

**SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting
Minutes from 29 April 2020**

Present:	Mayor Alex Beijen (Chair), Deputy Mayor Garrick Emms, Councillors Pam Colenso, Rebecca Fox, Leigh Hay, Brian Jephson, Pip Maynard, Alistair Plimmer, Ross Vickery, Brenda West, and Raihānia Tipoki (Chair of Māori Standing Committee) for part only.
In Attendance:	Harry Wilson (Chief Executive Officer), Russell O’Leary (Group Manager Planning and Environment), Karen Yates (Acting Manager Policy and Governance), Katrina Neems (Chief Financial Officer), Amy Wharram (Communications Manager), Godwell Mahowa (Planning Manager), Suzanne Clark and Steph Dorne (Committee Advisors).
Conduct of Business:	Due to COVID-19 restrictions it was not possible for South Wairarapa District Council to conduct this meeting with members and the public physically present. This meeting was held in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 in accordance with clause 47A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and was conducted between 10:00am and 1:50pm.

Open Section

Cr Maynard read the Council affirmation.

A1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

A2. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

A3. Acknowledgements and Tributes

Cr Maynard paid tribute to Pat Houghton, who had recently passed away. Ms Houghton had enriched the Martinborough community through the performing arts and her dedication to Martinborough and Districts Company of Amateur Players (MADCAPS).

Mayor Beijen paid tribute to Sandra Prince, who had recently passed away. Ms Prince was an early leader in Martinborough tourism.

A4. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

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A5. Actions from public participation

There were no actions from public participation.

A6. Extraordinary Business

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/37) to consider the Local Government Funding Agency report at this meeting. It was late due to an administrative error and cannot be delayed as the resolution to sign needs to be made by the 30 April 2020.

(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Emms)

Carried

Mr Tipoki provided an update on work he was doing with iwi and other agencies to support the Māori community through the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Tipoki encouraged Council to view the recovery period as an opportunity to do things differently and work with Māori as a treaty partner to make this happen.

A7. Minutes for Confirmation

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/38) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 March 2020 are a true and correct record.

(Moved Cr Maynard/Seconded Cr Hay)

Carried

Cr Emms was absent during this vote.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/39) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 March 2020 are a true and correct record.

(Moved Cr Maynard/Seconded Cr Fox)

Carried

Cr Colenso was absent during this vote.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/40) that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 April 2020 are a true and correct record.

(Moved Cr Jephson/Seconded Cr Plimmer)

Carried

A8. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

B Decision Reports from Chief Executive and Staff

B1. South Wairarapa Spatial Plan Programme and Enhanced Community Engagement Proposal

Mr Wilson answered councillor questions on the number of research companies approached for methodology advice and pricing, the proposed methodology and undertaking a critique of methods, total consultation costs, the proposed Spatial Plan timeline and delay impacts, using local businesses, and ensuring views were obtained from the wider community (e.g. youth, Maori, Regional Public Health).

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Mr Tipoki suggested that the bulk of Council investment should be in nature as the most essential form of infrastructure, and that Council needed to strategise how to connect people with the benefits of nature (water, food, clean air). Council needed to reimagine how to do business to mitigate climate change and look at ways to hear from all members of the community.

Council agreed to wait for up to a three months to see what central government post COVID-19 growth planning, economic and social recovery scenario information became available, and to refer the subsequent report to the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/41):

1. To receive the South Wairarapa Spatial Plan Programme and Enhanced Community Engagement Proposal.
(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Cr Emms) Carried
2. That the Spatial Plan be kept as an active item on the Planning and Regulatory Committee agenda and once COVID-19 recovery and growth planning information becomes available, the Committee will make a recommendation to Council on the preferred methodology.
(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Fox) Carried
3. Action 130: At the end of the consultation period, provide the total cost attributed to spatial plan community engagement to the Planning and Regulatory Committee; R O'Leary

The meeting adjourned at 11:11am.

The meeting reconvened at 11:23am.

B2. Liquefaction Prone Land – Risks and Impact on Building and Resource Consent Processes

This report was deferred to a future meeting.

Mr Wilson undertook to ensure the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee were appraised of any risks liquefaction prone land posed to Council.

B3. Listing of the Carkeek Observatory as a heritage building

Mr Wilson noted that further work needed to be undertaken to provide financial implications, and that it was not Council's intention to update or restore the Observatory. Council was the landowner, and there was currently no public access. Councillors agreed that there could be a tourism benefit if the Observatory was listed and the public were granted access to the site, and that the Mayor and councillors should have an opportunity to comment on the submission to Heritage NZ.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/42):

1. To receive the Listing of the Carkeek Observatory as a Heritage Building Report.
(Moved Cr Emms/Seconded Cr Colenso) Carried

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2. To support, in principle, the listing of the Carkeek Observatory by Heritage New Zealand through Heritage New Zealand's public consultation process.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive and Mayor the authority to make the submission to Heritage New Zealand subject to councillor comment on said submission.
4. To inform the public about the Heritage New Zealand process and Council's support for the listing.
5. To undertake further investigation, including costings, to conserve Carkeek Observatory as recommended by Heritage New Zealand.

(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Cr Vickery)

Carried

B4. Rates and other Relief in Response to COVID-19

Mr Wilson with support from Mrs Neems answered councillor questions on requirements to consult if policies were amended, what relief measures Council was already proactively providing and advertising of these measures, consistency of remission assessment, tracking relief numbers, and payment plan methods.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00pm.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/43):

1. To receive the Rates and other Relief in Response to COVID-19 Report.

(Moved Cr Hay/Seconded Cr Fox)

Carried

2. Action 133: Provide enhanced communications in a bullet proof list of the proactive ways Council is providing relief to the community as a result of COVID-19; A Wharram

B5. Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) – Amendments to Borrowing Programme

Mrs Neems outlined the background to the recommendation and advised that the change would reduce Council's risk exposure by enabling LGFA to assess the debt risk of Council Controlled Organisations separately (rather than assessing the parent Council as was the current practice) thereby making the process more transparent. An amendment was proposed to name the signatories.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/44):

1. To receive the Local Government Funding Agency – Amendments to Borrowing Programme Report.

(Moved Cr Colenso/Seconded Cr Maynard)

Carried

2. To approve the documents and delegates authority to the Mayor and the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to sign on behalf of Council.

(Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Jephson)

Carried

C1. Finance Report

Mrs Neems advised that Council had forecast a surplus this financial year, but that the actual surplus to date is not as much as anticipated. Councillors discussed

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unsuspending the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to ensure that variances were closely monitored. Mrs Neems noted an error in the management report, the miscellaneous income should be \$43,000.00 not \$438,000.00.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2020/45):

1. To receive the Finance Report.
(Moved Cr Hay/Seconded Cr Fox) Carried
2. To unsuspend the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to allow the Committee to meet at the earliest convenience.
(Moved Cr Maynard/Seconded Cr West) Carried

D1. Mayor’s Verbal Report

Mayor Beijen was attending a number of meetings across sectors regarding COVID-19 matters and economic recovery. The Mayor had met informally with some members of the Māori Standing Committee, and was working on a 0% youth unemployment initiative with Cr Plimmer.

Members discussed the current committee suspensions noting that it was not essential to unsuspend Committees other than Finance, Audit and Risk at this time.

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Mayor)

.....(Date)

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