



**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATED, TUESDAY, 4 AUGUST 2026 IN THE
ŌPŌTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 108 ST JOHN STREET, ŌPŌTIKI AT 10.00AM**

PRESENT:

Mayor David Moore (Chairperson)
Deputy Mayor Maude Maxwell (Deputy Chairperson)
Councillors:
Shona Browne
Curley Keno
Dean Petersen
Pāpā Wharewera

IN ATTENDANCE:

Stace Lewer (Chief Executive Officer)
Nathan Hughes (Group Manager Service Delivery)
Antoinette Campbell (Group Manager Strategy and Development)
Rachael Burgess (Group Manager Business Support)
Billy Kingi (Finance Manager)
Peter Edwards (Building and Planning Manager)
Kurt Bledsoe (Resource Consents and Policy Planner)
Maheesha Silva (Governance Support Officer)
Ranjini Manoharan (Executive Support Officer)
Gae Finlay (Executive Assistant and Governance Lead)

The meeting commenced with a karakia from His Worship the Mayor, David Moore, who then addressed Council.

This is probably the biggest decision we are going to have to make as a Council. I am wearing the chains today and the first name on them is Mayor Elliott 1911-1913. I was looking and reflecting on those who were sitting with the chains on during the two World Wars which puts some perspective on today. This is a big day. It is a big decision ahead of us. We have a large agenda but we will keep flipping back to Item 11 [Simplifying Local Government Head Start Pathway Proposal] that has been forced on us. Not a decision we wanted to make today but one we are going to have to make, and a very tough one.

Councillor Petersen opened the meeting with an inspirational verse.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Howe, Councillor Nelson

RESOLVED

- (1) That the apologies be sustained.**

HWTM/Browne

Carried

DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Nil.

PUBLIC FORUM

Nil.

- 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 9 JUNE 2026** **p4**

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 9 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

HWTM/Browne

Carried

- 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 29 JUNE 2026** **p14**

Councillor Keno was sure that Timeframe and Representation were also mentioned as concerns (page 21 of the agenda) and asked that they be added to the list of concerns.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

HWTM/Wharewera

Carried

- 3. MINUTES – RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 9 MARCH 2026** **p23**

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 9 March, and any recommendations therein, be received.**

Petersen/HWTM

Carried

4. DRAFT MINUTES – COAST COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING 30 JUNE 2026 p32

RESOLVED

- (1) That the draft minutes of the Coast Community Board meeting held on 30 June 2026 and any recommendations therein, be received.**

Wharewera/HWTM

Carried

5. MINUTES – PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY COMMITTEE MEETING 20 MAY 2026 p39

- (1) That the minutes of the Performance and Delivery Committee meeting held on 20 May 2026, and any recommendations therein, be received.**

Petersen/HWTM

Carried

6. MINUTES – BAY OF PLENTY MAYORAL FORUM MEETING 11 JUNE 2026 p44

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum meeting held on 11 June 2026 be received.**

HWTM/Maxwell

Carried

7. MINUTES – REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING 26 JUNE 2026 p57

RESOLVED

- (1) That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 26 June 2026 be received.**

HWTM/Browne

Carried

8. MINUTES – BAY OF PLENTY CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING 3 JULY 2026 p68

- (1) That the minutes of the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee meeting held on 16 April 2026 be received.**

HWTM/Wharewera

Carried

9. MAYORAL REPORT 30 MAY 2026-24 JULY 2026 **p81**

His Worship the Mayor highlighted attending the Zone 3 meeting in Napier with Kawerau Mayor, Faylene Tunui. That meeting was also attended by Minister Watts.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the port titled "Mayoral Report 30 May 2026-24 July 2026" be received.**

HWTM/Maxwell

Carried

10. CORRECTION OF TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE 2026/27 RATES RESOLUTION **p87**

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Correction of Typographical Error in the 2026/27 Rates Resolution" be received.**
- (2) That Council notes that a typographical error occurred in the adopted 2026/27 Rates Resolution in relation to the connection Ōpōtiki/Hukutaia Water Supply targeted rate.**
- (3) That Council notes for the corrected statement to read: Ōpōtiki/Hukutaia Water Supply (Connected) "\$644.79" per separately used or inhabited part, rather than "\$664.79" per separately used or inhabited part.**
- (4) That the Ōpōtiki District Council, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, resolves to correct the adopted Rates Resolution of 29th June, to replace the incorrect figure of \$664.79 with the corrected amount of \$644.79 for Ōpōtiki/Hukutaia Water Supply (Connected), as per the corrected 2026/27 Rates Resolution details which are attached to the report as Appendix 1.**

HWTM/Keno

Carried

11. SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT HEAD START PATHWAY PROPOSAL **p96**

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the difficult position Elected Members are faced with today and thanked them for engaging in the process which has been imposed by Central Government. He further acknowledged the Working Group who have undertaken a large amount of work in a short timeframe and under a lot of pressure. Iwi, the community and those who put in a submission were also acknowledged.

The Chief Executive Officer noted the following as risks:

- There are a number of risks, some of which are articulated in the report.

- There is still a lot of work to do to obtain the detail and understand what the impact on the community could be including transition costs, rates, how debt will be managed, timeframe and will there be an opportunity to exit once we are engaged in the Head Start process.
- The main risk is the potential impact on representation and local voice.
- The process is not currently in legislation.

Deputy Mayor Maxwell presented a petition with 369 signatures and a petition summary. She acknowledged Nina Pirihi who co-ordinated and delivered the submission. All of the signatories were against amalgamation, however if hands are tied, they would prefer an Eastern Bay approach. The petitioners also asked that the information provided with the petition is presented in any submissions or proposals that Council makes.

His Worship the Mayor asked that the petition be incorporated into the feedback received.

Councillors, individually, provided their feedback on the Head Start Pathway Proposal.

At the suggestion of Councillor Browne, it was agreed that delegation be given to His Worship the Mayor as well as the Chief Executive to make any final minor adjustments to the proposal document in consultation with the Kawerau and Whakatāne District Council Chief Executives if required.

RESOLVED

- (1) **That the report titled “Simplifying Local Government Head Start Pathway Proposal” be received.**
- (2) **That Council approves the attached *Eastern Bay of Plenty Unitary Council Head Start Outline Proposal* for submission to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (formerly Department of Internal Affairs) as part of the Head Start Pathway; and**
- (3) **That Council notes that the Eastern Bay of Plenty Unitary Council Outline Proposal is being considered for approval by Whakatāne District Council on 4 August 2026 and Kawerau District Council on 5 August 2026; and**
- (4) **That Council supports a consistent wider regional view for three Unitary Councils including Eastern Bay, Western Bay, and Rotorua-Central configurations, and supports Head Start proposals and long-term aspirations of other councils on this basis; and**
- (5) **That Council agrees to work with the other Councils, and the current Regional Council, in implementation planning and delivery should the Head Start proposals be approved; and**
- (6) **That Council approves the Mayor signing, on behalf of the Council, a letter of endorsement from all Mayors of the Bay of Plenty acknowledging and supporting each other’s sub-**

**regional proposals and preferences for a three Unitary Council structure in the Bay of Plenty;
and**

- (7) That Council agrees to work with other councils to consider wider regional and cross boundary function delivery where appropriate in future unitary delivery models; and**
- (8) That Council provide delegation to the Opotiki District Council Mayor and Chief Executive to make any final minor adjustments to the proposal document in consultation with the Kawerau and Whakatāne District Council Chief Executives if required; and**
- (9) That Council acknowledges that unbudgeted resourcing may be requested for the next state of Head Start pathway, subject to a cabinet in-principle decision in support of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Unitary Council proposal.**

HWTM/Petersen

Carried

Against: Keno

12. PREPARING FOR THE BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL SPATIAL PLAN

p204

The Group Manager Strategy and Development advised that since the report was written the Select Committee has reported back on both the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill and noted the following:

- Over 3,000 submissions were received which resulted in some changes.
- The Committee recommended revising the purpose of the Planning Bill and puts greater emphasis on the enjoyment of land.
- Nearly all submitters opposed the regulatory relief regime, however the Committee has retained it with minor amendments.
- Existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreements will no longer transfer into the new planning system.
- Transition timeframes to notify Regional Spatial Plans have been amended to within 21 months of enactment, rather than 15 months.
- Timeframes for notification of the Natural Environment Plans and Land Use Plans remain unchanged, however are to be notified within nine months of the adoption of Regional Spatial Plans and decisions required within 12 months of the notification.
- The Draft Programme Plan will be updated to reflect the new timeframes and will be reflected in the report to the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum on 10 September 2026.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Preparing for the Bay of Plenty Regional Spatial Plan" be received.**
- (2) That the approach to identifying key geographical areas, issues, and opportunities laid out in section 7 of the Process Agreement Options Report (Attachment 1) is appropriate.**
- (3) That the Spatial Planning Committee evaluation principles in section 8 of the Process Agreement Options Report (Attachment 1) are appropriate.**

- (4) That identified spatial planning committee options and recommended direction is appropriate for further consideration by the local authorities of the BOP Region based on the current Planning Bill.
- (5) That there is understanding that the development of the first regional spatial plan for the BOP will be a collaborative exercise that recognises the roles and responsibilities of each local authority, sub-regional joint committee and the SPC and supports that these roles and responsibilities be clearly articulated in the Process Agreement and Terms of Reference of each part of the decision-making process.
- (6) That there is acknowledgement that the local authorities of the BOP region, as the final decision makers on the Process Agreement, will be responsible for any further direction and decision making on the matters contained in this report after enactment of legislation, including agreeing the Terms of Reference for the Spatial Planning Committee (nothing a required update to the Mayoral Forum Terms of Reference).

HWTM/Wharewera

Carried

The Building and Planning Manager and the Resource Consents and Policy Planner left the meeting at 11.15am.

13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S UPDATE

p234

The Chief Executive Officer made mention of the following:

- There have been a number of engagements around Simplifying Local Government.
- Ōpōtiki Rising Engagement – thanks were extended to the team who organised the engagement events and Elected Members who attended.
- The Eastern Bay of Plenty Chamber of Commerce is having more presence in Ōpōtiki.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Chief Executive Officer's Update" be received.

HWTM/Wharewera

Carried

14. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

p241

SECTION 48 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION & MEETINGS ACT 1987

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- 15. Confirmation of In-Committee Minutes – Ordinary Council Meeting 9 June 2026.**
- 16. In-Committee Minutes – Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting 9 March 2026.**
- 17. Notes From Council Workshops.**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
15.	Confirmation of In-Committee Minutes – Ordinary Council Meeting 9 June 2026.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.	Section 48(1)(a)
16.	In-Committee Minutes – Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting 9 March 2026.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists	Section 48(1)(a)
17.	Notes From Council Workshops	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

15.	Protect the privacy of natural persons Protect information Protection from improper pressure or harassment Prevent disclosure or use of official information Carry out negotiations Maintain legal professional privilege Carry out commercial activities	Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(b)(i) & (ii); (d) & (e) and Section 7(2)(c)(i) & (ii) Section 7(2)(f)(ii) Section 7(2)(j) Section 7(2)(i) Section 7(2)(g) Section 7(2)(h)
16.	Protect the privacy of natural persons Protect information (commercial sensitivity) Protection from improper pressure or harassment Prevent disclosure or use of official information Carry out commercial activities.	Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(f)(ii) Section 7(2)(j) Section 7(2)(h)
17.	Protection from improper pressure or harassment Prevent disclosure or use of official information	Section 7(2)(f)(ii) Section 7(2)(j)

RESOLVED

- (1) That the resolutions made while the public was excluded, be confirmed in open meeting.**
- (2) That the public be readmitted to the meeting.**

Petersen/Keno

Carried

RESOLVED

- (1) That the in-committee minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 9 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

Maxwell/HWTM

Carried

RESOLVED

- (1) That the in-committee minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 9 March 2026, and any recommendations therein, be received.**

Petersen/HWTM

Carried

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report titled "Notes From Council Workshops" be received.**
- (2) That the Council agrees to publicly release the full notes related to the 15 June 2026, 8 July 2026 and 15 July 2026 workshops.**

HWTM/Petersen

Carried

Councillor Wharewera closed the meeting with a karakia.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.29AM.

**THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE CERTIFIED AS BEING A
TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD AT A SUBSEQUENT
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER
2026**

D G T MOORE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR