

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY, 9 APRIL 2026 AT 1:30 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Aidan Ellims (from 1:58pm), Cr Colin Olds, Mayor Fran Wilde, Cr Chris Archer, Cr Andrea Rutene (from 1:52pm, via Teams), Cr Simone Baker, Cr Rachel Clarke, Cr Collier Isaacs, Cr Rupert Watson, Cr Rob Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), James O'Connor (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Clare Barton (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Mia Wilton (Manager, Environmental Services), Matt Vins (Manager, Corporate Services) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

Simon Taylor (Manager, Primary Local Controller & Primary Recovery Manager - Emergency Management Wairarapa)

PUBLIC FORUM: Louise Lyster, Peter Isaac and Mary Tipoki.

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 2:39pm.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Noted that Cr Ellims and Cr Rutene would be joining the meeting, arriving before 2pm.

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

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Louise Lyster

Key points raised:

- Support for Martinborough wastewater treatment plant concept and provision for future growth.
- Concern about the financial burden of water infrastructure debt on urban ratepayers.
- Requested clearer articulation of what constitutes a “reasonable” cost for urban residents.
- Highlighted traffic noise and safety issues between Ferry Road and Dublin Road due to heavy vehicles and metal service covers.
- Suggested that further work beyond the spatial plan, priority is given to renewal of existing infrastructure and community communication on new speed reductions and possible landscaping improvements.

Council response: Mayor Wilde noted the issues.

2. Peter Isaac – South Wairarapa Whenua Advisory Group (SWWAG)

Key points raised:

- Concerns regarding proposed large-scale battery storage facilities associated with solar farms over the Tauwharenikau aquifer.
- Asserted that battery storage is integral to solar developments and should be acknowledged transparently.

Council response: Mayor Wilde noted the issues.

3. Mary Tipoki

Key points raised:

- Severe and repeated flood impacts in Pirinoa and surrounding areas following recent weather events.
- Road washouts, isolation of residents and safety risks identified.
- Concern about lack of suitable warm, safe evacuation facilities (e.g. issues with Pirinoa Hall).
- Requested that councillors visit the area to see impacts firsthand.
- Emphasised need for mitigation, preparedness and communication.

Council response: Mayor Wilde noted the issues.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLUTION DC2026/11
Moved: Cr C Isaacs
Seconded: Cr C Olds
 Council resolved:

1. That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 February 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record; and
2. That the public excluded minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 February 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

[Items 1-2 read together]

CARRIED

7.2 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2026

RESOLUTION DC2026/12
Moved: Cr R Taylor
Seconded: Cr C Archer
 Council resolved that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 March 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 - FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

Mr Corbett noted the Policy was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee. No questions were raised by Council.
 Cr Rutene arrived at 1:52pm.

RESOLUTION DC2026/13
Moved: Cr R Clarke
Seconded: Cr M Bosley
 Council resolved to:

1. Receive the *Recommendations from the Risk and Assurance Committee* report; and
 2. Approve the Fraud and Corruption Policy (as recommended in resolution RAC2026/02).
- [Items 1-2 read together]
- CARRIED**

10 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

10.1 APPROVAL TO OPERATE OUTSIDE TREASURY POLICY – INTERIM HEDGING APPROACH FOR WATER-RELATED DEBT

Ms Smith spoke to the report and provided assurance that the management of debt will be prudent. Ms Smith noted that the new entity should be able to borrow at better rates and for longer. Other key points raised:

- Council debt currently best managed at floating rates (~2.7%) rather than fixing (~5%).
- Debt expected to be short-term (approx. 15 months) pending water entity transition.
- Fixing debt now could incur significant break costs.

Ms Smith confirmed:

- In terms of compliance, external treasury advisory Bancorp is advising and supporting the process of debt management and the new water entity will have oversight of transfers.
- Council would transfer debt to the new water entity the day it is stood up.
- Debt would be shifting from \$28.5 million to \$38-40 million over the coming months, as outlined in Long Term Plan.

RESOLUTION DC2026/14

Moved: Cr M Bosley
Seconded: Cr R Taylor

Council resolved to :

1. Approve a temporary departure from the *Treasury Policy* to allow greater proportion of water-related debt to remain on short-term or floating interest rates during the period leading up to the transition of water loans to the CCO shortly after 1 July 2027;
2. Note that this interim approach reflects the current low short-term interest rate environment and the shorter effective tenure of water-related debt on the Council’s balance sheet; and
3. Request report back from officers if market conditions materially change or if the proposed timing of the water-related debt transfer is altered by more than six months.

[Items 1-3 read together]

CARRIED

10.2 DOG CONTROL FEES AND CHARGES 2026/2027

Cr Ellims arrived at 1:58pm.

Ms Barton, supported by Ms Wilton, spoke to the report and highlighted:

- Council are required by legislation to recover costs for dog control services.
- The proposal to increase dog registration fees by **5%**, raising cost recovery from 54% to 59%.
- Aim: better public/private cost balance without exceeding comparators.

Discussion highlights:

- Members shared their concerns about lack of detailed data in the paper (dog numbers, complaints, impoundments) and made a request for stronger justification and exploration of efficiencies and shared services.
- Officers provided statistics on registered dogs and complaints, and an explanation of officer workload and service coverage.
- Comparison showed fees broadly aligned with neighbouring councils.

RESOLUTION DC2026/15

Moved: Cr R Clarke

Seconded: Cr C Archer

Council resolved:

1. To receive the Dog Control Fees and Charges 2026/2027 report;
2. That Council adopt a 5% increase to the Dog Control fees for 2026/2027; and
3. To authorise Council officers to give public notice of those fees.

[Items 1-3 read together]

In Favour: Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Mayor F Wilde, Cr C Archer, Cr A Rutene, Cr S Baker, Cr R Clarke, Cr C Isaacs, Cr R Watson and Cr R Taylor

Against: Cr A Ellims

CARRIED 10/1

10.3 WAIRARAPA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Mr Corbett supported by Mr Vins and Mr Taylor, spoke to the report.

Noted on page 48 of the agenda, there was mention of taking this strategy to a Risk and Assurance Committee meeting in March. This did not occur as there was not enough time to complete a report to that body – included in error.

Key discussion points included:

- Strategy focus on workforce capability, training, and resilience.
- Lessons from recent weather events incorporated – including trauma response for staff and community wellbeing where appropriate.

- Increased regional support (WREMO) significantly improved response.
- Financial impacts are covered for the next two years; future funding to be addressed in 2027.
- Councillors requested clearer acronyms and a glossary of terms in future reports.

Mayor Wilde acknowledged the work of Mr Taylor and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Mr Taylor acknowledged the SWDC team members including Nigel Carter, Mr Vins and Mr Corbett.

RESOLUTION DC2026/16

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Cr A Ellims

Council resolved to:

1. Receive the Wairarapa Emergency Management Strategy report; and
2. Adopt the Wairarapa Emergency Management Capability Strategy 2025-2030.

[Items 1-2 read together]

CARRIED

10.4 COMBINED WAIRARAPA DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW – JOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Ms Barton spoke to the report and highlighted the need to establish a joint committee with Carterton and Masterton District Council if mediation is required.

There was clarification that “members” (not necessarily elected members) are appointed, as referenced in the report.

Delegations and financial arrangements were also clarified (costs would be split three-ways between the local councils).

RESOLUTION DC2026/17

Moved: Cr A Ellims

Seconded: Cr S Baker

Council resolved:

1. To receive the report ‘Combined Wairarapa District Plan Review – Joint Committee appointment’ 19 February 2026; and
2. In accordance with sections 34(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA") and clause 30 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, the South Wairarapa District Council:
 - (a) unites with the Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council in appointing a joint committee, to be known as the Wairarapa Combined District Plan Joint Committee to exercise the functions, duties and powers of the Council under the First Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991 which are delegated to the Joint Committee; and

- (b) agrees that each council will appoint two members to the Joint Committee with the ability to appoint alternate members to cover absences; and
- (c) agrees to the appointment to the Joint Committee of 2 members (one member representing Rangitāne o Wairarapa and one member representing Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa) to be appointed by the four iwi entities (Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Settlement Trust, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust); and
- (d) agrees that the Joint Committee will appoint an appropriately qualified Commissioner as an independent Chair and the Joint Committee will appoint one of its members as the Deputy Chair; and
- (e) agrees that the removal of the office of Chair and Deputy Chair is within the powers of the Joint Committee; and
- (f) agrees that the quorum of the Joint Committee will be five members and include at least one member of each territorial authority; and
- (g) appoints the following elected member and non-elected member as the South Wairarapa members to the Joint Committee:
 - (i) Councillor Rob Taylor
 - (ii) Brian Jephson
- (h) Appoints the following councillors as the alternate members of the Joint Committee to cover the absence of one of the appointed members:
 - (i) Councillor Collier Issacs
 - (ii) Councillor Aidan Ellims; and

3. In accordance with Section 34 of the Resource Management 1991 the South Wairarapa District Council delegates to the Wairarapa Combined District Plan Joint Committee all its functions, powers and duties under the First Schedule to the Act.

[Items 1-3 read together]

CARRIED

11 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:39pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Mayor)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)