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, 22 NOVEMBER 2023, AT 10:01AM

PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

Present | Tuhinga

Mayor	Weston Kirton	
Deputy Mayor	Vivienne Hoeta	Left 12:27PM Item 11
Councillors	Robyn Gram	
	Channey Iwikau	10:11AM Item 6
	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
	Quentin Speers	Manager, Finance, Strategy & Governance
	Pauline Welch	Executive Manager Community & Economic Development
	Sharon Robinson	Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services
	Warrick Zander	Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services
	Melissa Jackson	Manager Policy & Strategy
	Karee Cadman	Strategy & Policy Advisor
	Tasha Paladin	Governance Manager
	Robert Milne	Ruapehu Bulletin
By Zoom	Simon Pallin	Senior Management Accountant
	Sonny Houpapa	Executive Manager Iwi Relationships
	Paul Wheatcroft	Executive Manager Communications
	Andrew Chambers	Emergency Management

External Speakers		**Item**
Charlotte French	GHD	8 and 9

Absent | **Ngaro**

Councillor	Janelle Hinch

1 Opening Karakia | Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Wilson

2 Apologies

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

RESOLVED
Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase
Seconded: Cr Ralph

That the Apologies from Councillor Hinch, Councillor Iwikau (lateness), and Councillor Hoeta (early departure) be accepted.

3 Declarations of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

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

Council temporarily suspended Standing Orders to allow Members and the public to address Council.

RESOLVED
Moved: Deputy Mayor Hoeta
Seconded: Cr Neeson

That the Council:

1 *Receives the Report **Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders;** and*
2 *Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, temporarily suspends the following Standing Orders to enable members of the Public to address Council, and members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner:*
   (a) 21.2 Time limits on speakers | Te tepenga wā mā ngā kaikōrero
   (b) 21.5 Members may speak only once | Kotahi noa iho te wā e āhei ai te mema ki te korero; and
   (c) 21.6 Limits on number of speakers | Ngā tepenga mō te maha o ngā kaikōrero.

Note: Councillor Iwikau entered the meeting at 10:11AM

Council received addresses as follows:

6.1 Karen Ngatai

Karen Ngatai addressed the Council regarding the Southern Entrance to Taumarunui and the investment in Visit Ruapehu for Destination Marketing. She requested to understand why the grass around the rhododendrons along the State Highway were not being mowed. Last year nine rhododendrons were lost due to the long grass and the volunteers are reluctant to replant due to the lack of maintenance.

She was concerned that the entrance was unsightly and would not leave a good first impression of the town and be a disincentive for businesses invest in Visit Ruapehu if they did not see the town being looked after.

Ms. Ngatai made a request for Taumarunui to be beautified and efforts made to gain repeat tourism.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Gram
Seconded: Cr Iwikau

That the Council:

1 Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, reinstates Standing Orders in their entirety for consideration of the Agenda.

7 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Neeson
Seconded: Cr Gram

That the Council:

1 Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Ruapehu District Council meeting held Wednesday, 18 October 2023 as attached, a true and correct record

2 Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Ruapehu District Council meeting held Wednesday, 25 October 2023 as attached, a true and correct record

8 Deputation from Community Board Chairs: Interim Speed Management Plan

Luigi Hotter, Chair of the Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board addressed Council on the recommendations arising from the deliberations of the Interim Speed Management Plan consultation. He noted he was not speaking on behalf of the Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board as the information had not previously been tabled at a Community Board Meeting. He felt the Community Board should have received the report first to be able to make recommendations to Council to feed into its deliberations.

Mr. Hotter acknowledged officers for the work undertaken to produce the detailed report. He advised Members he had approached three schools in the Community Board area to understand their opinions on the consultation; he noted that two of the schools had opted not to make a submission. It was felt that speed around schools was not an issue, however, inattentive drivers were.

Council's Manager Policy & Strategy, and Charlotte French, Technical Advisor from GHD spoke to the consultation process and mandated timeframes. They advised the consultation had been initiated by the Ministry of Transport's Road to Zero safety strategy, and that Council is mandated to develop and implement a Speed Management Plan in accordance with the Government's Land Transport Rule - Setting of Speed limits 2022.

The rule requires every Road Controlling Authority to ensure there are safe speed limits around at least 40 per cent of schools before 1 July 2024 and 100 per cent by 31 December 2027. In order to meet the Government's mandated timeframes, Council took a two-stage approach. The first stage was the interim Speed Management Plan that proposed changes to speed limits on roads around schools, and a second stage will be the development of a full Speed Management Plan for the remainder of the district. The Second stage will seek Community Board input.

The deadlines set by Waka Kotahi, New Zealand Transport Agency, requires Council to adopt the interim plan by December 2023 in order that it can undergo Waka Kotahi's six to eight week certification process and ensure signage is in place and operational before 1 July 2024.

It was acknowledged that speed management was not addressing the cause of crashes, however, the lower speed limits meant that should an accident occur it was less likely to result in the loss of life.

RESOLVED
Moved: Cr Ralph
Seconded: Cr Wilson

That the Council:

1 Receives the Report ***Deputation from Community Board Chairs: Interim Speed Management Plan*** *for information.*

9 Deliberation Report: Interim Speed Management Plan

Note: Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 11:38AM and re-entered at 11:42AM.

Members received a report presenting the analysis of the submissions to Ruapehu District Council's Interim Speed Management Plan for Council's deliberation and sought approval of the recommendations to be included in the final version of the Ruapehu District Council Interim Speed Management Plan to be tabled for adoption at the 15 December 2023 meeting of the Council.

Council's Executive Manager Infrastructure, Council's Manager Policy & Strategy and Charlotte French, Technical Advisor from GHD spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. Council officers advised the report presented feedback from the consultation and hearings for Elected Members to deliberate accordingly; Council was free to make changes as it saw fit if those changes were within the spirit of what the plan is trying to achieve, however, if the Members' recommendations were completely different, officers would be required to open a further consultation process. It was acknowledged that the topic and Government mandated process was polarising.

It was noted that Council would need to work in conjunction with Waka Kotahi to implement speed restrictions along the State Highway as they sat outside of Council's area of influence; Waka Kotahi will be running its own consultation process.

Members considered that there should be more consistency in terms of speeds and drop-off and pick-up times, however council officers noted they were challenged with developing a blanket policy due to the legislated speed limits for Category 1 and Category 2 schools.

Members also felt investment in digital signage was not an appropriate investment where school attendance was minimal. Charlotte French advised that the requirement for traffic control devices was set in law through the Land Transport Rule and Council, as a road controlling authority, must have an electronic speed sign as a minimum requirement, with static speed signs in support on side roads only.

Members were advised that funding was also a considerable driver to complete the implementation before 1 July 2024, as Waka Kotahi funding beyond the current financial year was not guaranteed.

Although Members felt Council was being forced into a position under the threat of losing government funding post June 2024, they also recognised it was for Council to take responsibility and do something positive for the safety of the next generation, and therefore they decided to approve the officer recommendations to be included in the final version of the Interim Speed Management Plan with one minor change.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase
Seconded: Cr Iwikau

That the Council:

1 *Receives the **Deliberation Report: Interim Speed Management Plan**; and*

2 *Approves the following Council Officer recommendations made within this report for inclusion in the final version of the Ruapehu District Council Interim Speed Management Plan:*

   (a) Kaitieke School has a permanent speed limit of 40km/h with an 80km/h buffer zone;

   (b) Manunui School has a Variable Speed Limit of 30km/h enforceable only during school pick-up and drop-off times outside the school with a 50km/h speed limit (excluding the State Highway) at all other times;

   (c) Matiere School has a 30km/h Variable Speed Limit on Ōhura Road that is only operational and enforceable during pick up and drop off times outside the school with a 60km/h speed limit at all other times, and a permanent speed limit of 60km/h in the township of Matiere;

   (d) A permanent 30km/h speed limit throughout the village of National Park (Excluding State Highway 4);

   (e) Ngakonui Valley School has a permanent speed limit of 40km/h with 60km/h buffer zones, incorporating Hia-Kaitupeka Marae;

   (f) Ōhura Valley Primary School has a 30km/h Variable Speed Limit on Mangaparo Road that is only operational and enforceable during pick up and drop off times outside the school with a 50km/h speed limit at all other times;

   (g) Ongarue School has a permanent speed limit of 30km/h with a 60km/h buffer zone;

   (h) A permanent 30km/h speed limit throughout the township of Ōwhango;

   (i) St. Patrick's Catholic School has a 30km/h permanent speed limit;

   (j) Taumarunui High School has a 30km/h Variable Speed Limit that is only operational and enforceable during pick up and drop off times outside the school with a 50km/h speed limit at all other times;

   (k) Tarrangower School has a 30km/h permanent speed limit;

   (l) A 30km/h Variable Speed Limit outside Turaki School and Taumarunui Primary School only operational and enforceable during pick up and drop off times;

(m) Te Kura o Ngapuke has a permanent speed limit of 40km/h with 80km/h buffer zones;

(n) Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Taumarunui has a permanent speed limit of 30km/h outside the school;

(o) Tokirima School has a permanent speed limit of 40km/h, that extends closer to the intersection with State Highway 43 than the original proposal, with 80km/h buffer zones (if possible);

(p) A permanent 30km/h speed limit for road areas directly outside Ruapehu College;

(q) A permanent 30km/h speed limit for road areas directly outside Ohakune School, extending past Manuka Street towards Ohakune township to Conway Street (if possible);

(r) A Variable Speed Limit of 30km/h speed limit for Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangi for pick-up and drop-off times only;

(s) Orautoha School has a permanent speed limit of 30km/h with 80km/h buffer zones; and

(t) Raetihi Primary School has a permanent speed limit of 30km/h as originally proposed.

Councilor Neeson requested her vote AGAINST the motion be recorded.

10 Deliberation Report: Smokefree and Vapefree Policy

Members received a report presenting the analysis of the submissions to Ruapehu District Council's draft Smokefree and Vapefree Policy for Council's deliberation and sought approval of the recommendations to be included in the final version of the Policy to be tabled for adoption at the 15 December 2023 meeting of the Council.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. It was clarified that the policy applied to Council property only. Officers also clarified that point 6.8.1 of the report only mentioned Ngāti Rangi as the wording used in the report was a direct quote from Te Whatu Ora's recommendation; it was made clear to the submitter that Council would be working with all Iwi within the rohe.

Members were divided on the topic. Members were concerned that smoking and vaping behaviours were being normalised and encouraging for children. It was felt that whilst Council events should discourage smoking and vaping to make the behaviours less normal, Council should be supportive of businesses with outdoor areas at a time where it was difficult to garner patronage. It was agreed that Council should be pushing for an educational approach and supporting the community instead of penalisation.

Mermbers voted for the changes as they felt the decision was about the future and doing something for betterment of all.

An Amendment was proposed that the wording of (e) be changed to remove the word "immediately"

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Gram
Seconded: Cr Nottage

(e) That any business currently offering outdoor dining on the footpath be included in the Policy and that this is to be implemented over the next 12 months.

The MOTION was PUT and CARRIED with 5 votes FOR, 0 votes AGAINST, and 1 ABSTENTION.

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

That the Council:

1 *Receives the **Deliberation Report: Smokefree and Vapefree Policy**;*
2 *Approves the following Council Officer recommendations for inclusion in the final version of the Smokefree and Vapefree Policy:*
   (a) That public areas in the Ruapehu District are designated smoke and vape free.
   (b) That vaping is included in the Policy.
   (c) That any events that Council is involved in be designated smoke and vape free.
   (d) That outdoor dining areas on the footpath are designated smoke and vape free.
   (e) [Amended] That any business currently offering outdoor dining on the footpath be included in the Policy and that this is to be implemented over the next 12 months.
   (f) That Council take an education-based approach towards compliance with the Policy.
3 *Approves an amendment to the Draft Policy to review the Smokefree and Vapefree Policy every five years effective from the date of adoption, or as determined by Council, or in response to legislative or policy changes, including any potential changes to the Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 goal (whichever arises first).*

A division was called for:
FOR: Gram, Hoeta, Kahukura Hadley-Chase, Nottage, Wilson, and Kirton (6)
AGAINST: Iwikau, Neeson, and Ralph (3)

The Meeting adjourned for lunch and a Forestry Presentation at 12:27PM and reconvened at 1:31PM
Note: Deputy Mayor Hoeta left the meeting at 12:27PM and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

11 Elected Member Appointment to Risk and Assurance Committee

Members received a report seeking approval of Mayor Kirton's appointment of Councillor Robyn Gram to the Risk and Assurance Committee following Councillor Channey Iwikau's decision to step down from his appointment. Mayor Kirton spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. He noted he would look to schedule a workshop in due course for the members of the committee.

RESOLVED
Moved: Cr Iwikau
Seconded: Cr Neeson

That the Council:

1 *Receives the Report **Elected Member Appointment to Risk and Assurance Committee**;*
2 *In accordance with Schedule 7, Clause 31 of the Local Government Act 2022, with effect from 22 November 2023, approves the appointment of Councillor Robyn Gram to the Council's Risk and Assurance Committee for the remainder of the 2022-25 triennium; and*
3 *Approves for the appointment to be updated on the Ruapehu District Council website.*

12 Civil Defence Training

Members received a report providing a background of Civil Defence training available and encouraging Members to undertake the foundation course via the online portal Takatū.Council's Executive Manager Community & Economic Development and Council's Emergency Manager spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Investigations into the Auckland flooding events earlier this year found there was a disconnect between Civil Defence Emergency Management and Council Governance hence the drive to ensure as many of Ruapehu's Elected Members are knowledgeable in the basics.

RESOLVED
Moved: Cr Wilson
Seconded: Cr Ralph

That the Council:
*1 Receives the Report **Civil Defence Training** for information.*

13 Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 31 October 2023

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. Concerns were raised over the carry forwards previously brought into the current year; Council's Chief Executive advised the projects would be reviewed and re-prioritised at the start of every Long Term Plan.

RESOLVED
Moved: Cr Neeson
Seconded: Cr Gram

That the Council:
*1 Receives the Report **Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 31 October 2023** for information.*

14 Mayor's Monthly Report

Members received a report advising Elected Members of appointments and meetings undertaken by the Mayor during the month of October 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. Mayor Kirton advised he was due to meet with the Southern REAP Representative to discuss the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs and extended an invitation to Elected Members to join him.

RESOLVED
Moved: Mayor Kirton
Seconded: Cr Ralph

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

15 Chief Executive's Monthly Report

Note: Councillor Iwikau left the meeting at 2:15PM and was absent for the decision.

Members received an update of the organisation's activity over the October 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.

The results of the samples collected from the Taringamotu River next to the old Taumarunui landfill have not revealed anything alarming. The analysis has since been sent to a specialist for review and the assessment is due this week. Council is looking to undertake ongoing sampling.

Council's Chief Executive advised that all Elected Members have been invited by the Lines Company to the opening of a fast charger in Taumarunui on 13 December at 4PM. The installation of the fast chargers is designed to reduce carbon footprint and charging habits for Electric Vehicles to fast charge in the day instead of loading up the system at peak times during the evening.

RESOLVED
Moved: Cr Nottage
Seconded: Cr Neeson

That the Council:

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

16 Receipt of Minutes of the Risk & Assurance Committee

Members received a copy of the minutes of the Risk & Assurance Committee meeting held Thursday, 12 October 2023 for information.

RESOLVED
Moved: Cr Neeson
Seconded: Mayor Kirton

That the Council:

1 Receives the Public Business Minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held Thursday, 12 October 2023 as attached, for information.

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

Note: Councillor Iwikau re-entered the meeting at 2:27PM

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

18 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 Wilson
Seconded: Cr Iwikau

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
19	Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting 25 October 2023	For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Council Meeting 25 October 2023.	
20	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 12 October 2023.	
21	Confidential Briefing by the Chief Executive on local tourism matters.	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.	s48(1)(a) 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.

The Public Business part of the meeting concluded at 2:35PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held this 15th day of December 2023.

Weston Kirton, JP
MAYOR