

Date: 10 June 2025 at 3.30 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors: G W Boyde, S J Beck, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, A K Harris, 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 – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Property and Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, 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 approved leave of absence was noted for Councillors A M C Dudley, V R Jones and C M Tongaawhikau.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/25/40

3. Announcements

The District Mayor requested the following statement be recorded in full:

“Last week I spoke with Councillor Clive Tongaawhikau. Clive has been challenged by some personal issues over recent months and it has become increasingly difficult for him to fulfil his many roles in the community, including his commitment to his role as a District Councillor. This situation is unlikely to improve in the short term. This week I received a request from Councillor Tongaawhikau for a period of leave of absence. I have considered this request and approved the leave of absence effective from today the 10 June 2025 through to 11 October 2025. During the period of the leave of absence the councillor honorarium will be discontinued. I want to publicly acknowledge and thank Councillor Tongaawhikau for his contribution over the last 2 ½ years and wish him all the best”

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 an interest in item 6.3 – Confirmation of Minutes - Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee.

5. Attendance Schedule

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

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Audit and Risk Committee – 13 May 2025 D25/16028 (PE) & D25/18894 (Open)

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Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 13 May 2025 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting, including the public excluded section, held on Tuesday 13 May 2025 be adopted.

ERWOOD/HARRIS
Carried
CL/25/41

6.2 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 13 May 2025 D25/16046

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Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 13 May 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/25/42

6.2.1 Public Forum Notes D25/16056

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The notes from the public forum were attached for Council's information.

Councillor Hall left the table at 3.36pm.

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 be received.

ERWOOD/WATT
Carried
CL/25/43

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 be adopted.

HARRIS/McKAY
Carried
CL/25/44

Councillor Harris noted this round was the most contested round with a total of \$18,387 applied for and \$11,739 distributed. It was really encouraging to see new applicants as well as the usual ones.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Harris clarified that the accountability forms are not a requirement, however this process varies across different district councils who administer the fund. The committee has recommended to adopt a template that was drafted from rural schools who do a fantastic job in accounting for distribution of the funds.

Councillor Hall re-joined the table at 3.39pm.

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Farm Committee held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/25/45

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Farm Committee held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 be adopted.

BOYDE/HALL
Carried
CL/25/46

Councillor Boyde noted that the committee had spoken about the new tools Fonterra has for setting fixed milk prices and what this could look like in the future. He noted this has not only been a record year in production with less cows, but also a record payout. This is due to the outstanding performance of the sharemilkers. The District Mayor asked that this be passed onto the sharemilkers to acknowledge the outstanding results with high production with less stock and less environmental impact.

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/25/47

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 be adopted.

McKAY/WATT
Carried
CL/25/48

6.5.1 Amendment to Taranaki Aquatics Network Plan Page 50

Attached for council's information.

7. District Mayor's Report D25/19640 Page 51

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/25/49

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- The meeting with Mayor Holdom and Minister for Health – Simeon Brown last week was the first visit to the region with him in the role of Minister for Health. One issue that has cropped up is the delay in x-rays being read and when raised he was not only aware of the problem but had just put solutions in place. This issue has been plaguing the health system for months and was resolved by writing a contract with a private supplier.
- Local Water Done Well – council received 185 submissions which will be circulated as soon as possible. He noted that South Taranaki had received over 700 submissions. The Chief Executive noted the agenda will be circulated early but that there would not be any management response on the submissions as this is a politically led decision, there will also not be an officers recommendation.

8. Public Forum Response

Speaker: Peter Reed and Rob Green – Heritage Taranaki

Response:

- Thank presenters for highlighting the issues that they did. Accept the offer for a pro-bono assessment of our heritage assets. Note that staff will liaise with them on this.
- It was clarified that there is a list of heritage sites in the District Plan, but there is no budget specifically assigned to maintenance of these as work is usually budgeted for within general repairs and maintenance. Councillor Hall requested that a dedicated budget be included for discussion during the next Long Term Plan process.

9. Questions

There were no questions.

10. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 56

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 8th day of July 2025

N C Volzke
District Mayor