

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026 AT 1:30 PM**

- PRESENT:** Mayor Fran Wilde (Chair), Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, Cr Chris Archer, Cr Andrea Rutene, Cr Simone Baker, Cr Rachel Clarke, Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Rupert Watson and Cr Rob Taylor.
- APOLOGIES:** Cr Aidan Ellims.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Clare Barton (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), James O'Connor (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Alex Pigou (Manager, Partnerships and Communications), Hayley Gastmeier (Advisor, Digital Communications), Siv Fjaerestad (Advisor, Community Governance) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).
- PUBLIC FORUM:** Russell Busby, Jill Greathead and Claire Bleakley.
- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:** This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 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 1:30pm to 2:46pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION DC2026/18

Moved: Cr Olds

Seconded: Cr Baker

Council resolved to accept apologies from Cr Ellims.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

Mayor Wilde acknowledged the passing of:

- Adrienne Staples who was former SWDC Mayor from 2004–2016, and former Featherston Community Board Chair. Mayor Wilde noted her significant contribution to local government. A minute of silence was held;
- Ted Colenso, former Chief Fire Officer (25 years, Martinborough) married to former SWDC Councillor, Pam Colenso; and
- Councillor Aidan Ellim's mother, Deidre Ellims.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

5.1 Russell Busby – Tora Road Dust Issues

Mr Busby raised concerns regarding:

- Significant dust from traffic affecting his property
- Impacts on health, water supply, and amenity
- Growth in traffic linked to council decisions (campgrounds, subdivisions, access)

Mayor Wilde acknowledged the issues.

5.2 Jill Greathead – Greytown Solar Farm & BESS

Speaking on behalf of South Wairarapa Whenua Advisory Group (SWWAG):

- Provided update on the Environment Court process for the Greytown Solar Farm;
- Raised concerns about a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) not yet consented; and
- Highlighted risks including environmental contamination, fire risk and loss of rural character.

Ms Greathead requested that any future BESS consent be publicly notified and appropriately conditioned.

5.3 Claire Bleakley – Wastewater Tender Process

Ms Bleakley raised concerns regarding:

- Delays in wastewater tender decision-making;
- Lack of communication with ratepayers; and
- Cost implications (including consultants and interest costs).

Mayor Wilde noted that:

- The tender evaluation is complete and a decision was imminent
- Further details (including tender numbers and costs) will be released once decision is made.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**7.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2026****RESOLUTION DC2026/19**

Moved: Mayor Wilde

Seconded: Cr Archer

Council resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 April 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**9.1 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE - SENSITIVE EXPENDITURE POLICY****RESOLUTION DC2026/20**

Moved: Cr Bosley

Seconded: Cr Baker

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the *Recommendations from the Risk and Assurance Committee* report.
2. Approve the Sensitive Expenditure Policy (as recommended by Risk and Assurance Committee - Resolution RAC2026/13).

CARRIED

10 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF**10.1 SHARE BUY BACK PROCESS - WELLINGTON WATER**

Foreshadowed amendment to recommendation d: Cr Taylor indicated their intention to include an amendment to change the wording at the beginning of the recommendation: [*Delegates to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the mayor on behalf of council, the authority..*].

Ms Smith responded to questions from members and confirmed that through the proposed share buyback process, Council will recover:

- \$50,000 shareholding
- Share of retained earnings
- Emergency reserves
- Unspent operational funds.

Ms Smith also confirmed that Simpson Grierson are completing work on the process on behalf of all the shareholder councils.

RESOLUTION DC2026/21

Moved: Cr Taylor

Seconded: Cr Clarke

Council accepted the amendment from Cr Taylor as part of the substantive resolution and resolved to:

- a. Receive the report Share Buy Back – Wellington Water
- b. Approve the buyback and cancellation of the SWDC Shares;
- c. Authorise the Council to be a party to the unanimous entitled persons agreement required to approve the buyback and cancellation of the SWDC Shares;
- d. Delegate to the Chief Executive , in consultation with the mayor on behalf of council, the authority to finalise and execute all necessary documentation to give effect to the share buyback and cancellation, with delegation to allow non-material changes to the final agreed terms for the share buyback;
- e. Delegate to the Chief Executive the power to approve and execute all documents required in connection with, and to give effect to, the share buyback; and
- f. Direct Council staff to report back when all processes and requirements have been completed.

[Items a-f read together]

CARRIED

10.2 LEGISLATIVE CHANGE - SUMMARY FOR SWDC

Ms Barton spoke to the report which highlighted ongoing local government reform, Resource Management Act reforms and the requirement for a Regional Spatial Plan.

Ms Barton noted that a plan was required regardless of final council structure, as well as the need for additional funding to complete the work, spread across the Long Term Plan.

RESOLUTION DC2026/22

Moved: Cr Taylor

Seconded: Cr Rutene

Council resolved to:

- a. Receive the report “*Legislative Change – Summary for SWDC*” and notes the potential financial and structural implications for the Council; and
- b. Agree to participate in the Regional Mayoral Forum, Regional CE Huis, Regional Leadership Committee and Reform Working Group; and
- c. Agree to add \$150,000 operating expenditure for the 2026/2027 financial year for the development of a Spatial Plan. This will be spread over the remaining eight years of the current LTP, through our project smoothing reserve.

[Items a-c read together]

CARRIED

10.3 PROPOSED NAMING OF NEW ROAD AND RIGHTS OF WAYS, AT COMMUNITY GREEN ROAD, FEATHERSTON

RESOLUTION DC2026/23

Moved: Cr Isaacs

Seconded: Cr Archer

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Report for the proposed naming of New Roads and Right of Ways, at Community Green Road, Featherston.
2. Agree to exempt the applicant from needing to meet the requirements of Council’s Road Naming Policy requiring up to 3 options for road names.
3. Approve the proposed naming of Roads “Community Green West” and “Community Green East” and proposed Right of Ways “Eszter Way, Robin Way, Zoltan Way, Nelson Way, Benjamin Way and Timothy Way” at Community Green Road, Featherston.

CARRIED

10.4 PROPOSED NAMING OF NEW RIGHTS OF WAYS, AT SHOOTING BUTTS ROAD, MARTINBOROUGH

Ms Barton confirmed that the roads included in the report are vested in council, they are not gated and will be accessible to the public.

Members noted that “Rapaki Road” was discussed by the Māori Standing Committee last triennium. It was acknowledged how the current name originated and that the recommendation already had a prior name before the new naming was applied.

Discussion also included the importance of Māori naming processes and consultation, and the need for clearer documentation of previous decisions.

RESOLUTION DC2026/24

Moved: Cr Rutene

Seconded: Cr Watson

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Proposed Naming of New Right of Ways, at Shooting Butts Road, in Martinborough Report.
2. Agree to exempt the applicant from needing to meet the requirements of Council's Road Naming Policy requiring up to 3 options for road names.
3. Consider and approve the Proposed Naming of "Wharekaka Plains Road", "Rapaki Road" and "Milne Lane" for the proposed right of ways at Shooting Butts Road, Martinborough.

[Items 1-3 were read together]

CARRIED

Mayor Wilde vacated chair at 2:15pm.

Deputy Mayor Taylor took the chair at 2:15pm.

10.5 APPOINTMENT TO THE RURAL AND COASTAL ADVISORY GROUP**RESOLUTION DC2026/25**

Moved: Cr Clarke

Seconded: Cr Olds

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the *Appointment to the Rural and Coastal Advisory Group* report.
2. Approve the appointment of Mayor Wilde to the Rural and Coastal Advisory Group.
3. Note the appointments of the following community members to the Rural and Coastal Advisory Group by the selection panel: Aaron Woodcock (Woody), Bec Nicholson, Belinda Milnes, Brian Jephson (Jeppy), Chris Sparks, Geoff Vause, Jenny Boyne (Chair), Kim Hayes, Lee Flutey.

[Items 1-3 read together]

CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Taylor vacated the Chair at 2:17pm.

Mayor Wilde resumed the Chair at 2:17pm.

11 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RESOLUTION DC2026/26**

Moved: Mayor Wilde

Seconded: Cr Archer

Council resolved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 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 for the passing of this resolution	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
11.1 - Destination Wairarapa Memorandum of Understanding Extension	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 6 or section 7	Relates to discussions for the extension on the Memorandum of Understanding with Destination Wairarapa.
11.2 - Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 6 or section 7	To allow Council to complete contract negotiations and awarding.
11.3 - Review of Remission of Rates Application	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	s48(1)(a)(i) - 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	This decision is for particular ratepayers so should be confidential

		exist under section 6 or section 7	
CARRIED			

12 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:46pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Mayor)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)