

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2024 AT 12:30 PM**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock (via Teams), Cr Aidan Ellims, Cr Martin Bosley, Cr Colin Olds, Mayor Martin Connelly, Cr Pip Maynard, Cr Rebecca Gray, Cr Kaye McAulay and Ms V Edwards (Māori Standing Committee representative).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Fenwick (Māori Standing Committee), Storm Robertson, Karen Krogh, Angela Brown (Martinborough Community Board).

Janice Smith (Chief Executive) Russell O'Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Rob Thomas (Manager, Stakeholder Relationships), Jess Hughes (Principal Advisor, Legal), Matt Vins (Manager, Customer Support), Mia Wilton (Manager, Environmental Services) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).

PUBLIC FORUM: Ryan Smock, Michael Smith and Andy Hocquard.

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 12:33pm to 2:17pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

Members and those in attendance opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

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

Cr Ellims paid tribute to Terry McCarthy, Martinborough resident who passed away recently and acknowledged his contributions to the local community over the years.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ryan Smock

Mr Smock spoke to the Committee about his concerns relating to rates increases, consultation with the community, communications with elected members, dispute resolution and queried the efforts of Council to seek funding from central government for infrastructure.

Michael Smith

Mr Smith spoke to the Committee about his concerns relating to the safety and conditions on Lake Ferry Road (just outside of Pirinoa at the intersection with Whakatomoto Road). Mr Smith noted he had received information about repairs which are due to take place in November and has lodged an information request in respect to this subject. Mr Smith also shared his concerns with regard to rates increases and SUIPs (recent property inspections).

Andy Hocquard

Mr Hocquard spoke to the Committee regarding the recent property inspections for SUIPs and shared his concerns on SUIP implementation, and sought answers to queries raised in the meeting in the form of an information request (this has been logged for completion).

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/110

Moved: Cr K McAulay

Seconded: Ms V Edwards

Accept the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 4 September 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to the following change: Ms E Edwards to Ms V Edwards.

In Favour: Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr P Maynard, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr A Plimmer and Cr A Woodcock

CARRIED 9/0

7.2 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/111

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Ms V Edwards

Accept the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 19 September 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Mayor M Connelly, Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter, Cr R Gray, Ms V Edwards and Cr K McAulay

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr A Woodcock, Cr A Ellims and Cr P Maynard

CARRIED 8/0

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

9 REPORT BACKS AND REQUESTS FROM MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

9.1 REPORT BACK AND UPDATES FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

Martinborough Community Board members presented to the Committee on wastewater – potential alternative options for Martinborough.

This presentation is attached to the minutes.

10 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

10.1 CUSTOMER SERVICES RESPONSE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr Vins spoke briefly to matters included in the report.

Members noted significant foundational change, engagement with council officers and how the work will benefit the community in future, as well as there being a change in culture and approach to customer service at Council over the past year following Ms Smith's appointment as Chief Executive.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/112

Moved: Cr A Ellims

Seconded: Ms V Edwards

That *the Strategy Working Committee*:

1. Approve the proposed scope and timeline to implement an improved customer service response approach at South Wairarapa District Council.
2. Note the approach covers four key areas, namely:
 - a. Customer-centric approach to customer services and business processes
 - b. Knowledge base of key enquiries
 - c. Systems upgrade to enable greater automation and communication with customers
 - d. Self-service digitisation of internal and external processes where possible.
3. Note the systems upgrade work requires greater scoping to determine what is possible with existing tools and what may require development work. Should the existing budget not be sufficient for systems configuration, a further paper will be submitted to SWC for consideration.

[Items 1-3 read together]

CARRIED

10.2 DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES 2023/2024 AND 2022/2023

Ms Wilton spoke to matters in the report.

Members queried increase on attacks on persons and whether any dogs had been euthanised as a result of this. This information will be provided to members via email prior to the next meeting and publishing of the document.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/113

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Ms V Edwards

That *the Strategy Working Committee*:

1. Receive the *Dog Control Policy and Practices 2023/2024 and 2022/2023* Report.
2. Adopt the *Dog Control Policy and Practices 2023/2024* Report.
3. Adopt the attached report (Appendix 1) on *Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2022/2023*.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive to make the reports publicly available and by public notice.

[Items 1-4 read together]

CARRIED

10.3 ADOPTION OF THE 2025 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Mr Thomas spoke to matters included in the report.

Members queried lack of meetings in January and public holidays.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/114

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr C Olds

That *the Strategy Working Committee* adopt the 2025 Schedule of Ordinary Meetings for Council and Committees.

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

11.1 ACTION ITEMS

Action updates as follows:

409: Officers suggested a pilot of a No Mow policy by selecting a street in Greytown, to work with the Greytown Community Board and the community to see how this operates. Cr Bosley to follow up.

126: Legal advice has been received on Pain Farm. Action to remain open until the report is submitted to a future agenda of the Strategy Working Committee.

357: Cr Plimmer noted there was no further uptake on this issue. Action to be closed.

101: Action to be closed. Ms Smith spoke to process of how property inspections for SUIPS were carried out. Feedback on exercise discussed, including statutory declarations. Mr Gardner to Contact Cr Plimmer about Justice of the Peace support for this (drop ins).

12 APPOINTMENT REPORTS

12.1 COMMUNITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Cr Gray spoke to the report and noted there was an error on page 46 of the agenda (WMMP – should read: *joint application* not *joint Council*).

Mr Thomas spoke to highlights in the report's appendix, including the development of a Youth Advisory Group and the Ruamahanga Climate Change Review.

Members commented on the Wellington Regional Joint Committee Waste Management and Minimisation Plan feasibility study.

12.2 MEMBERS FEEDBACK FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

Cr Ellims provided updates regarding the Considine Users Group, Psychological First Aid courses, meeting with FENZ for additional Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), and the Community emergency hub open day in September.

Ms Edwards provided updates on a potential Māori Ward candidate, the upcoming Kākahu presentation to Council, Waihinga wellness walks, development schemes and the Taiana wananga this previous weekend.

Cr Woodcock provided updates on the recent drinking water consultation engagement in Greytown and noted there had been a good turnout at a drop-in session the past weekend.

Cr Gray noted the Featherston Community Board's formal meeting was scheduled this evening and there would be discussion regarding their plans to use money from a previous land sale.

13 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/115

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Cr P Maynard

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
<p>13.1 - SWDC Office Accommodation Update</p>	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - 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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>To protect external consultants and contractors fee proposals.</p>

CARRIED

14 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:17pm.

Appendix 1 - MCB Presentation

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)

Alternative wastewater options in Martinborough Village

Currently, SWDC are not able to accept any new connections to the central wastewater system for Martinborough.

This obviously puts the brakes on development.

This situation is not expected to be resolved for several years.

Planning for a solution to this, and to the multiple other water infrastructure projects urgently requiring a resolve in our region, is now with a project called “Local Water Done Well”. A dedicated team from the Wairarapa District Councils including Tararua are working together to design an organisation to manage our combined urban water, sewerage and stormwater as a stand-alone entity with councils as shareholders. It seems as though this is a better approach than the previous one which has led us down some very expensive blind alleys, however, the fix on the ground will be some time away.

In the WCDP- on the topic of wastewater- Subdivision rule SUB-S4 -Matters of Discretion - states: 3. ‘Where a central system is unavailable, all allotments must be provided with a septic tank, soakage field, or an approved alternative means to dispose of sewage in a sanitary manner within the net site area of the allotment in accordance with Council’s engineering standards.’

We request that our council assess available options and provide any that are suitable and the rules around them so that new builds can be consented in suitable situations in Residential and Commercial zones in Martinborough. Each proposal will obviously be site-specific.

MBIE have a document which gives guidance on the legislation around this:

Building Performance- Onsite disposal of wastewater

<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/g-services-and-facilities/g13-foul-water/onsite-disposal-of-wastewater>

The relevant New Zealand Standard document is AS/NZS1547 2012 : On-site domestic wastewater management.

Several Local Authorities are consenting on-site stand-alone WW systems.

Gisborne City Council is just one of several I am aware of.

It is essential for continued growth and development to be possible in Martinborough village. We cannot simply pause any development for the many years until the new infrastructure is in place. A town which cannot grow will inevitably decline.

Karen Krogh

On Behalf of the Martinborough Community Board

October 2nd 2024