

Date: 8 April 2025 at 3:35 PM

Venue: Whangamomona Town Hall, Ohura Road, Whangamomona

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), 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, and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the HR & Governance Administrator – Mrs C Reynolds, one member of the Media (Stratford Press) and three members of the public.

1. Welcome

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

The opening karakia was read.

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

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau

Recommendation

THAT the apology be received.

HALL/HARRIS
Carried
CL/25/22

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 Dudley noted her perceived conflict of interest with the adoption of the Audit and Risk minutes due to the inclusion within the recommendations of the Percy Thomson Trust Statement of Intent. It was agreed that this did not require a declaration of interest as it was only confirmation of minutes and not the discussion pertaining to the item within.

5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 11 March 2025

D25/8014 Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 11 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
CL/25/23

6.1.1 Public Forum – 11 March 2025

D25/8020 Page 13

The notes from the public forum held on Tuesday 11 March were attached for council's information.

6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 18 March 2025

D25/8796 Page 15

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 be received.

VOLZKE/McKAY
Carried
CL/25/24

Points noted in discussion:

- The District Mayor noted the discussion regarding the Percy Thomson Trust Statement of Intent. He was aware the trust had adopted the updated Investment Policy and the recommendations within these minutes request that this be brought back to council with the final Statement of Intent document. He proposed a further request be added to this relating to the discussion around the budgets, particularly if the external funding within the budgets is not received.

Recommendation

THAT Council requests further information to be provided with the final Statement of Intent from the Percy Thompson Trust on the budget for the 2025/26 financial year, with a focus on the external funding provisions included within.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/25/25

- Councillor Boyde asked if this would be received at the next committee meeting and it was clarified that it was dependent on the Trust when the document and information requested is presented back to council.

Recommendations

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 be adopted.

McKAY/BECK
Carried
CL/25/26

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 25 March 2025 D25/9722 Page 23

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 be received.

ERWOOD/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/25/27

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 be adopted.

HALL/JONES
Carried
CL/25/28

6.3.1 Updated Water Demand Policy D25/3215 Page 32

The updated policy following changes made by the Policy and Services Committee was attached for council's information.

6.3.2 Updated Water Supply to Rural Properties Policy D25/2065 Page 34

The updated policy following changes made by the Policy and Services Committee was attached for council's information.

Points noted in discussion:

- The Chief Executive noted the updated policies highlighted the changes requested by elected members at the meeting.
- The Water Demand Management Policy had been presented with tabled options for inclusion and the one that was chosen is now in the document.
- The Water Supply to Rural Properties has been updated to distinguish between new and existing connections and remove the negative phrasing. Councillor Boyde congratulated officers on the wording within the policy and felt the changes alleviated the concerns raised.

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/25/29

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- The sealing of SH43 is now complete with the entire journey between Stratford and Taumarunui now sealed. This marks the end of 160 years of campaigning from the early 1880s to now to have this road sealed. He acknowledged the cooperation of NZTA and the Provincial Growth Fund noting that it was originally a \$12 million project to seal 12kms of road but had ended at close to \$30 million as they had funded other projects along the road including the two lane bridge at Kopuatama Cemetery. He also acknowledged Councillor Harris for her work during this project in liaising with locals and passing on concerns. Her local voice meant the outrageous proposals for road closures were changed to be better suited.
- He noted the meeting with NIWA and that the drought is not ended after a few days of rain as it will take months of sustained rainfall to get the ground water tables back up to where they should be. The Mayoral Forum has commissioned a report on the availability of water throughout the region so we can look to the future and develop a strategy on how to deal with future droughts.
- It was noted that the youth member of parliament will be announced by MP Carl Bates.

8. Public Forum Response

Speaker: Matthew Dimock, Stratford Christmas Parade

Response: Thank Mr Dimock for his attendance and note that a report with options for his request for support has been requested to be brought to council.

Points noted in discussion:

- A request was made to the Director – Community Services to provide a decision report to the Policy and Services committee to see what options there are for supporting the Christmas Parade.
- The District Mayor noted that when council made the decision to withdraw funding from the Stratford Business Association it was a cost saving measure. Asking for some of this support back means the financial element needs to be considered. The Christmas Parade is currently run by the association with council staff helping.
- Councillor Hall noted that the association was not asking for funding but for continued partnership, she noted the conversation had been around the cost of this support but not into the depth of how this would affect staff. The Chief Executive noted that the decision removed a role on staff, any support provided now would require resource to be allocated to it. Councillor Hall noted the staff member had always been well supported by the community services team and felt that the association may not have realised the support of that team would not be included in a partnership.
- Councillor Boyde noted his concern was that there had been a total review of their relevance and where they want to go in the future but it hadn't progressed any further and had not been brought back to council. The District Mayor noted that Mr Dimock had stated the relationship had broken down and was dysfunctional but that the request today was for support with the Christmas Parade.
- Councillor Sandford noted that if this was going to require staffing support then councillors needed to know the cost to ratepayers.
- The Deputy Mayor noted she would like to see a transition option within the decision report, help with training the new secretary but not taking the event on permanently.

The Director – Community Services noted there were very clear step by step instructions available and that these are reviewed every year after the parade.

- The District Mayor suggested including the AmeriCARna event into the same report, but noted the funding mechanism was completely different and the report would need to identify that it is a completely different arrangement. It is still a free community event but the road to getting it here is quite different.
- Councillor Sandford noted the involvement of the Youth Council in the Christmas Parade each year as well.
- Councillor Hall felt that the association needed to look at their membership base for support.

Speaker: Ben Burgess and Paul Vanner, Royal A&P Show

Response: Thank for attendance and note that a report with options for their request for support has been requested to be brought to council.

Points noted in discussion:

- A report was requested to have the options for supporting the event presented to council formally. Staff may meet with the association to discuss potential options for support first.
- Councillor Beck noted that these are two of the biggest events – A&P Show and Christmas Parade, and he did not want to see them fail. He felt council should do as much as they can.

9. Questions

- It was noted that Councillor Boyde had been selected to play for the NZ Masters Hockey team in Australia. This would be the 17th year playing for NZ Masters.
- Councillor Sandford noted he had had a rate payer question the leaves outside Sgt Peppers and the Library and asked how often this area is cleaned. Mr Hanne noted that there had been a significant storm event over the weekend and contractors had been focussed on more dangerous damage being cleaned. He clarified the contract for this area was to a standard rather than frequency and would follow it up to ensure it is on the list for clean up.
- Councillor Sandford noted the unhappiness from the community with the showers at Wai o Rua. He noted the shower temperature being too hot is an issue, with heat increasing when toilets are flushed. He asked if the original contractors are fronting up to fix this problem and why it was still happening after 2 years of operation. The Director – Assets noted officers are waiting for a report from a plumber to be able to approach Apollo to fix. It will be noted in the Assets Monthly Report when fixed.
- Councillor Dudley noted there was a working bee at the Percy Thomson Arboretum at 10.00am this Sunday.

10. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 45

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 13th day of May 2025

N C Volzke
District Mayor