



**MINUTES OF AN EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATED MONDAY, 1 APRIL 2021 IN THE
ŌPŌTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 108 ST JOHN STREET, ŌPŌTIKI AT 9.00AM**

PRESENT:

Mayor Lyn Riesterer (via Zoom)
Deputy Mayor Shona Browne (Chairperson for this meeting)
Councillors:
Debi Hocart (via Zoom)
David Moore
Steve Nelson
Louis Rāpihana

IN ATTENDANCE:

Aileen Lawrie (Chief Executive Officer)
Bevan Gray (Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager)
Glen McIntosh (Engineering and Services Group Manager (Acting)) (via Zoom)
Greg Robertson (Chief Financial Officer)
Peter Bridgwater (Accountant)
Jo Hunt (Library Manager)
Gae Finlay (Executive Assistant and Governance Support Officer)
Julian Sewell

MEDIA:

Mike Fletcher (Correspondent)

GUEST:

Leon Pieterse (Audit New Zealand)

Deputy Mayor Browne opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She acknowledged the hard work by Councillors, staff and Audit New Zealand to get to the point of today's meeting, noting that this meeting is procedural. It is the day we move from our own internal thinking to asking our community what they think. Today is the final adoption of the plans we have developed over the many workshops, meetings and documents we have had over the last nine months.

Deputy Mayor Browne noted that the last year has not been easy with the Harbour Project, the PGF funding, Covid and the Recovery funding. She acknowledged the challenges and the need to move forward differently with this Long Term Plan. The environment has become more complex and it

demands more of staff and Councillors; it demands a more professional approach, our community expects more, and we are closer to our iwi than ever before, as they navigate their own challenges.

For today's agenda, Deputy Mayor Browne expressed the hope that we all agree we are in this together and hold the Ōpōtiki community's interests foremost in our minds and that we are ready to tackle the big challenges in front of us.

APOLOGIES

Nil.

DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor Nelson declared an interest as a landowner in the Hukutaia area.

PUBLIC FORUM

Nil.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 15 MARCH 2021 **p3**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council meeting held on 15 March be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Rāpihana/Moore

Carried

2. FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2021-2021 LONG TERM PLAN **p10**

The Accountant spoke to the report. He advised that the vast majority of the fees and charges have not changed significantly, although there have been some inflationary increases. Water meter charges (the introduction of a stepped rate) have been workshoped with Council.

Her Worship the Mayor noted that this is the first time in her three terms on Council that there has been a small increase in charges.

RESOLVED

(1) That the report titled "Fees and Charges for the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan" be received.

(2) That the draft Fees and Charges be approved for use in the preparation of the Long Term Plan.

(3) That the draft Fees and Charges be made available for feedback from the public.

Rāpihana/HWTM

Carried

3. 2021-2031 LONG TERM PLAN SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

p34

The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager spoke to the report. He advised that the Financial Statements are post-audit as are the Asset Management Plans. He further advised that it has been important through the preparation of this Long Term Plan that affordability was considered as a key element of the Financial Strategy.

A powerpoint presentation from the Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager covered the following items:

- What did we do?
- Where we are now
- Affordability of the 2021-31 LTP
- What we will cover
 - Purpose
 - Deprivation
 - Year 1 affordability
 - Year 10 affordability
- UAGC

From a discussion regarding the proposed increase in rates, the Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager advised the rate increase proposed is 6.48%, being 5.4% for general rates and 9.6% for targeted rates. He also advised that Council has not given direction to cut any projects, and we are choosing at the moment not to balance the budget for a couple of years because of managing the rate risk.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the bulk of the underlying documents have been previously workshopped and adopted by Council and today's decision is around a proposal for consultation, not setting a rate increase. That final decision will be taken in June after consultation.

Councillor Howe felt that Councillors were rubber stamping the supporting documentation, i.e. saying they agree with it.

The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager reminded Councillors that the underlying information has been workshopped with Council. The Consultation Document is a later item on the agenda.

The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager stated that the underlying information will be on Council's website and there will be comms which will include links for people to look at this information.

The Chief Executive Officer referred to the jigsaw diagram which has been used throughout the Long Term Plan process to date. Each of the underlying information documents is a piece of the jigsaw. It is complex but it what the law says we have to do.

Councillor Moore stated that he was not objecting to anything in this document. He queried what would happen if the rate was set and something went wrong, noting that there are a lot of projects on the go at present.

The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager said that Government funding could be an option. Any budget blowout would come back to Council and if submitters say no to items then those items would come out of the Long Term Plan.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council has the option to stop a project. She added that she was concerned this conversation was being had now as the matters being raised have been discussed since July last year. There will be another opportunity post-consultation for Council to consider finalising the Long Term Plan.

Councillor Howe said he had been away for a while but felt that there should have been one further workshop to cover the items currently being discussed. Although time is of the essence, Council has to make the right decision for the ratepayers.

Councillor Nelson queried why there was no option to say 'no' to the Coast Mobile Services item. The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager stated that Coast Mobile Services was consulted on previously and the community said they wanted that service.

Councillor Moore said he understood that this is a chance for the public to have their say but he is concerned the Consultation Document is going out in the form it is in. It is not a Consultation Document;

it is 'a telling you what you want' document. He noted that he recently raised the Library cost v bins which was not explained in the workshop. He was of the opinion that concerns raised at workshops do not get addressed.

Councillor Rāpihana said he was happy to move the recommendations and Councillor Hocart stated she would second that.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "2021-2031 Long term Plan Supporting Documentation" be received.**
- (2) That Council approve the following 2021-2031 Long Term Plan supporting documents for public use during consultation:**
 - **Draft Funding Impact Statement**
 - **Draft Financial Statements**
 - **Draft Financial Strategy**
 - **Draft Asset Management Plans**

Rāpihana/Hocart

Carried

A division was called for by Deputy Mayor Browne as Chair.

For: Councillors Rāpihana and Hocart, Her Worship the Mayor, Deputy Mayor Browne

Against: Councillors Howe and Nelson

Councillor Moore abstained from voting.

Her Worship the Mayor raised a Point of Order stating that Council had just voted on the recommendations on page 37 of the agenda. She stated that Councillors have been discussing the Consultation Document and not the Underlying Information which was the matter currently before the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Browne, as Chair, agreed with Her Worship the Mayor and in accordance with Standing Orders advised the Point of Order is not open to any discussion and is final.

The Library Manager entered the meeting at 10.05am.

4. HUKUTAIA GROWTH AREA, RISKS AND MITIGATION

p67

The Engineering and Services Group Manager (Acting) spoke to the report.

Responding to a query around consultation, the Engineering and Services Group Manager stated that the community will be consulted and if there is significant demand then that gives us the critical mass.

Having conversations with the community is one of the mitigations in the report. The Engineering and Services Group Manager (Acting) said he was anticipating kerbside community meetings, informal but coalface consultation with Hukutaia landowners. He acknowledged that feedback is core to the project and there is a need to be proactive across all of the risks.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked the Engineering and Services Group Manager (Acting) for the thoroughness of the report. She was heartened by the thoughtful response of what Council need to do to mitigate the high risk. Council has been given a very good platform to move forward with.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that a letter around housing was sent to the Minister of Housing last week, noting that there is quite a good opportunity with the \$1.8b Infrastructure Fund to put in a Business Case.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled “Hukutaia Growth Area, Risks and Mitigation” be received.**
- (2) That Council considers and formalises into an Action Plan, the mitigation measures outlined in this report (and any others as deemed necessary, and responsibility for implementation assigned, following the adoption of the Long Term Plan for consultation.**
- (3) That Council approves the report to be provided as underlying information to the Consultation Document as part of the LTP process.**

HWTM/Rāpihana

Carried

The Chief Executive Officer left the meeting at 10.07am and returned at 10.11am.

5. 2021-2031 LONG TERM PLAN CONSULATION DOCUMENT

p78

The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager spoke to the report. Everything has been discussed and adopted by full Council. It is the story we want to tell the community over the next 10 years, not the detail. You are wanting to ask the community the question around an increase in level of service and if they are happy to pay for that. At this point in time Councillors have all had their say and it is now for the community to have their say and tell us what they think is important.

The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager introduced Leon Pieterse from Audit New Zealand.

Leon Pieterse thanked Council for the invitation to attend the meeting. He stated that he likes hearing the discussion and valid questions asked. Further, he extended thanks to the Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager and the Engineering and Services Group Manager (Acting) for their work, as well as everyone else involved in the preparation of the Consultation Document. He noted that the Business Innovation and Communications Advisor has put a lot of time into the preparation of the document and good comments have come from the Auditor General's office that it is a good document.

Leon Pieterse advised that the audit has been finalised and Audit is comfortable that the document is fit for purpose for consultation and the underlying information which has been audited is reasonable.

In response to a query, the Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager stated that following consultation a wide ranging level of feedback will have been received from the community and it will come down to the hearings and deliberations process where Councillors can choose to add, amend or remove items – we are not at the procurement stage yet.

The Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager gave some clarification to queries around the capital vs operating costs relating to the Coast Mobile Services and the bins item.

Councillor Rāpihana commented that he would like to see the possibility of full Te Reo Māori for the next Consultation Document.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "2021-2031 Long Term Plan Consultation Document" be received.**
- (2) That Council approve the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan Consultation Document for consultation use.**

Rāpihana/Nelson

Carried

Councillor Rāpihana thanked the Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager for all of his hard work over the last few years.

Deputy Mayor Browne extended thanks to Councillors for their attendance at the many Long Term Plan workshops. She also acknowledged the work of staff, in particular the Finance and Corporate Services Group Manager and the Engineering and Services Group Manager (Acting).

Deputy Mayor Browne thanked the Executive Assistant & Governance Support Officer for her continuing support of Councillors.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.43AM.

**THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE CERTIFIED AS BEING A
TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD AT A SUBSEQUENT
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20 APRIL 2021**

L J RIESTERER

HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR