
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2021 AT 3.30PM

PRESENT

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson, Councillors G W Boyde, P S Dalziel, J M S Erwood, R W Coplestone, A K Harris, V R Jones, M McKay, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Executive Administration Officer – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Community Development Officer – Mrs S Shepherd, and one member of the media (Stratford Press).

1. **WELCOME**

The District Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, members of the public, and the media.

The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. **APOLOGIES**

An apology was noted from the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the apology be noted.

BOYDE/DALZIEL
Carried
CL/21/12

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The District Mayor noted the next Ordinary meeting of Council will be held in Whangamomona on 13 April 2021. This will include a roadtrip to a place of interest for Councillors an itinerary will be circulated as soon as this is confirmed. He asked Councillors to allow for a late morning start.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

The District Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no declarations of interest.

The declaration of member's interest was circulated for updating.

5. **ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE**

The Attendance Schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

6.1 **Ordinary Meeting of Council – 9 February 2021**

D21/4592 (Pages 6-10)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

WEBBY/BOYDE
Carried
CL/21/13

6.2 **Policy & Services Committee – 23 February 2021 (Hearing)**

D21/6292 (Pages 11-14)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy & Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the Control of Advertising Signs Bylaw, held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/21/14

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy & Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the Control of Advertising Signs Bylaw, held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 be adopted.

COPESTONE/WEBBY
Carried
CL/21/15

6.3 **Policy & Services Committee – 23 February 2021**

D21/6393 (Pages 15-25)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy & Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 be received.

VOLZKE/JONES
Carried
CL/21/16

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy & Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 be adopted.

McKAY/HARRIS
Carried
CL/21/17

7. **DISTRICT MAYOR'S REPORT**
D21/4036 (Pages 26-34)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the District Mayor's report be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/21/18

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- It was noted the region had now returned to Alert Level 1.
- Councillors were reminded to keep themselves informed on the Three Waters Reform progress. There is a seminar being held on Thursday in Palmerston North which will give attendees one of the last opportunities to express their views or ask questions that could influence changes to the documents. The timeline shows a decision on these proposals will be made in May with legislation going to the house this month. The consultation period will be later in the year. The reform is very much on track and will result in some very big decisions for Councils to make. He noted he will continue to circulate any information he receives to all Councillors.
- He noted he had raised concern regarding the delays on the sealing of the Tangarakau Gorge with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. These delays were caused by consenting issues which have now been resolved. The window of opportunity over the summer has now closed for sealing work to commence however preparation work in the area will be completed to allow for the sealing to commence next summer.
- He noted the legislation amending the act that permitted public initiated polls to overturn a Council decision on the establishment of a Māori ward had now been passed and is now law. He felt that some Councillors may have let the threat of a public poll impact their initial decision to not proceed with establishing a Māori ward for the 2022 elections. The timeframes have been extended so Council could revisit this decision to establish a Māori ward for the 2022 elections or stick with the initial instruction to delay the establishment of a Māori ward until the 2025 elections to allow consultation with Iwi to be undertaken.

Points noted in discussion:

- The Deputy Mayor noted the view taken in August was that Officers would consult with Iwi to ensure the best outcome for both parties to get the best return from this decision. He felt the timeframes restricted the ability to really discuss the establishment of a Māori ward with Iwi.
- Councillor Dalziel felt it was very appropriate to have asked the question to revisit this decision now the rules have changed and the public can not petition against a decision to establish a Māori ward. He felt it was unnecessary to wait another three years to revisit this matter and felt there was sufficient time to consult with Iwi in the timeframes allowed.
- Councillor McKay supported revisiting the decision as the rules have now changed and the law change giving the ability for Council to change its mind. She noted the feedback from Iwi was that a Māori ward was a good place to start and would be consistent with other Councils. She felt it would offer the opportunity to discuss the make up of Council as a whole.
- Councillor Sandford noted he was happy to stick with the decision to leave the establishment of a Māori ward until the 2025 elections to ensure Council took its time and gets it right the first time.
- The District Mayor clarified he was asking Council if they would like to have a decision report brought later this month with all the facts and allow a decision to be made at that time. There were potentially three options that report could cover which were: 1) Stick with the status quo/do nothing until 2025 elections, 2) agree to create a Māori ward or 3) agree to go

out and consult with the community over April to gain a broader set of views and make the final decision in early May.

- Councillor Erwood felt any consultation would be rushed and put extra pressure on staff. He noted he had not seen any documents containing Iwi feedback on this issue.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a Decision Report be brought to the next Policy & Services Committee Meeting to allow Council to revisit the discussion to consider the establishment of a Māori Ward in the Stratford District for the 2022 elections.

McKAY/DALZIEL
Division
For 4
Against 7
Lost
CL/21/19

A division was called.

Those voting for the motion were: Councillors: Dalziel, McKay, Harris and the District Mayor.

Those voting against the motion were: Councillors: Boyde, Coplestone, Erwood, Jones, Sandford, Webby and the Deputy Mayor.

8. PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSE

Name: Jo Stallard
Subject: Development of an April Festival (annual) of Shakespeare as an entertainment and educational opportunity for Stratford.
Response: Thank for contributing to the forum and updating the Council. Offer support through the Community Services Team.

Name: Michael Carr
Subject: Sport Taranaki – Central Taranaki Update
Response: Acknowledge and thank for update.

9. QUESTIONS

- It was clarified the programme for the reseal of Broadway was scheduled to begin late March/early April. Recent overnight road closures were a result of waste water work being undertaken by Council prior to the new seal being laid. There would be a benefit of the movement of the pedestrian crossing as part of the work undertaken by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.
- The District Mayor noted that as part of the \$18 million investment into Taranaki roads work had been completed in Tariki, north and south of Inglewood and out of Eltham. He did not feel this work was anywhere near the promised spend of \$18 million and would ask Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency that question. The Chief Executive clarified that the work undertaken out of Eltham, near the landfill, was a result of a failure in both design and construction work so full liability fell on the designer and contractor. Repairs are done at their cost as well as a financial payment to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency upon handing the road back to the agency.

The meeting closed at 3.55pm

N C Volzke
CHAIRMAN

Confirmed this 13th day of April 2021.

N C Volzke
DISTRICT MAYOR