

Date: Tuesday 8 November 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, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, A K Harris, V R Jones, W J Sandford, C M Tongaawhikau, M J Watt

### In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Acting Director Assets – Mr S Bowden, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland and 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 (*part meeting*), the Community Development Officer – Mrs A Kingston (*part meeting*), the Community Development Officer – Mrs V Fischer (*part meeting*), the HR & Governance Officer – Mrs C Reynolds (*part meeting*), the Graduate Asset Engineer – Ms K van Hout (*part meeting*), 1 member of the public 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 4

The opening karakia was read.

##### 1.2 Health and Safety Message D21/26210 Page 5

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.

HALL/BOYDE  
Carried  
CL/22/109

#### 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.

#### 5. Attendance Schedule

Attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

## 6. Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 First Meeting of Council – 25 October 2022 D22/41719 Page 11

#### Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the First (Inaugural) Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 October 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

TONGAAWHIKAU/ERWOOD  
Carried  
CL/22/110

## 7. Decision Report - Adoption of Standing Orders D22/41898 Page 19

#### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.  

VOLZKE/SANDFORD  
Carried  
CL/22/111
2. THAT the 2022 Local Government New Zealand Standing Orders be adopted as tabled, with the following amendments:
  - a. Provisions for meetings by audio visual link – **Yes** ~~Ne~~  

BOYDE/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/22/112
  - b. Casting vote for the Chairperson – **Yes** ~~Ne~~  

SANDFORD/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/22/113
  - c. Default for speaking and moving motions:
    - i. ~~A~~ (formal)
    - ii. ~~B~~ (medium)
    - iii. **C (informal)**

BOYDE/BECK  
Carried  
CL/22/114

#### Recommended Reason

Good local governance requires us to ensure that the way in which we undertake public decision-making is open, transparent, and fair. Council standing orders aim to achieve this.

The Chief Executive noted that if council did not adopt the 2022 Standing Orders today then as it was a legal requirement for council to have active standing orders the current standing orders would remain in place.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted that if a link failure occurred during a meeting attended by audio visual link the elected member would be noted as present but their departure time would be recorded. It was clarified that the quorum is held within the room so a link failure would not affect the ability of the meeting to continue.
- It was noted there was an inconsistency with some headings having English then Te Reo and then vice versa.
- It was noted that council could review and amend the standing orders at any time.
- It was clarified that the chairperson had rarely had to use their casting vote in the past but would be needed if there was a tie.

*The Graduate Asset Engineer and HR & Governance Administrator left the meeting at 3.40pm*

Points noted in discussion:

- The Deputy Mayor noted her support for the inclusion of audio visual ability. This has been well utilised over the past three years with COVID, illnesses and other family commitments. This has been permitted under the pandemic preparedness notice which was no longer in force.
- Councillor Sandford noted his support for the inclusion of the chairpersons casting vote. This has not been used much in the past but the chairperson is the best person to gauge what they have heard around the meeting.
- Councillor Boyde noted his support for Option 3 – Informal for speaking and moving motions as this allowed for good discussion and debate and to include everyone in the meeting. He noted this could be readdressed if required.

8. [Decision Report - Adoption of Code of Conduct](#)

D22/42215 Page 233

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/WATT  
Carried  
CL/22/115

2. THAT the 2022 Local Government New Zealand Code of Conduct be adopted, **including/excluding** the ability of an independent investigator to make a binding rule.

VOLZKE/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/22/116

**Recommended Reason**

The 2022 Code of Conduct, which has been developed after consultation with councils, contains several changes to previous versions and is the result of ongoing, collective, industry-wide learning and improvements.

The Chief Executive noted that the current Code of Conduct would remain in place until council adopted a new version. This document governs how councillors interact with each other.

The District Mayor noted that the Code of Conduct was produced by Local Government New Zealand through a rigorous process including legal oversight from Simpson Grierson. He noted it was important to stick to a conventional set of rules within a code of conduct. He noted the inclusion of an independent investigator removes political pressure with the decision sitting with the investigator.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the investigator has the ability to make recommendations which will include consultation with other parties and various other steps before arrangements are put in place. The inclusion of this rule will commit council to the investigator making a binding ruling. This does remove the ownership of the process from council and protects relationships and provides a better opportunity to recover from the event.

9. Decision Report - Adoption of 2022/23 Meeting Schedule

D22/42258 Page 291

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/JONES  
Carried  
CL/22/117

2. THAT Council confirm the 2022/23 Meeting Schedule as presented.

McKAY/SANDFORD  
Carried  
CL/22/118

**Recommended Reason**

Meetings are required to be held to effectively and efficiently conduct Council business in a clear and open manner.

It is the intention of this resolution to hold two-monthly Audit and Risk Committee Meetings, monthly Ordinary Council meetings, monthly Policy and Services Committee meetings and quarterly Farm and Aerodrome Committee meetings, to ensure efficiency of implementing decisions made by all Committees and to minimise meetings falling on the same day.

10. Decision Report - Committee Appointments

D22/42219 Page 300

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the report be received.

JONES/DUDLEY  
Carried  
CL/22/119

2. THAT Council make the appointments to committees and community representations as listed in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

BOYDE/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/22/120

3. THAT Council note the appointments to committees and community representations as listed in **Table 3** and **Table 4**.

McKAY/WATT  
Carried  
CL/22/121

**Recommended Reason**

Council committees are established to meet the governance and organisational requirements of the Stratford District Council.

The District Mayor noted that this report showed a summary of the committees that are in place. *Table 1* and *Table 2* are appointments to be confirmed and *Table 3* and *Table 4* were to note the appointments that have already been made.

## 11. Decision Report - Elected Members Remuneration

D22/42280 Page 307

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/JONES  
Carried  
CL/22/122

2. THAT Elected Members choose ~~Option 1~~, **Option 2**, ~~Option 3~~ or propose an alternative option regarding the extra remuneration to councillors for roles with additional responsibilities.

SANDFORD/JONES  
Carried  
CL/22/123

3. THAT Council agree to advise the Remuneration Authority of council's proposal regarding allocation of remuneration based on the option selected in recommendation 2.

ERWOOD/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/22/124

4. THAT Council adopt the updated Elected Members Expenses Policy.

BOYDE/BECK  
Carried  
CL/22/125

### Recommended Reason

The Remuneration Authority allows Council to calculate the remuneration for councillors to recognise roles with additional responsibilities and requires input from Council as how the remuneration pool is to be allocated out.

The policy on Elected Members Expenses clarifies Council's position on elected members expenses and reimbursements.

### Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Corporate Accountant clarified that if the multiplier was changed for the Deputy Mayor remuneration to 1.5 this would amend the table as follows:
  - Deputy Mayor to \$34,435
  - Farm and Aerodrome Chair to \$26,400
  - Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Chair to \$23,875
  - Councillors with no additional responsibility to \$22,957
- It was clarified that the remuneration pool is set by the Remuneration Authority annually and that the allocation to elected members can be reviewed this term.

### Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Sandford noted his support for *Option 2* as he considered the workload at council was spread around fairly well. As it can be reviewed annually then these figures could be amended next year if it was felt necessary. He noted that most councillors were facing a decrease but that the work was not undertaken for the money but for the people.

- Councillor Jones noted Option 2 had worked previously. He noted his disappointment with the remuneration decrease was not due to the extra seat but directed at the remuneration authority only providing a 1.5% increase which did not reflect the workload undertaken by a small council.
- Councillor Hall questioned if the weighting provided in Option 2 accurately reflected the extra work for those roles? Councillor Boyde answered that the hours spent with these roles was not reflected in the remuneration but that was not why he stood for council but rather to serve the community.
- Councillor Sandford clarified that the three additional responsibilities had a fair bit of work but that the Deputy Mayor faced the hardest job including chairing the Policy and Services Committee which certainly deserved additional remuneration. The pool provided does not reflect the work undertaken by all councillors but Option 2 provided a way to acknowledge the extra work undertaken by the chairs.
- Councillor Beck supported *Option 2* as it reflected the extra work undertaken by the chairs, but reiterated that they had not stood for council for the money.
- The District Mayor noted that he felt the Deputy Mayor position was underpaid, as well as all the roles. He understood that the pool was small so if one position was increased then this would affect all roles but that when the pool was reviewed this could be reconsidered.
- Councillor Tongaawhikau supported the District Mayor's comments and noted that the workload on chairs is huge, he noted he would be prepared to take a decrease to increase the chairs remuneration.
- Councillor Erwood reminded councillors to ensure they note the amount of hours that is required of the role with the remuneration authority survey is sent to be completed. Councillor Harris noted that the participant turnout for this survey was dismal and encouraged everyone to take part when it is circulated.
- The District Mayor noted that the key change in the expenses policy was the addition of provision for child care.

*The Communications Manager left the meeting at 4.15pm.*

## 12. Decision Report - Christmas Parade Road Closure

D22/42261 Page 320

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HALL  
Carried  
CL/22/126

2. THAT, pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, Council approves the following road closures on Friday 2 December 2022, between the hours of 4.30pm and 7.30pm for the purpose of the 2022 annual Christmas Parade:

- Miranda Street between Regan Street and Fenton Street
- Fenton Street between Portia Street and Broadway (State Highway 3)
- Broadway (State Highway 3) between Seyton Street and Page Street

3. THAT Council approves the use of Seyton Street, Juliet Street, Celia Street, Orlando Street and Hills Road as the alternative route for SH3 traffic for both northbound and southbound traffic, whilst the Christmas Parade is in progress.

BOYDE/DUDLEY  
Carried  
CL/22/127

### Recommended Reason

In order for the Stratford Business Association to hold its annual Christmas Parade, it is necessary to close the roads listed above. The proposed road closures require formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

The Acting – Director Assets noted there had been no further feedback, or objections received since the report was written.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Dudley noted it was great to see this event return.

*The Community Development Officers left the meeting at 4.21pm.*

### 13. District Mayor's Report

D22/42672 Page 333

#### Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/22/128

The District Mayor noted that the opening of Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre had been a very special time. Stratford now has a first class facility and he noted his congratulations to all those who were part of the project build.

### 14. Public Forum Response

**Speaker:** Michael Carr, Sport Taranaki  
**Response:** Thank for presentation and the update.

- Councillor Sandford requested council be informed when a decision is made on the location of equestrian. The District Mayor noted that he and the Chief Executive attend the Stratford Park committee meetings and would provide updates to council.

### 15. Questions

- Councillor Hall asked if council was aware that Saturday 5 November was Parihaka Day and asked if they would like her to share information about the day and the significance. She noted that on this day 141 years ago Parihaka had been invaded. Despite being met by women and children Parihaka was plundered with crops and houses destroyed. It is a significant day in our history and the consequences for māori, Parihaka and Taranaki were devastating. It was important to acknowledge this day to be able reflect on it and learn from our past and give love and respect to those who did suffer from this in the past.
- The dress code for council meeting was questioned and noted that this had previously been stated in past code of conducts. This would be discussed with elected members as it was a group matter rather than a governance matter.

### 16. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 347

The closing karakia was read.

*The meeting closed at 4.28pm.*

N C Volzke  
**Chairman**

Confirmed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.

N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**