

Date: Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 3.30 PM  
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

### Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors S J Beck, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, A K Harris, V R Jones, W J Sandford, M J Watt

*Via audio visual link: Councillor G W Boyde*

### In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, and 1 member of the media (Stratford Press)

#### 1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed Elected Members, staff, members of the public and the media to the meeting.

##### 1.1 Opening Karakia D21/40748 Page 8

The opening karakia was read.

##### 1.2 Health and Safety Message D21/26210 Page 9

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

#### 2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau and apologies noted from the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu and the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland.

#### Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

ERWOOD/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/22/129

#### 3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

#### 4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

Councillor Hall declared a perceived conflict of interest in item 6.5 and would abstain from any discussion and voting on this item.

## 5. Attendance Schedule

Attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

## 6. Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 8 November 2022

D22/43776 Page 11

#### Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 8 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/JONES  
Carried  
CL/22/130

The Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant undertook to amend page 13, fourth bullet, “6/6 split” to “tie”.

A request was made by the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee to amend the date for the March Audit and Risk Meeting from 21 March 2023 to 14 March 2023. This will replace the workshop scheduled for this day and begin at 1pm. Two additional errors also needed correcting as below.

#### Recommendation

THAT the amendments to the Meeting Schedule (Item 9) be approved as follows:

- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 21 March 2023 - change to 1.00pm, Tuesday 14 March 2023.
- Workshop – 14 March 2023 – cancel.
- Policy and Services Committee – 25 April 2023 – amend to 18 April 2023 (due to ANZAC Day)
- Ordinary Meeting – Tuesday 10 May – be amended to correct date of Tuesday 9 May 2023.

VOLZKE/DUDLEY  
Carried  
CL/22/131

### 6.1.1 Public Forum Notes – 8 November 2022

D22/43787 Page 19

The notes from the Public Forum held on Tuesday 8 November were attached for Council's information.

**6.2 Policy and Services Committee – 22 November 2022**  
D22/46085 Page 21

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2022 be received.

McKAY/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/22/132

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2022 be adopted.

HALL/BECK  
Carried  
CL/22/133

**6.3 Farm and Aerodrome Committee – 6 December 2022**  
D22/47547 Page 28

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 be received.

VOLZKE/JONES  
Carried  
CL/22/134

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Farm and Aerodrome Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 be adopted.

BOYDE/WATT  
Carried  
CL/22/135

Councillor Boyde noted the following points:

- The committee has supported the site for another hangar to be built on the council farm land.
- There has been a lot of interest around additional hangars so the strategic plan needs to be looked at.
- The milk solid price has dropped to \$9 per kg/ms, however the farm has fixed half of its season milk solids at \$9.75 per kg/ms.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the applicant for the new hangar site was aware of the new fuel tank being installed and it could be constructed at that location.

**6.4 Audit and Risk Committee – 6 December 2022**  
D22/47533 Page 34

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD  
Carried  
CL/22/136

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 be adopted.

ERWOOD/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/22/137

**6.5 Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund – 15 November 2022**  
D22/44421 Page 42

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 be received.

HARRIS/DUDLEY  
*1 abstained*  
Carried  
CL/22/138

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 be adopted.

HARRIS/JONES  
*1 abstained*  
Carried  
CL/22/139

Councillor Harris noted there had only been one application for funding this round. The application was for Toko School (touch).

7. District Mayor's Report  
D22/42672 Page 45

**Recommendation**

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/22/140

The District Mayor clarified that Mayor Alex Walker and Mayor Craig Little had been elected to the *national* council of LGNZ.

8. Decision Report – Triennial Agreements  
D22/48402 Page 51

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD  
Carried  
CL/22/141

2. THAT the District Mayor be authorised to sign the Triennial Agreement for the Taranaki Region on behalf of the Stratford District Council.

3. THAT the District Mayor be authorised to sign the Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region on behalf of the Stratford District Council.

McKAY/SANDFORD  
Carried  
CL/22/142

**Recommended Reason**

The Stratford District Council is required to enter into Triennial Agreements for both regions and the proposed agreements are fit for purpose.

The Chief Executive noted the following points:

- There had been an amendment to the triennial agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui region which removed the reference to a joint committee. The new document had been circulated and was tabled for approval.
- It is a legal requirement that each region has such an agreement in place, Stratford requires two agreements as it spans across two regions.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- A correction was noted to page 57, clause 9, to update to *the Stratford District Council for the 2022-2025 term*.

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.  

HALL/JONES  
Carried  
CL/22/143
2. THAT the Annual Report 2021/22 be received and approved for adoption, subject to any further changes as requested by Deloitte, the independent auditors.
3. THAT the Mayor and the Chief Executive be given authority to sign the Annual Report, incorporating any late, minor, changes that may be required by Deloitte.
4. THAT the Chief Executive be authorised to publish a Summary Annual Report once the Audit Report to the Summary Report has been received from Deloitte.  

VOLZKE/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/22/144

### Recommended Reason

Section 98A of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to adopt the Annual Report 2021/22 by 31 December 2022. The audited Annual Report gives the community transparency on the Council's performance for the year. It is a statutory requirement for a local authority to, within one month after the adoption of its Annual Report; make publicly available a summary of the information contained in its Annual Report.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- There have only been minor changes from the draft Annual Report which were presented to and approved by the Audit and Risk Committee in September 2022.
- Mrs Radich acknowledged the work in preparing this document by the Corporate Accountant and the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant.
- It was noted there had been a major shift going from Audit NZ to Deloitte Ltd after having the same audit partner for such a long time. Deloitte Ltd had to learn everything about council and council's processes and have spent about 1300 hours on this audit as opposed to the 700 hours estimated.
- A list of changes that were made to the document after the agenda was printed was tabled. These were minor wording amendments and rounding adjustments.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the change in auditors was a result of Audit NZ being unable to service the industry due to the lack of auditors. This has also resulted in a change to the legislation for this year to allow for a later completion date due to the pressures on the industry.
- It was noted that the fee with Deloitte Ltd was held at the level that was contracted to with the Office of the Auditor General for Audit NZ delivery, Deloitte committed to that fee. Inflation and resourcing will be factored into next year's fee.
- It was clarified that "training on the job" referred to learning council's processes and location of assets. Auditors required a full explanation of what council does and its internal controls.
- The District Mayor noted the audit fee of \$126,000 (excluding GST) was an increase on previous years and relates to being almost 1% of the rates. He noted this to give council an idea of how outrageous these costs were and questioned if the increase in time spent on this year's audit would mean doubling the fee for next year? Mrs Radich noted that officers have requested a breakdown in differences from estimated time to actual time which will show if the majority of the time relates to being a first time audit which will not be the case next year, the audit process, resourcing or processes from council's side. A report will be brought to the Audit and Risk Committee once this breakdown has been received.
- It was clarified that the yellow date on page 118 (page 110 of Annual Report) related to a disclosure coming from the Department of Internal Affairs regarding the royal assent of the relevant legislation which is expected to be happening this week and the date will be updated then.

- The Deputy Mayor noted that there had obviously been some frustration during this process but that it was fantastic to be able to see the report through a different set of eyes.
- It was clarified that a change of auditors can only be done through a request by council to the Office of the Auditor General who will consider if they support the change or not. Deloitte Ltd have been put into Taranaki by the Office of the Auditor General and are also undertaking Taranaki Regional Council and South Taranaki District Council's audits.
- It was clarified that that increase to personnel costs was as a result of a major exercise undertaken as a result of increasing pressure finding and retaining staff and feedback received from departing and current staff. All roles were put through a review from an external agency, Strategic Pay, who does most of the role evaluations for councils in New Zealand. As a result it was found that the overall pay award to staff was a couple of years behind where it should be so an overall change to our system was required. This process ensured a coordinated approach across the organisation. It is not expected that there will be a similar rise next year with the expectation being a normal inflationary increase.

10. Information Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Annual Report 2021/22  
D22/45865 Page 205

**Recommendation**

THAT the Percy Thomson Trust Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 be received.

JONES/DUDLEY  
Carried  
CL/22/145

**Recommended Reason**

The Percy Thomson Trust is a Council Controlled Organisation of the Stratford District Council and the audit of their Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 was completed by Deloitte.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Jones noted that the Annual Report was good considering the implications of Covid-19 on visitor numbers and that the reserves were still looking good.
- It was noted that external funding would need to be monitored depending on the external funding providers and their available funds. This will need to be assessed year by year based on an application result. The Corporate Accountant noted that \$30,000 had just been granted from the Taranaki Electricity Trust towards the arboretum project.

11. Questions

There were no questions.

12. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 233

The closing karakia was read.

*The meeting closed at 4.11pm.*

N C Volzke  
**Chairman**

Confirmed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**