



## **South Wairarapa District Council Minutes from 27 March 2024**

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<b>Present:</b>	Acting Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Councillors Aidan Ellims, Colin Olds, Alistair Plimmer (from 9:35am), Rebecca Gray, Pip Maynard, Aaron Woodcock (from 9:05am) and Kaye McAulay (until 12:05pm).
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillors Martin Bosley, Alistair Plimmer and Aaron Woodcock. Mayor Martin Connelly (Leave of absence)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Martinborough Community Board: Storm Robertson, Karen Krogh and Angela Brown.  Featherston Community Board: Tui Rutherford.  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), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager Partnerships and Operations), Nicki Ansell (Lead Community Advisor), Robyn Wells (Principal Advisor Water Transition), Imogen Zino (Digital Communications Advisor), Joelle Thompson (Communications Advisor) and Amy Andersen (Committee Advisor).
<b>Public Forum:</b>	John Healy, Gary Dittmer, Jim Hedley, John Cantwell and John Broeren.
<b>Conduct of Business:</b>	This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 62 Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 9:00am to 12:20pm except where expressly noted.

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### **Open Section**

**A1. Karakia Timatanga - Opening**

Cr Gray opened the meeting with a karakia.

**A2. Apologies**

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/16)* to accept apologies from Cr Bosely for absence; and Cr Plimmer and Cr Woodcock for late arrival.

*(Moved Cr Ellims/Seconded Cr Gray)*

Carried

**A3. Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

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#### **A4. Acknowledgements and Tributes**

Acting Mayor Sadler-Futter acknowledged staff Christine Allanson, Penny Griffin, Sara Edney and Andrew McEwan who were recognised at a recent all staff meeting for their long service to Council. The Acting Mayor highlighted their collective 118 years of service and for their commitment to the organisation and community.

Cr Woodcock arrived at 9:05am.

#### **A5. Public Participation**

##### John Healy – Wairarapa Building Society

Mr Healy spoke to Council about the Wairarapa Building Society, what they do, purpose and how they support the community.

Members queried business loans, advice for first home buyers, grants and the figure they put back into the community, and social housing lending.

##### Garry Dittmer – Income and Duties

Mr Dittmer spoke to Council about the Annual Plan consultation document 2023/24 in relation to income and expenditure. Mr Dittmer sought further information regarding concerns about the information that is in the public domain.

##### Jim Hedley – Reply to questions raised at 14 February Strategic Working Committee meeting

Mr Hedley spoke to Council about comments made at the Strategic Working Committee in February, the Annual Plan 2023/24 (accuracy of information provided in the document, and public excluded workshops and transparency).

##### John Cantwell – McMaster Street

Mr Cantwell spoke to Council about issues relating to drainage in front of his property (footpath) on the corner of Reading and McMaster Street, including access to driveway and stormwater coming into the property. Mr Cantwell sought support from Council to support further action to be taken to remedy the issue.

Members queried the quantity of water coming onto the property.

Cr Plimmer arrived at 9:35am.

##### John Broeren – Public participation

Mr Broeren spoke to council about public participation at meetings and the issue with a recent building warrant of fitness which had been sent to him.

Members sought further details from Mr Broeren regarding the building warrant of fitness and the appliances/chattels currently in the building.

##### Louise Lyster – Pain Farm

Ms Lyster spoke to Council about Pain Farm including points on the interests of beneficiaries of the wider community; trust regarding issues of management with Pain Farm, hopes that problem solving with the community will occur and differences

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between roles and responsibilities for Council and the Martinborough Community Board.

**A6. Actions from public participation**

Action 118 – Members requested a report from officers regarding the issues relating to John Cantwell’s public participation. *S Corbett/T Langley*

Action 119: Members requested a review of figures tabled by Mr Dittmer during public participation and acknowledgement of any differences in numbers. *J Smith*

**A7. Extraordinary business**

There was no extraordinary business.

**A8. Minutes for Confirmation**

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/17)* that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

*(Moved Cr Gray /Seconded Cr McAulay)*

Carried

Abstained: Cr Woodcock and Cr Plimmer

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/18)* that the public excluded minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 February 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

*(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Olds)*

Carried

Abstained: Cr Plimmer

**A9. Matters arising from previous minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**B. Report Backs and Updates from Community Boards**

**Featherston Community Board**

Mr Rutherford spoke to Council about community boards and sought to clarify and confirm position of community boards – to ensure that time and money is being spent efficiently. Mr Rutherford noted that the current structure is resource intensive, there are unclear/undefined

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boundaries and clearer purposes needed. He would like this considered as part of the upcoming representation review

### **Martinborough Community Board**

Mr Robertson spoke to Council about Pain Farm and asked Council to consider their vote in regard to item E1. Mr Robertson stated that the Community Board believe staff have misstated Council's position.

Members noted that the Wairarapa Combined District Plan is currently sitting with a Commissioner.

Members queried the Wairarapa Combined District Plan process whether it can be changed.

Action 122: Members requested that the Martinborough Community Board be informed with ample notice regarding the schedule for the Wairarapa Combined District Plan hearings.

*R Ramsden*

## **C Recommendations from Committees**

### **C1. Recommendations from the Strategy Working Committee – Freedom Camping Bylaw**

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/19) to:*

- 1) a. receive the 'Freedom Camping Bylaw Deliberations' Report.  
b. amend the Clifford Square Reserve Management Plan to allow for freedom camping to occur subject to the restrictions within the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024.  
c. adopt the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024, as per Appendix 1.  
d. authorise the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial changes to the above documents if required prior to adoption.  
e. Support the trial of Freedom Camping Ambassadors (\$47k grant from MBIE) for the 2024/5 camping season, and if successful, to consider ongoing funding in the next Long Term Plan.

*[Items 1a-e read together]*

*(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Ellims)*

Carried

- 2) approve the effective date of 1 July 2024 for the Freedom Camping Bylaw, to allow time for signage.

*(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Gray)*

Carried

For: Acting Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Olds, Cr Gray, Cr Maynard, Cr McAulay, Cr Ellims.

Against: Cr Woodcock

Abstained: Cr Plimmer

## **D Decision Reports from the Interim Chief Executive and Council Officers**

### **D1. Revolving Bank Facility**

Ms Smith spoke to the report.

Members queried timeframes for reporting,

Members suggested that future funding/banking with those who do not invest in the fossil fuel industry.

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*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/20) to:*

1. receive the *Approval for Revolving Bank Facility Report*.
2. approve the acceptance of the offer made by Westpac for the funding request, specifically for a total of \$10.0 million for a three-year term, as per Appendix 1.  
[Items 1-2 read together]

*(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Woodcock)*

Carried

**D2. Review of the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019**

Ms Ansell spoke to matters included in the report and responded to queries from members regarding the review process and timeframes.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/21) to:*

- 1) a. note that a review of the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019 for the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa districts is required by 26 June 2024 and is underway;
- b. note that the review approach is consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002;
- c. agree to share the review costs across the three Wairarapa District Councils as per the Wairarapa Shared Services Funding Policy (joint policy development activity type); and
- d. agree to delegate responsibility to the Wairarapa Policy Working Group to support the review and make recommendations back to the three Wairarapa District Councils.

[Item 1a-b read together]

*(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Olds)*

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 10:21am.

Meeting reconvened at 10:38am.

**E Information Reports from the Interim Chief Executive and Council Officers**

**E1. Pain Farm History, Legality and Consultation for Treated Effluent Disposal Site Report**

Ms Smith tabled an amended report (recommendation 2) and spoke to the change.

Members discussed the submission to the Wairarapa Combined District Plan, concerns regarding re-litigation of historical concerns and obtaining further legal advice.

Members clarified that the designation is going up for consultation and is in line with current process.

Members further discussed changes which have occurred in the past 8-10 years and forecast costs for water services; potential exploration of other options, changes to the

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environment, accuracy of information in the report, and queries in relation to the high court decision to change the use of the land.

Cr McAulay left at 11:04am

Cr McAulay returned at 11:05am.

Further discussion held by members with regard to concerns and request work to look at alternative options for the treated effluent disposal site, that do not include the use of Pain Farm.

Ms Smith spoke about current consent, which is set in terms of purpose and conditions – Council must follow through to ensure there is compliance. Ms Smith noted there were other options considered in 2011 and gave a brief of this which will be provided to the Strategy Working Committee. Note: next SWC report to outline the differences in the water tables.

Ms Smith provided further information noting that the High Court decision had been addressed and Council were complying, that Council are paying for the transfer station on Pain Farm, there are currently no payments for water as there is no discharge yet and the amounts to be paid in future are yet to be determined, pending formal agreement between Council and a valuer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16am.

Meeting reconvened at 11:22am (Cr Ellims not present).

Cr Ellims returned to the meeting 11:23am.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/22) to:*

1. Receive the Pain Farm History, Legality and Consultation for Treated Effluent Disposal Site Report.

*(Moved Cr Ellims/Seconded Cr Maynard)*

Carried

2. Continue to seek legal advice on the nature of the Trust and Council's role as Trustees of the land at Pain Farm, to be reported back to a future meeting of the Strategy Working Committee.

*(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Olds)*

Carried

Abstained: Cr McAulay, Cr Woodcock

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## E2. Action Items

461 – Greytown Sports and Leisure (funding) will be part of Annual Plan deliberations in May.

58 – Information Report being prepared on Dublin Street to come to future SWC meeting, including how it landed there and issues with current state of the road.

62 – will be updated on following today's meeting.

## F Chairperson's Report

### E1. Report from the Acting Mayor

Acting Mayor Sadler-Futter spoke to matters included in the report and update to the Terms of Reference in regard to Portfolios. Council also agreed to send the CEO and any members who were interested to the Resilience Challenge - Te Tai Whanake: Growing a stronger, more resilient Aotearoa conference on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May at Te Papa. Members to advise the CE if they were interested.

*COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/23) to adopt the updated Council and Committees Terms of Reference.*

*(Moved Cr Gray/ Seconded Cr Plimmer)*

Carried

## G. Public Excluded Section

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 minutes 21 February 2024; Report from His Worship the Mayor, and Leave of Absence Request.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7(2)(a) and 7(2)(e)	Section 48(1)(a)
Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-25 Consultation Document	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7(2)(f)(i) and 7(2)(f)(ii)	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution (DC2024/24) 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 withholding of the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public.	Section 7(2)(e)
The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through—	Section 7(2)(f)

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(i)	the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority in the course of their duty; or	
(ii)	the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment	

*(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Plimmer)*

Carried

Cr Woodcock left at 11:35am.  
 Cr Woodcock returned at 11:38am.

Cr McAulay left the meeting at 12:05pm.

The meeting closed at 12:20pm.

**Confirmed as a true and correct record**

.....(Acting Mayor)

.....(Date)

.....(Chief Executive)

.....(Date)

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