


Minutes Ordinary Council Meeting – 5 March 2026

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	<p>Details of Meeting:</p>	<p>WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ROOM TŌTARA, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, ON THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2026, COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM.</p>
	<p>Present:</p>	<p>Mayor N Tánczos, Deputy Mayor J Jukes, Councillors T Boynton, G Dennis, C Hamill, A Iles, L Immink, J Morgan-Ranui, W James, T O’Brien, and M Whitaker</p>
	<p>In Attendance:</p>	<p>S Perdia (Chief Executive), D Bewley (GM Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure), P Davidson (Chief Financial Officer), A Pickles (GM Community Experience), E Hatch (GM People and Partnerships), H Patrick (Kaihautu – Strategic Māori Partnerships and GM Commercial), S Stewart (Manager Strategy and Policy), S Ellis (Team Leader Strategy), D Bussey (Project Manager – Whakaroa Project Manager), K Farr (Manager Financial Planning and Reporting), K Boreham (Principal Advisor – Executive Office) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor)</p> <p><i>Via Teams:</i> L Woolsey (GM Strategy and Growth)</p>
	<p>Apologies:</p>	<p>Councillor T Boynton (early departure)</p>

1 KARAKIA

Mayor Tánczos formally opened the Council meeting at 9:02 am and invited Councillor Boynton to lead with a Karakia.

2 MEETING NOTICES

Mayor Tánczos shared meeting notices relating to live streaming and health and safety.

3 APOLOGIES

Councillor Boynton’s early departure on Council business was noted.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

NIL

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NIL

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Refer to page 11 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor James

RESOLVED:

THAT the public and public excluded minutes of the Whakatāne District Council Ordinary meeting held on Thursday, 4 December 2025 be **confirmed** as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 STANDING AND JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

Refer to pages 12-15 of the agenda.

8.1 Strategy and Policy Minutes - 19 February 2026

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Councillor Immink

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes from the Strategy & Policy Committee meeting dated 19 February 2026 be **received**.

CARRIED

8.2 Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Recommendation

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Councillor Immink

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council **endorse** the updated Terms of Reference for the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee, including its membership, for the 2025–2028 triennium, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 19 December 2025.

CARRIED

8.3 Council-Event Road Closures

Moved Councillor Hamill / Seconded Deputy Mayor Jukes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne District Council **approve** the temporary road closures for the events detailed below:

Event number 1:	Matatā Bike Week
Road Closure Location:	Arawa Street (east of Warbrick Terrace to west of Division Street)
Date:	Thursday, 9 April 2026 to Sunday, 12 April 2026 (3-day Temporary Road Closure)
Time:	6:00am, Thursday 9 April to 6:00am, Sunday 12 April 2026
Event number 2:	HMNZS Matataua Charter Parade
Ceremonial Parade Route for rolling road closure:	Departing from Mataatua Reserve at 10am, onto Muriwai Drive, Muriwai Drive through to The Strand, The Strand through to Boon Street, Boon Street, finishing at Margaret Mahy Court.
Date:	Thursday 23 April 2026
Time:	10:00am to 10:45am
Event number 3:	Trust Horizon Light-up Whakatāne
Rolling Road Closure Route for opening night:	Kakahoroa Drive and The Strand (from Kakahoroa Drive Service Lane through to Commerce Street roundabout)
Date:	Saturday, 11 July 2026 (Postponement date – Sunday, 12 July 2026)
Time:	To be confirmed

CARRIED

8.4 Request for Easement - Horizon Network Cabling Works, Konini Place Reserve, Edgecumbe

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor James

RESOLVED:

1. THAT Council **approve** the registration of an easement on the Record of Title for this activity in accordance with Section 48(1) of the Reserves Act 1977, subject to conditions; and
2. THAT Council **agree** to a one-off payment of \$9,000.00 to be made by the applicant for the easement.

CARRIED

9 MAYORAL REPORT

Refer to pages 16-84 of the agenda.

Mayor Tanczos presented the report. Members had raised concerns regarding the proposed changes to the wording of Community Board delegations, noting that the amendments were more significant than initially indicated and could shift the boards' focus from community advocacy to Council advocacy.

It was clarified that, in accordance with the Local Government Act, the Council was required to establish delegations prior to the formation of the boards. The intention of the updates was to modernise the language and remove repetition, rather than to alter the functions of the boards. Members agreed to revise the wording as requested and confirmed that further discussions with Community Boards would take place.

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Councillor Morgan-Ranui

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Mayoral Report March 2026 be **received**; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne District Council **approves** amendments to the Governance Delegations Register 2025–2028 to ensure it accurately reflects current governance arrangements and statutory roles under the Local Government Act 2002, including:
 - i) updating the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee delegation to reflect the appointment of two representatives from the Whakatāne District Council and provision for one alternate representative; and
 - ii) adding the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum to the Governance Delegations Register, together with its details and Terms of Reference, noting that participation is by virtue of office under the Triennial Agreement (section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002), with the Mayor and Chief Executive as members and the Deputy Mayor (Julie Jukes) as the alternate representative; and
 - iii) amending the Public Transport Committee delegation to include provision for an alternate representative be Councillor Dennis to ensure continuity of representation when the primary representative is unavailable; and
 - iv) noting the identification of the need for wording refinements within the Community Board delegations in relation to the Local Government Act 2002, and agreeing that the proposed wording changes to be shared with the Community Boards for consideration at their next meeting, with the Delegations register to be updated following that engagement; and
 - v) removing the delegation to approve the Local Governance Statement, as section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires only that the Local Governance Statement be published and does not require formal Council approval or adoption; and
 - vi) the amendment to the membership of the Whakatāne Youth Council to include Councillor Iles as the alternate member.

CARRIED

10 REPORTS

10.1 Long Term Plan – Project Plan Report

Refer to pages 85-110 of the agenda.

General Manager Strategy and Growth and the Team Leader Strategy presented the report.

Attention was drawn to the developments made to the project approach in response to challenges and feedback from previous Long-Term Plan project management cycles, including improvements to project team structures, automation tools, and approaches to better respond to audit recommendations.

Discussion ensued among members on the proposed development approach and key elements of the draft project plan, including the importance of early engagement with Audit NZ to support adherence to timelines and remain on track for adoption.

A further observation noted the need for the plan to more clearly reflect how staff would engage with Council through workshops. Members emphasised the importance of councillor workshop involvement, and staff confirmed that while the plan was a high-level framework, detailed workshop engagement will be scheduled and communicated through future planning.

Moved Councillor O'Brien / Seconded Deputy Mayor Jukes

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Whakatāne District Council **receive** the Long Term Plan 2027-37 Project Management Plan report; and
2. THAT the Council **approves** the proposed LTP 2027-37 project management plan (Appendix 1).

CARRIED

10.2 Annual Plan Report

Refer to pages 111-127 of the agenda.

Manager Strategy Performance and Manager Financial Planning and Reporting presented the report. Discussions highlighted the following points:

- Staff presented options for allocating \$1.35 million in cost reductions. It was recommended and agreed that 1% of rates revenue be used to decrease the operating deficit.
- Staff clarified that unspent funds at year's end would be applied to the operating deficit.
- Members were advised that further reports would be provided on subjects related to improvements to the Toi's track, the introduction of licence plate recognition technology, and the Whakatāne River navigation channel.
- Operating deficit, the effect of proposed cost reductions, and the goal to eliminate the deficit by 2029 were discussed. Members emphasised financial prudence and acknowledged the longer-term consequences of ongoing deficits.
- Targeted engagement and consultation as an option was discussed to support public engagement on specific elements within the annual plan.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 9:47 am and reconvened at 10:02 am.

Moved Councillor Whitaker / Seconded Councillor James

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Council **receives** the report 'Approval of the Draft Annual Plan budget for 2026/27'; and
2. THAT the Council **notes** that cost reductions and adjustments to fees and charges have resulted in a reduction in the rate requirement of approximately \$1.35 million (approximately 1.7% in rates revenue), including \$623K in operating costs and fees and charges adjustments and a further \$725K in inflation savings; and
3. THAT the Council **approves** the recommended option (balanced budget with managed contingency) for the Annual Plan budget for 2026/27, which maintains the average rates increase at 9.4% as set out in the Long Term Plan and utilises cost reductions to reduce the operating deficit by the equivalent of 1% rates revenue with the remainder used for a managed contingency fund; and
4. THAT the Council **approves** that formal public consultation on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 is not required; and
5. THAT the Council **notes** that a public information campaign will be delivered to provide key messages to the community about the draft Annual Plan budget for 2026/27; and
6. THAT the Council **notes** that fees and charges are currently being reviewed and will incorporate inflationary changes; and

7. THAT the Council **notes** that further reports on Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub, Waste Levy funding, Whakatāne I-site, License Plate Recognition Vehicle, Ngā Tapuwae o Toi walkway, and the transition to an Independent Business Unit as part of Local Water Done Well will be prepared for Council’s consideration; and
8. THAT the Council **directs** staff to obtain cost estimates and to develop a plan for the dredging of the Whakatāne River navigation channel to be considered as part of the final Annual Plan 2026/27; and
9. THAT the Council **notes** that the final Annual Plan 2026/27 will be provided to Council for adoption before 30 June 2026.

CARRIED

Councillors Dennis, Iles and Morgan-Ranui requested their votes **against** resolution 3 be recorded.

10.3 Appointment of District Licensing Committee

Refer to pages 128-136 of the agenda.

General Manager Planning, Regulatory and Infrastructure presented the report, advising that the application process had been open to anyone, and that the final selection was made from the pool of applicants received.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor James

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the report “Appointment of the Eastern Bay of Plenty District Licensing Committee” be **received**; and
2. THAT Council **approve** the appointment of Russell Orr as Commissioner and Alan Sciascia as alternative Commissioner of the Eastern Bay of Plenty District Licensing Committee; and
3. THAT Council **approve** the appointment of the following individuals as Listed Members of the Eastern Bay of Plenty District Licensing Committee:
 - i) Alan Sciascia
 - ii) Aaron Rangihika
 - iii) Shona Browne
 - iv) Malcolm Harrison
 - v) Glen Smith
 - vi) John Hillman; and
4. THAT Council **direct** staff to update the Governance Delegations Register 2025-2028 with the appointments to the District Licensing Committee.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 10:58 am with a Karakia by Councillor Boynton.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON