



South Wairarapa District Council Minutes from 22 November 2023

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- Present:** Mayor Martin Connelly (Chair) Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (until 11.54am), Councillor Aidan Ellims, Colin Olds, Alistair Plimmer, Rebecca Gray, Martin Bosley, Aaron Woodcock, Pip Maynard and Kaye McAulay.
- Apologies:** Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (for early departure).
- In Attendance:** Martinborough Community Board Members: Karen Krogh, Mel Maynard and Angela Brown.
- Māori Standing Committee Members: Andrea Rutene, Karen Mikaera, Whitu Karauna, Violet Edwards, Leonie Edwards, Narida Hooper, JD Smith and Te Rina Kaiwai.
- Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Amanda Bradley (General Manager Policy and Governance), James O'Connor (Manager Partnerships and Operations) Russell O'Leary (Group Manager Planning and Environment), Leanne Karauna (Principal Advisor Māori), Nicki Ansell (Lead Community Advisor), Tim Langley (Roading Manager), Robyn Wells (Principal Advisor Water Transition), Siv Fjaerestad (Community Development Co-ordinator) and Amy Andersen (Committee Advisor).
- Anna Nielson (Destination Wairarapa).
- Public Forum:** Rosie Swanson, Rebecca Fox, Alex Beijen and Derek Anderton.
- Conduct of Business:** This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 62 Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed and is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 10.00am to 3:44pm except where expressly noted.

Open Section

A1. Karakia Timatanga - Opening

Mayor Connelly opened the meeting.

A2. Apologies

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/168) to accept apologies from Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter for early departure.

(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Gray)

Carried

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A3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

A4. Acknowledgements and Tributes

Cr Gray acknowledged and condemned the current situation in Gaza.

Cr Olds gave a tribute to Richard (Dick) Warburton, a longtime resident of Featherston and Life Member of the Featherston RSA, who passed away recently.

A5. Public Participation

Rosie Swanson – Greytown Sports and Leisure

Ms Swanson spoke to Council about Greytown Sports and Leisure’s current state and sought support in relation to item D3.

Rebecca Fox – Engagement on Māori Ward

Ms Fox spoke to Council about her concerns in relation to the engagement on the Māori Ward and the application of the Significance and Engagement Policy, as well as the communication with and reports to Council.

Alex Beijen – Engagement on Māori Ward

Mr Beijen spoke to Council about his concerns in relation to the legality and process of engagement on the Māori Ward, and referenced the previous resolution made by Council in 2021.

Derek Anderton – Various Matters

Mr Anderton spoke to Council about the level of response to official information requests (LGOIMA); issues relating to the Finance Committee meeting held on 25 October (draft financial statements); that the Annual Report 22-23 was not yet available for review; and issues with regard to the proposed Council and Committees Terms of Reference (Item D2).

A6. Actions from public participation

There were no actions from public participation.

A7. Extraordinary business

There was no extraordinary business.

A8. Minutes for Confirmation

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/169) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 September 2023, 20 September 2023, 27 September 2023 and 12 October 2023 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

(Moved Cr McAulay/Seconded Cr Olds)

Carried

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A9. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

B. Report backs and requests from Māori Standing Committee and Community Boards

B1. Martinborough Community Board - Martinborough Pedestrian Lighting Project

Martinborough Community Board were present in support of Item C2 and acknowledged Ms Smith, Cr Ellims, Cr Maynard and Council Officers for their work in relation to the project.

Members thanked the Community Board for their work and advocating for the people of the Martinborough Ward.

C Recommendations from Committees

C1. Recommendations from the Assurance and Risk Committee

Members queried the unlimited write off of rates (refer to p.44 of the agenda); wording on page 49 of the agenda (wording and grammar); and clarification relating to the transfer between operational and capital expenditure.

Ms Smith provided an explanation regarding the changes to the policy following the A&R meeting and the track changes that were included in the agenda item.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/170) to approve the draft of the revised Financial Delegation Policy, subject to the following change: p.49, paragraph 8.3 - update "an positions authority" to "a positions authority".

(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter)

Carried

C2. Recommendations from the Infrastructure and Community Services Committee

Cr Ellims spoke to matters included in the report.

Members acknowledged staff for their work on the agenda.

Mayor Connelly noted there were resolutions relating to Stella Bull/Greytown Old Library building usage which were passed at the Infrastructure and Community Services Committee meeting for inclusion in the report, but had been missed (which was due to an administrative error). This was discussed with Council prior to the formation of resolutions.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/171) to:

1. Receive the Infrastructure and Community Services Committee report.

(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Ellims)

Carried

2. Amended recommendation:

From -Approve the increase in budget provision for the Martinborough Pedestrian Lighting Project to \$500,000.

To – Approve the increase in budget provision for the Martinborough Pedestrian Lighting Project to \$500,000, to cover 10 pedestrian crossings.

(Moved Cr Woodcock/Seconded Mayor Connelly)

Carried

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- 3a) Approve the increase in budget provision for the Martinborough Pedestrian Lighting Project to \$500,000, to cover 10 pedestrian crossings.
- 3b) Approve Council officers engaging with the supplier as soon as practicable to order the necessary lighting units, noting a 20 week delivery period.
- 3c) Approve that the project is funded from the Infrastructure Reserve or loan, noting that an application will be made to include in the Waka Kotahi work programme within the 2023/34 Long Term Plan to attract subsidy at 51% going forward.
[Items 3a-c read together]
(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter /Seconded Cr Bosley) Carried
4. Seek expressions of interest on the use of the Stella Bull/Greytown Old Library building, and in the meantime, the building be advertised as a venue for hire.
(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Plimmer) Carried

C3. Recommendations from the Māori Standing Committee

Mayor Connelly noted that the matter of establishing a Māori Ward has been debated seriously and at length by the Māori Standing Committee.

Ms Rutene, supported by Ms Mikaera, spoke to the matters included in the report.

Members acknowledged and thanked Ms Rutene and Ms Mikaera for their presentation to Council.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/172) to:

1. Receive the Recommendations from the Māori Standing Committee report.
2. Note the recommendation from the Māori Standing Committee: That Council strongly unanimously support Māori Ward to come into effect for the 2025 & 2028 elections.

(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter) Carried

D Decision Reports from the Interim Chief Executive and Council Officers

D1. Māori Ward Report

Mayor Connelly spoke about his support for the Māori Ward and reasoning for this.

Cr Plimmer made a request to deliver a written statement.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/173) to allow seven minutes speaking time to Cr Plimmer on the recommendations for item D1.

(Moved Cr Bosley/Seconded Cr Woodcock) Carried

Cr Plimmer read a written statement.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/174) to include the amendment – that consultation on a Māori Ward be conducted next year and be incorporated into the consultation as part of the representation review process in the new year.

(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Bosley) Lapsed

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Ms Smith explained the legislation and representation review next year. Pages 77-78 of the agenda provide detail that the process meets requirements.

Cr McAulay requested that the minutes reflect that Cr Plimmer's statement was inaccurate in relation to Councillor's engagement on the Māori Ward.

Members discussed their views on the recommendations included in the report.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/175) to:

1. Receive the *Māori Ward* Report.
2. Approve option 2, that Council chooses to establish a Māori Ward for the 2025 and 2028 local elections in South Wairarapa.

[Items 1-2 read together]

(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Olds)

Carried

For: Mayor Connelly, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Maynard, Cr Olds, Cr Gray, Cr Ellims and Cr McAulay.

Against: Cr Plimmer, Cr Bosley and Cr Woodcock.

D5. ITEM MOVED - Bank Signatories

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/176) to:

1. Receive the *Bank Signatories* Report.
2. Approve the additional named bank signatory: Chief Executive Officer Janice Smith.
3. Approve the removal of named bank signatory: General Manager Finance Karon Ashforth.

[Items 1-3 read together]

(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Maynard)

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 11:54am.

Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter left the meeting during the adjournment.

Meeting reconvened at 12:35pm.

D3. ITEM MOVED - Greytown Sports and Leisure Funding

Members discussed the options included in the report, including the benefits and barriers, and alternative ways that administration, promotion and governance of sports across the district could be addressed and undertaken.

Ms Swanson provided further background information and updates that were not included in the report (costs, current funding).

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/177) to:

1. Receive the *Greytown Sport and Leisure Funding* report.
(Moved Cr Woodcock/Seconded Cr Plimmer)
2. Agrees to approve up to a maximum of \$60,000 of funding for 12 months for Greytown Sports and Leisure from 1 July 2024, and request Council Officers to prepare a report outlining long term options for expanding Greytown Sports and Leisure across the region.

Carried

(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Bosley)

Carried

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D2. Adoption of Schedule of Ordinary Meetings 2024 and Options for a Committee of the Whole

Ms Bradley spoke to matters included in the report.

Cr Plimmer requested to enter into public excluded session to discuss the origins of the matter. This was declined by Mayor Connelly.

Council Officers responded to queries from members including: the advantages of a Committee of the Whole and the potential workload for portfolio leads.

Cr Ellims left at 1:44pm.

Cr Ellims returned at 1:58pm.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/178) to:

1. Receive the *Schedule of Ordinary Meetings 2024 and Options for a Committee of the Whole* Report.

(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Woodcock) Carried

2. To defer the decision and to be discussed at an extraordinary meeting prior to Christmas.

(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried

For: Mayor Connelly, Cr Olds, Cr Maynard, Cr Woodcock, Cr McAulay and Cr Ellims.

Against – Cr Gray, Cr Bosley and Cr Plimmer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59pm.

Meeting reconvened at 2:11pm.

Cr Olds requested that Council revisit the previous resolution made for Item D2, Adoption of Schedule of Ordinary Meetings 2024 and Options for a Committee of the Whole.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/179) to:

1. Revoke DC2023/178, point 2: *To defer the decision and to be discussed at an extraordinary meeting prior to Christmas.*

(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried

2. Adopt Option 2 - a new committee structure (involving a committee of the whole, and Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee and portfolio leads).

(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Plimmer) Carried

3. Adopt the Draft Council and Committees Terms of Reference (Appendix 2).

(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried

4. Adopt the four-weekly 2024 Schedule of Ordinary Meetings for Council and Committees, and to create workshop placeholders on vacant Wednesdays.

(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried

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D4. Draft Featherston Masterplan and Implementation Plan and Summary Consultation Document

Mr O'Leary spoke to the matters included in the report.

Members discussed whether the submission period should be extended due to the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

Members commended Mr O'Leary and the Planning Team for their work to date.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/180):

1. To receive the *Draft Featherston Masterplan and Implementation Plan and Summary Consultation Document Report*.
(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried
2. To adopt the Draft Featherston Masterplan and Implementation Plan and adopt the Summary Consultation Document for the purpose of public notification under section 83 (Special Consultative Procedure) of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. Subject to Recommendation 2 above, note that formal consultation on the Draft Featherston Masterplan and Implementation Plan is proposed to commence on Wednesday 6 December 2023 with submissions closing on Friday 18 February 2024.
[Items 2-3 read together]
(Moved Cr Ellims/Seconded Cr Olds) Carried
4. That it be noted that the guiding principles of Appendix 2 will be updated to align with the new principles 3 and 4.
(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried
5. That edits be authorised through the CE or the nominated Council Officer.
(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr McAulay) Carried

D6. Hinekura Road Procurement Process

Mr Langley spoke to matters included in the report.

Cr Ellims noted that the report had been emailed to Hinekura residents to keep them up to date with progress.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/181) to:

1. Receive the *Hinekura Road Procurement Process Report*.
(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried
2. Approve that delegation be given to the Chief Executive Officer or nominee and portfolio lead for Infrastructure to accept the recommended tender.
(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried

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E Information Reports from the Interim Chief Executive and Council Officers

E1. Interim CE Update

Mr O’Leary responded to queries from members including the timeframes relating to the Wairarapa Combined District Plan.

Ms Neilson spoke to the Destination Wairarapa Reports referenced on page 203 of the agenda and responded to queries from members in relation to the funding of tourism in the region.

E2. Action Items

The following actions are to be updated and remain open:

- 259 (Greytown Sports and Leisure – result from today’s meeting);
- 39 (Pedestrian Lighting Project – result from today’s meeting); and
- 285 (Pain Farm – to remain open for Council Officer’s report back to next Council).

The following actions were closed: 537; 297; 293; and 227 (point 4 only).

F Mayor’s Report

F1. Report from His Worship The Mayor

Mayor Connelly spoke to matters included in his report.

Members discussed their views in relation to: the LGNZ Special General Meeting (attendees and proportional attendance); and the funding of research for the investigation of future governance arrangements (amalgamation). Ms Smith responded to queries in relation to seeking independent/neutral advice, the source of funding for further research, and the next steps with Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/182) to:

1. Receive the *Report from His Worship the Mayor*.
2. Note that Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) has started providing regular updates to member councils. The first of these can be accessed on Stellar / the SWDC Website.
3. Agree that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO attend (via Zoom) and vote at the LGNZ Special General Meeting.
(Items 1-3 read together)
(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Ellims) Carried
4. Authorise the CEO to discuss funding arrangements and expected outcomes regarding future governance arrangements in the Wairarapa.
(Moved Mayor Connelly/Seconded Cr Woodcock) Carried

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G Public Excluded Business

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 are as follows:

Report/General Subject Matter	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
Public Excluded Council Meeting Minutes from 27 September 2023 (items included: Outstanding Rates Water Debtor Report; Swimming Pool Facilities Management and Operation – Contract Delegation; and Greytown Pavilion Rebuild– Contract Delegation).	Good reason to withhold exists under 6(a)&(b); 7(2)(a); 7(2)(b)(i) and 7(2)(b)(ii).	Section 48(1)(a)
Public Excluded Council Meeting Minutes from 20 September 2023 (Chief Executive Recruitment)	Good reason to withhold exists under 7(2)(a).	Section 48(1)(a)
Public Excluded Council Meeting Minutes from 12 October 2023 (items included: Interim CE Performance Review; and Representation, communication, and behavioural standards).	Good reason to withhold exists under 7(2)(a) and 7(2)(f)(ii).	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution (DC2023/183) is made in reliance on Section 48(1) 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 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.	Section 7(2)(a)
The public disclosure of information would be likely: (a) to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; or (b) to endanger the safety of any person.	Section 6(a)&(b)
The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would disclose a trade secret.	Section 7(2)(b)(i)
The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	Section 7(2)(b)(ii)
The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment.	Section 7(2)(f)(ii)

(Moved Cr Maynard/ Seconded Cr Olds)

Carried

H Karakia Whakamutunga – Closing

Mayor Connelly closed the meeting with a karakia.

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The meeting closed at 3:44pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Mayor)

.....(Date)

.....(Chief Executive)

.....(Date)

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