

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 1:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Steve Cretney (Chair), Deputy Mayor Grace Ayling (Deputy Chair), Cr Brian Deller (via videoconference), Cr Steve Laurence, Cr Lou Newman, Cr Steve Gallon, Cr Rachel Round, Cr Jane Burns, Cr Simon Casey

IN ATTENDANCE: Staff

Geoff Hamilton (Chief Executive), Marc Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer), Solitaire Robertson (Group Manager Planning and Regulatory), Glenda Seville (Group Manager Community and Facilities), Lawrence Stephenson (Group Manager Infrastructure), Sara Renall (Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor), Robyn Blue (Democratic Services Officer)

Other

Anna Maxwell and Roger Wigglesworth (Destination Wairarapa)

Matt Carrere (videoconference) and Anna Lawrence and Natasha Kyd (Wellington NZ)

KARAKIA TIMATANGA

The meeting opened with a karakia by all members.

REMEMBERANCE

There was a minute's silence to remember two previous councillors who had recently passed away:

Bill Knowles – Bill served 15 years on Council, and one term as Deputy Mayor. He was instrumental in the development of Sparks Park, and was the inaugural Chair of the Sparks Park Committee.

Barbara Durban - Barbara was a councillor from 2007 to 2013. She was an advocate for community-led projects and was particularly involved in infrastructure and planning. She was a key driver for development of the Wairarapa Events Centre, and was known for her honesty and integrity.

1 APOLOGIES

MOVED

That an apology be received from Joel Ngātūere.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr L Newman

CARRIED

2 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

4 DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC FORUM

Not applicable.

5 YOUTH COUNCIL VIEWS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Nil.

6 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2025

MOVED

1. That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10 December 2025 are true and correct.

Cr J Burns / Cr R Round

CARRIED

7 REPORTS

8.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

1. PURPOSE

For Council to be informed on planned Council operational activities, major projects, and other matters of importance and interest.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr R Round

CARRIED

2. **Agrees** to bring forward \$800,000 of the 2026/27 Water Supply Network Renewals budget to allow continuation of work.
3. **Agrees** to the transfer of \$540,362 from Backflow Prevention budget (WSC25Boundrybackflow) to the Water Supply network renewal budget (WSC25Mainsreplace).
4. **Agrees** to the transfer of \$132,230 from Condition Assessment budget (WSC25Conditionassess) to the Water Supply network renewal budget (WSC25Mainsreplace).

Mayor S Cretney / Cr S Gallon

CARRIED

8.2 DESTINATION WAIRARAPA QUARTERLY REPORT

1. PURPOSE

For the council to receive a report of activities for the quarter ending December 2025.

NOTED

- Wairarapa has been recognised by Lonely Planet as a 'Best in Travel' destination. This will generate significant international media coverage valued at over \$4 million.
- Dark Sky tourism initiatives and the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail partnership were highlighted as key growth opportunities, which will bring an increase in international visitors to the Wairarapa.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr S Casey

CARRIED

8.3 WELLINGTON NZ QUARTERLY REPORT

1. PURPOSE

For Council to receive a report of activities for the quarter 31 December 2025 on the delivery of the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Deputy Mayor G Ayling / Cr S Casey

CARRIED

8.4 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025**1. PURPOSE**

To present the quarterly financial and non-financial performance results to the Council for the period ending 31 December 2025.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Cr L Newman / Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED**8.5 CARRINGTON PARK PLAY SPACE UPGRADE****1. PURPOSE**

For the council to receive an update on the project and consider allocation of additional funds to support the project.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr L Newman

2. **Approves** and additional \$900,000 unbudgeted expenditure, funded from Reserves Contribution Fund and Parks & Reserves Depreciation Reserve, as appropriate.

For the motion – Mayor S Cretney, Cr S Laurence, Cr L Newman, Cr J Burns, Cr S Gallon

Against the motion – Cr B Deller, Cr S Casey, Cr R Round, Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

The meeting went into recess at 3 pm, and reconvened at 3.10 pm.

8.6 2026/27 ANNUAL PLAN CONSULTATION APPROACH**1. PURPOSE**

For the Council to determine its community engagement approach for the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Cr L Newman / Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

2. **Resolves** that the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 does not contain any significant or material difference from Year 3 of the Long-term Plan 2024-34, and therefore, in accordance with section 95(2) and 95(2A), consultation is not required however, information will be provided to the community regarding the content of the plan following adoption.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr R Round

CARRIED**8.7 REVIEW OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE CHIEF OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS****1. PURPOSE**

For Council to review CDC actions arising from the Chief Ombudsman's report on Council meetings and workshops.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney / Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

2. **Agrees** to not uploading Advisory Group meetings to You Tube.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr L Newman

CARRIED

3. **i) Agrees** to continuing the practice of not producing public-excluded agendas and minutes of the Chief Executive and Mayor's sessions.

Cr S Laurence / Cr S Gallon

CARRIED

4. **Agrees** to continue making Council meetings available to the public through a Teams link and also uploading to YouTube.

Cr L Newman / Cr S Casey

CARRIED

5. **Agrees** that only workshops with identified public interest are uploaded to YouTube, otherwise they will be made available on request.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr S Casey

CARRIED

6. **Notes** there are no other changes to planned actions in response to the Chief Ombudsman's Report in 2023 on workshops and his recommendations to Councils.

Mayor S Cretney / Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

8.8 COMBINED WAIRARAPA DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW – JOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the recommended composition of the Joint Committee to oversee the resolution of Environment Court appeals on the Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan and to present the Joint Committee's proposed delegations.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report 'Combined Wairarapa District Plan Review – Joint Committee appointment' 18 February 2026; and
2. In accordance with sections 34(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA") and clause 30 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, the Masterton District Council:
 - (i) **unites** with the Masterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council in appointing a joint committee, to be known as the Wairarapa Combined District Plan Joint Committee to exercise the functions, duties and powers of the Council under the First Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991 which are delegated to the Joint Committee; and
 - (ii) **agrees** that each council will appoint two members to the Joint Committee with the ability to appoint alternate members to cover absences; and
 - (iii) **agrees** to the appointment to the Joint Committee of 2 members (one member representing Rangitāne o Wairarapa and one member representing Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa) to be appointed by the four iwi entities (Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Settlement Trust, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust); and

- (iv) **agrees** that the Joint Committee will appoint an appropriately qualified Commissioner as an independent Chair and the Joint Committee will appoint one of its members as the Deputy Chair; and
- (v) **agrees** that the removal of the office of Chair and Deputy Chair is within the powers of the Joint Committee; and
- (vi) **agrees** that the quorum of the Joint Committee will be five members and include at least one member of each territorial authority; and

Mayor S Cretney / Cr S Laurence

CARRIED

(vii) appoints the following councillors as the Carterton District Council members to the Joint Committee:

- (i) Councillor Brian Dellar
- (ii) Councillor Jane Burns

Deputy Mayor G Ayling / Cr L Newman

CARRIED

(viii) Appoints the following councillor as the alternate member of the Joint Committee to cover the absence of one of the appointed members:

- (i) Councillor Rachel Round

Mayor S Cretney / Cr S Gallon

CARRIED

- 3. In accordance with Section 34 of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Carterton District Council **delegates** to the Wairarapa Combined District Plan Joint Committee all its functions, powers and duties under the First Schedule to the Act.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr R Round

CARRIED

8.9 APPOINTMENTS TO TWO EXTERNAL ADVISORY GROUPS

1. PURPOSE

For the Council to make elected member appointments to two external advisory groups for the 2025-28 Triennium.

MOVED

That the Council:

- 1. **Confirms** the following GWRC appointments for the term of this Triennium:

| Committee / Entity | Elected Member Appointee(s) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Upper Ruamāhanga River Advisory Group | Cr B Deller Mayor S Cretney |
| Waiōhine River Advisory Group | Cr B Deller |

Mayor S Cretney / Cr R Round

CARRIED

8.10 GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025-2028**1. PURPOSE**

To update the Local Governance Statement for the 2025-2028 Triennium in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Adopts** the updated Governance Statement 2025-2028, as required by Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002 subject to correction of the following words on page 5 (in bold):

*“The review is binding for ~~the next two election cycles in 2025 and 2028~~ this **election cycle (2025 – 2028) and 2028-2031**, unless Council decides to undertake another review”.*

Mayor S Cretney / Cr J Burns

CARRIED**8.11 UPDATED WELLINGTON REGION TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT 2025****1. PURPOSE**

For Council to confirm the Wellington Region Triennial Agreement for 2025 – 2028.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Confirms** the updated Wellington Region Triennial Agreement 2025.

Deputy Mayor G Ayling / Cr J Burns

CARRIED

8.12 COUNCIL SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

1. PURPOSE

For the council to endorse external submissions to the Government's consultations on its proposals for a *Rates Target Model*, and *Simplifying Local Government*.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Ratifies** CDC's submission to the Department of Internal Affairs on the Rates Target Model proposal on 4 February 2026.

Mayor S Cretney / Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

2. **Approves** CDC's submission on the Simplifying Local Government proposal to be formally lodged with Government before 20 February 2026.

Cr J Burns / Cr S Gallon

CARRIED

8.13 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

This report is an information update for the Council on the Wairarapa Tararua water establishment and transition programme.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney ./ Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

8.14 AMENDMENTS TO THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES (SIPO)

1. PURPOSE

For Council to approve the updated Terms of Reference and Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) for the Investment Committee.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr L Newman

CARRIED

2. **Approves** the updated Terms of Reference and Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives subject to the following amendment (in bold) - *“The purpose for which the Reserves and Investment Fund has been established is to generate income and grow the Reserve Assets in order to provide funding **in real terms** for community outcomes as set out in the Long-Term Plan”.*

Cr S Laurence / Cr L Newman

CARRIED

8.15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT REQUESTS

1. PURPOSE

To inform the Council of the number of requests under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987 (the Act) 2 December 2025 to 2 February 2026.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the results of the LGOIMA Self-Assessment Tool.

Mayor S Cretney / Cr J Burns

CARRIED

8.16 SERVICE REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS

1. PURPOSE

For the Council to be informed on Service Requests and Complaints received 2 December 2025 to 2 February 2026.

MOVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

Mayor S Cretney / Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

DRAFT

8 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

MOVED

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter | Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution |
|--|--|---|
| 9.1 - Conditions for re-appointment of the Independent Advisor for the CE Employment Review Committee | <p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p> | <p>s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 would exist under section 6 or section 7</p> |
| 9.2 - Property Review | <p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> | <p>s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 would exist under section 6 or section 7</p> |
| 9.3 - Appointment of the Chair of the Risk and Assurance Committee | <p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> | <p>s48(1)(a)(i) - 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 would exist under section 6 or section 7</p> |

Mayor S Cretney / Cr L Newman

CARRIED

MOVED

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

Mayor S Cretney / Deputy Mayor G Ayling

CARRIED

9 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

The meeting closed with a karakia by all members.

The Meeting closed at 4.25 pm

Minutes confirmed:

Date:

DRAFT