

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2023, THAT COMMENCED AT 1.00PM

PRESENT

Mayor D Gordon (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor N Atkinson, Councillors A Blackie, R Brine, B Cairns (virtual), T Fulton, J Goldsworthy, N Mealings, P Redmond, J Ward, and P Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Millward (Chief Executive), G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Roothing), J McBride (Roothing and Transport Manager), N Robinson (General Manager, Finance and Business Support), A Smith (Governance Coordinator).

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of interest (if any) to be reported for minuting.

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the efforts of staff and others in the community over the past weekend who assisted during the wind event; Utilities and Roothing staff, Civil Defence, NZRT12 volunteers and Mainpower staff who were out looking after our community. Mayor Gordon requested the Chief Executive to pass on appreciation to all involved for their work.

1. REPORTS

1.1 Adoption of the Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023 – J Millward (Chief Executive)

J Millward presented the report and acknowledged N Robinson's input. It was confirmed that the Auditors Report had been made available to Councillors for both the Annual Report and the Summary document. It was pleasing to advise that the Council had received an unmodified Audit opinion. The key item of note was that the surplus had decreased by approximately \$10m, which was in relation to development contributions, invested assets and timing differences. The effect of inflation on depreciation had also had a major impact. There was significant pressure on the budget as a result of weather events experienced over the past few months. This budget had over \$2m relating to flood responses which also had ongoing costs, including \$4m for a flood team. Many Councils were experiencing similar issues. The debt figure of \$180m was still under what was budgeted. J Millward said this was a good budget despite the impact of the weather events. The Auditor's opinion had acknowledged the change of government following the elections over the weekend and the impact on Three Waters.

In relation to Three Waters and the change in Government, Councillor Fulton questioned if this would have an impact on the strength of the Council's balance sheet. J Millward responded that this would stay relatively stable and the Council would retain its AA credit rating.

Following a question from Councillor Williams, J Millward clarified that the budget showed a surplus of funds, rather than a profit.

Moved Councillor Ward

Seconded Councillor Goldsworthy

THAT the Council:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 23005158569.
- (b) **Adopts** the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 (TRIM 230807120209).
- (c) **Approves** the Annual Report Summary for the year ended 30 June 2023 (TRIM 230807120224).
- (d) **Notes** the Net Surplus before taxation of \$21.7m was \$9.7m less than budget, and primarily related to the effect Covid 19 had on the economy and identified in section 4.3 of the report.
- (e) **Receives and notes** the Auditor's unmodified opinion for the Annual Report and Annual Report Summary would be incorporated into the reports.
- (f) **Authorises** the Chief Executive and General Manager Finance and Business Support to make necessary minor edits and corrections to the Annual Report that may occur prior to printing.

CARRIED

Councillor Ward acknowledged the work of the Chief Executive and all staff, noting the challenges and uncertainty that the Council had experienced over the 12-month period. Councillor Ward was pleased that the Council would be retaining control of its assets and also retaining staff who would be there to look after the needs of the community. The challenges of flooding and inflation were acknowledged. Councillor Ward noted that the figure for development contributions had been down last year and it was hoped that this figure would increase back to those previously experienced.

Mayor Gordon also extended thanks to J Millward and staff and endorsed the comments of Councillor Ward. He also noted that the Council was in a strong position, however there would need to be good stewardship in future budgets.

1.2 **Consultation on the Draft Speed Management Plan– J McBride (Roothing and Transport Manager) and G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Roothing)**

J McBride and G Cleary were present for consideration of this report, which provided clarification on the draft speed management plans to go out for consultation and included traffic speeds around schools. There had been some confusion on what was being consulted on previously and it was pointed out that the Plan had been scaled back slightly, to reflect the approach agreed with the Council.

Moved Councillor Redmond

Seconded Mayor Gordon

THAT the Council:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 231012162656.
- (b) **Approves** the Draft Speed Management Plan document (Trim: 231012162681) for consultation, including schools and the nine other approved sites.
- (c) **Notes** that the Mayor, the Roothing Portfolio Holder, the Chief Executive and Community Board Chairs would approve the information for Consultation.
- (d) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Redmond agreed with the Council doing the minimum that it was required to do, given the current climate and the national elections which was the prudent way to proceed. Councillor Redmond looked forward to considering the views of the community on the speed maintenance plan,

particularly regarding permanent and variable speed limits around schools. He noted that the Government in waiting did not support permanent speed limits around schools, preferring the variable signage option. Another area of concern Councillor Redmond held was the distance that the speed reductions would extend around schools. Councillor Redmond was in support of this motion which was slightly refined than the previously considered version.


Mayor Gordon noted the safety of schools in the district was critical as was managing traffic speeds in the vicinity of schools, and he encouraged schools to submit on the plan. Mayor Gordon also noted some other trouble spots in the district that the Council was seeking community feedback on and was supportive of this consultation proceeding.

2. NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Council is scheduled to commence at 1pm on Tuesday 7 November 2023, to be held in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.17pm.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson
Mayor Dan Gordon

7 November 2023
Date