouru. Officers undertook to liaise with BP Waiouru and encourage it to keep its site clean of litter. Officers also undertook to review the Recreational Services schedule, and in particular in relation to Waiouru, and provide an update to the May meeting.

Members asked how the funding for Mayor's taskforce for Jobs was assigned. Officers advised the contract was outsourced to REAP, and due for renewal; Officers undertook to bring back information to the May meeting of Council on the regarding the new contract effective 1 June 2023.

Members requested a summary of forward capital works: Pavement Rehabilitations be included within the Capital Works section.

Officers advised Te Ara Mangawhero cycle trail was closer to starting, however, Te Hangaruru was currently with Kiwirail, Horizons Regional Council and the Department of Conservation, who



required further detail on specific sites. Members were assured funding for the project was not at risk.

Members requested a summary report to the May meeting of Council on the learnings and key take-aways from the National Māori Housing Conference in Rotorua.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

Seconded: Cr Iwikau

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives and notes the Report **Chief Executive's Report** for information.*

**17 Receipt of Minutes of the Risk & Assurance Committee**

Members received a copy of the minutes of the Risk & Assurance Committee meeting held Monday, 27 February 2023 for information.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

Seconded: Cr Wilson

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Public Business Minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held Monday, 27 February 2023 as attached, for information.*

The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:30PM and reconvened at 1:09PM

**18 Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Reports (Verbal)**

Members each gave verbal updates on recent and upcoming events, and other matters of general and topical interest to the District.

Key topics raised were:

- Mayor Kirton and Councillor Neeson will be attending the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Zone Three meeting 28 April and have requested time to present on the topic of carbon farming with the goal of discussing and gaining support for the issues surrounding carbon farming, especially its implications and impacts on the Ruapehu District. The plan is to take a two-pronged approach; gaining support from LGNZ, and a more formal consultation with major players including agencies that buy the farms for the carbon farming system.
- The Need for cultural inductions in the tourism and isite space, especially in relation to the iwi of the towns the isites serve.
- Council is reviewing the veranda project and opportunities to look at a design that could help detract ram raiders, following the third ram raid in the Taumarunui High Street.
- Forthcoming events in the Ruapehu District include: T42 6 May, Carrot Carnival 3 June and Mardi Gras event 24 June.
- Concerns were raised over the increasing incidence of cattle beast being killed on local farms.
- Request to focus on the pronunciation of Ruapehu [roo-uh-pay-hoo] as it changes the meaning when it is mispronounced.

- With the New Zealand wide push for women’s rugby, Members asked if Council could explore options to improve the Taumarunui grandstand facilities to make them more welcoming.
- There is increasing concerns for the future of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, as an operator for the winter has not yet been confirmed. It is understood there are four bids being considered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) A season pass sale has also not occurred and there is an awareness the high end of market has already booked ski trips to the South Island.

**19 Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Council Business**

Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 gives the Council the right by resolution to exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on one or more of the grounds contained within that Section.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

*That the Council:*

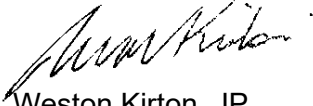
- 1 **Receives the Report Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Council Business;**
- 2 *Excludes the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting;*
- 3 *Notes the general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting 22 March 2023	For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Council Meeting 22 March 20232.	
C2 Receipt of Public Excluded Minutes of Risk & Assurance Committee	For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Risk & Assurance Committee Meeting 27 February 2023.	
C3 Ngāti Rangi Proposal to Lease 11 Thames Street, Ohakune	s7(2)(j) To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. Release would prejudice the goodwill of the parties and the progress of the negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i) the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7
C4 Applications for Financial Assistance: Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2022/23	s7(2)(a) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural person	
C5 Applications for Ruapehu Community Grants Fund 2022/23: Community Halls		
C6 Confidential Briefing by the Chief Executive	s7(2)(c) To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest	

- 4 *Approves that Officers of Ngāti Rangī are permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded because of their knowledge of Items C3.*

The Public Business part of the meeting concluded at 1:41PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.



Weston Kirton, JP  
**MAYOR**

## ITEMS BROUGHT INTO THE PUBLIC BUSINESS MINUTES

**C4 Applications for Financial Assistance: Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2022/23**

Members received a report presenting applications received for financial assistance through the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund and suggested funding amounts for approval. The Rural Travel Fund (RTF) was developed in response to the growing concerns relating to the lack of participation in sport by young people living in rural communities. This is mainly due to geographical isolation, urban drift, and lack of access to mainstream funding, which creates a barrier for sport participation. Sport NZ provides the assessment criteria for the RTF. Council's Manager Community Relationships & Wellbeing spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Gram

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Confidential Report **Applications for Financial Assistance: Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2022/23**;*
- 2 *Allocates the following grants as follows:*

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Fair proportion \$</b>	<b>Suggested amount \$</b>	<b>Adopted amount \$</b>
Taumarunui High School	3,506.40	5,025.00	5,025.00
Tokirima School	818.16	400.00	400.00
Ohura Valley Primary School	175.32.	400.00	400.00
Taumarunui Junior Rugby	3,798.60	2,000.00	2,000.00
Taumarunui Squash Club	876.60	500.00	500.00
Ruapehu College Board of Trustees	4,149.24	5,000.00	5,000.00

- 3 **Does** record this resolution in the Public Business Minutes of this meeting; and
- 4 **Does Not** release this report as publicly available information

**C5 Applications for Ruapehu Community Grants Fund 2022/23: Community Halls**

Members received a report presenting applications received for the contestable Ruapehu Community Grants Fund 2022/23 – Community Halls and suggested funding amounts for approval. Halls are only eligible to apply for funding if they have returned all accountability forms from any previous years with receipts. Council’s Manager Community Relationships & Wellbeing spoke to the report and answered Members’ questions.

**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Ralph

*That the Council:*

- 1 *Receives the Confidential Report **Application for Ruapehu Community Grants Fund 2022/23: Community Halls**;*
- 2 *Approves the following grants totaling \$9,840.00 as follows:*

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED \$</b>	<b>AMOUNT GRANTED \$</b>
Horopito Residents and Ratepayers Society	8,352.00	8,352.00
Ngakonui Community Centre Inc	1,488.00	1,488.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,840.00</b>	<b>9,840.00</b>

- 3 ***Does** record this resolution in the Public Business Minutes of this meeting; and*
- 4 ***Does Not** release this report as publicly available information*