Minutes of a Meeting of the
Marlborough District Council
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY 14 MAY 2026 commencing at 9.00 am

Present

Mayor Nadine Taylor (in the Chair), Clrs Scott Adams, Sally Arbuckle, Allanah Burgess, David Croad, Deborah Dalliessi, Cyril Dawson, Barbara Faulls, Gerald Hope, John Hyndman, Raylene Innes, Thelma Sowman, Ben Stace, and Malcolm Taylor

In Attendance

Messrs John Boswell (Chief Executive), Richard Coningham (WSO Establishment CEO), Gina Ferguson (Group Manager Consents & Compliance), Phillip Eyles (Strategic Delivery Manager), Geoff Blake (Chief Financial Officer), Pere Hawes (Head of Environmental Policy), Setareh Masoud-Ansari (General Counsel), Jamie Lyall (Group Manager Property & Community Facilities), Mark Lucas (Solid Waste Manager), Matt Kerr (Emergency Services Manager), (Glyn Walters (Head of Communications), Juliet Gibbons (Communications Advisor), Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary), and Tiffany Wise (Governance Manager). Additional Council staff were in attendance in an observational capacity and did not participate in the meeting.

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Apology

The Mayor/ Clr C Dawson

That the apology for absence from Clr B Dawson be received and sustained.

Cncl-0526-379 Declaration of Interests -

Members were reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision-making where a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or external interest.

- Clr Faulls declared a conflict of interest with agenda item “Summary of Annual Plan Ideas Received” relating to the submission regarding “Te Ara Tuhono Link Pathway”. Clr Faulls did not participate in voting on the item.
- Clr Burgess noted a conflict of interest with agenda item “Level of Service Increase: Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki Fund / Marlborough Matariki Event Fund”. Clr Burgess did not participate in voting on the item.

Alteration of Order of Business

The Mayor advised that, pursuant to Standing Order 9.4, the business of the meeting would not be taken in the order as set out in the agenda. For improved logical flow and cohesion of financially related matters, the order of business was varied as follows:

- Confirmation of Council minutes and committee reports would be taken first;
- The Annual Plan submissions item would be considered ahead of budget and level of service items; and
- Budget and level of service items would be taken later in the open meeting.

Relocation of Item from Public Excluded to Open Meeting

The Mayor advised that the item titled "Annual Review and Approval of Solid Waste Fees and Charges (2026/2027)", originally listed in the public excluded section of the agenda, had been reviewed. The Mayor noted that:

- The item had initially been included in public excluded under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 to enable full and frank discussion;
- Further analysis had determined that the information was no longer considered sufficiently commercially sensitive to warrant exclusion; and
- In accordance with section 48 of the Act, there was no longer good reason to withhold the matter from the public.

Accordingly, the Mayor advised that the item would be considered in the open meeting and included in the revised order of business.

Cncl-0526-380 Confirmation of Minutes -

No requests for corrections were received.

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That the Minutes for the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 26 March 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0326-314 to Cncl-0326-315) be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

Cncl-0526-381 Confirmation of Minutes -

No requests for corrections were received.

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That the Minutes for the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 16 April 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0426-336 to Cncl-0426-337) be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

Cncl-0526-382 Confirmation of Minutes -

Clr Adams noted a correction regarding the Declaration of Interests record.

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That the Minutes for the Council Meeting held on 2 April 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0426-316 to Cncl-0426-327) be corrected taken as read and confirmed, subject to the following amendment:

- **That the Declaration of Interest recorded for Clr Scott Adams be corrected to read Clr David Croad (re: Cncl-0426-316, -0426-323, -0426-324).**

Carried

Committee Reports

Cncl-0526-383 Regional Transport Committee 19 March 2026 -

No requests for corrections were received.

Clr Adams / Clr Stace:

That the Committee report contained within (Minute Nos. RTC-0326-309 to RTC-0326-313) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0526-384 Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee 9 April 2026 -

No requests for corrections were received.

Clr Adams / Clr Croad:
That the Committee report contained within (Minute Nos. I&CF-0426-328 to I&CF-0426-335) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0526-385 Arts, Culture & Heritage Sub-Committee 16 April 2026 -

During consideration of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sub-Committee report of 16 April 2026, Clr Burgess, as Chair of the Sub-Committee spoke to the item, noting the establishment of the new committee membership, the mix of community and sector representation, and the funding outcomes achieved. Clr Burgess reminded that she declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from discussion in relation to the Matariki funding stream. Members acknowledged the quality of the process undertaken, the value of informed community input, and the importance of progressing funding allocations in a timely manner to enable distribution to successful applicants.

Clr Burgess / The Mayor:
That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of AC&H-0426-338 to AC&H-0426-341) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0526-386 Strategy & Community Partnerships 23 April 2026 -

During consideration of the Strategy and Community Partnerships Committee report of 23 April 2026, Clr Adams moved an amendment to the draft Council vision, mission, values and community outcomes item as printed in the agenda, specifically to amend the wording within the Community Focus value by replacing "co-designing" with "developing". The amendment was seconded and debated, with discussion acknowledging the distinction between collaborative intent and delivery-focused language, and the forthcoming public consultation process. Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and carried, with Councillor Dalliessi requesting that her vote against be recorded.

Amendment Motion
Clr Adams / Clr Innes
That the draft Council Community Outcomes Statement (Community Focus) be amended to replace the word "co-designing" with "developing".

Carried

Against: Clr Dalliessi

Substantive Motion
Clr Hope / Clr Dalliessi:
That the Committee report contained within (Minute Nos. SCP-0426-342 to SCP-0426-350) be received and the recommendations adopted, as amended.

Carried

Cncl-0526-387 Audit & Risk Sub-Committee 23 April 2026 -

During consideration of the Audit and Risk Sub-Committee report of 23 April 2026, Clr Croad, ~~as Chair~~ [a member] [amended at the Council meeting on 25 June 2026] of the Sub-Committee spoke to the item, highlighting the depth of analysis, independent oversight, and the quality of information being provided to support governance assurance. Members acknowledged the role of the independent Chair and noted the breadth of matters considered by the Sub-Committee, including emerging risks and future-focused issues. Councillors were encouraged to engage with the work of the Sub-Committee, recognising its importance in providing robust scrutiny and confidence in Council operations.

Clr Croad / Hope:
That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of A&R-0426-351 to A&R-0426-361) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0526-388 Road Naming Sub-Committee 23 April 2026 -

No requests for corrections were received

Clr Sowman / Clr Faulls:
That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of RN-0426-362 to RN-0426-366) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0526-389 Environment & Planning Committee 30 April 2026 -

Clr Adams identified a typo in the start time recorded for the meeting.

Clr Faulls / Arbuckle:
That the Committee report contained within (Minutes of E&P-0426-367 to E&P-0426-378) be received and the recommendations adopted, subject to the following amendment:

- **That the meeting start time be corrected to 1.30 pm instead of 09.00 am.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Strategic Delivery Manager, Philip Eyles and Water Services Establishment CEO, Richard Coningham presented the following item. General Counsel, Setareh Masoud-Ansari addressed questions.

Cncl-0526-390 Water Organisation Company Formation L150-023-018-02

During discussion, the Mayor introduced the report and officers outlined the proposed governance framework for the water organisation, including the purpose of the constitution, the role of Council as shareholder, and the importance of maintaining board independence. Members discussed key provisions of the constitution, including the approach to shareholder input into the Water Services Strategy, the restriction on dividends, and the inclusion of Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

A significant focus of discussion was the importance of reinforcing Council's position against privatisation of water services. Members emphasised the need to provide clear assurance to the community that the water organisation would remain in public ownership. Officers and legal advisers confirmed that while current legislation prohibits privatisation, the Constitution and governance framework require any future change to ownership to be determined by Council. It was further discussed that the most appropriate mechanism to

clearly articulate Council's intent was through the forthcoming Statement of Expectations, where an explicit position on non-privatisation could be set and publicly signalled, while recognising that the decisions and policy positions of the current Council cannot bind the discretion of future councils.
Members also noted the need to balance clear public messaging with maintaining flexibility within the governance framework, including the ability to amend the constitution if required. There being no amendments proposed, the motion was put to the meeting and carried.

Clr Faulls / Clr Croad:
That Council:

1. **Approve the water organisation Constitution as endorsed by the Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee.**
2. **Approve the name Marlborough Waters Limited for the new water organisation as endorsed by the Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee.**
3. **Authorise the Chief Executive and Solicitor to make any minor editorial/formatting amendments prior to publication.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Strategic Delivery Manager, Philip Eyles and Water Services Establishment CEO, Richard Coningham presented the following item.

Cncl-0526-391 Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy L150-023-018-02

During discussion, officers outlined the purpose of the policy in establishing a transparent, consistent and merit-based framework for the appointment of directors to the water organisation board, noting that while not a legislative requirement, the policy supports good governance practice and public confidence.

Members discussed the importance of appointing directors based on competency, experience and the overall balance of skills required across the board, while ensuring the process remains open and robust. Consideration was also given to the size of the available talent pool and the need to retain flexibility to appoint the most suitable candidates, including those with existing governance experience across other entities where appropriate.

Discussion also highlighted the importance of maintaining public confidence in the appointment process, including visibility of decision-making criteria and the role of the independent recruitment process. Members were advised that an external recruitment agency and the establishment of an appointment panel were in place to support independence and transparency.

Members noted that the policy provides for iwi representation on the appointment panel and incorporates cultural competency expectations within the Board skills matrix, supporting an inclusive and well-rounded governance approach. Additional matters raised included the desirability of local knowledge and connections, the potential benefits and risks of cross-directorships, and the importance of ensuring strong governance capability to support the success of the water organisation.

The Mayor raised an amendment required on page 34 of the agenda, noting that Marlborough Waters Limited will report to the Finance Committee (not Sub-Committee).

Clr Faulls / Clr Hope:
1. **Approve the Water Organisation Appointment of Directors Policy as endorsed by the Water Services Governance and Oversight Committee (WSGOC).**
2. **Note the Water Organisation Board Appointment Process and Dates.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Water Services Establishment CEO, Richard Coningham and Group Manager Consents & Compliance, Gina Ferguson presented the following item.

Cncl-0526-392 Option G – Murphys Creek Stormwater Upgrade C315-25-076

During discussion, Mr Coningham and Ms Ferguson outlined the background to the project, including the consent requirements and the staged delivery of Option G, noting that earlier phases had been completed. It was highlighted that recent tender pricing and emerging ground conditions, particularly increased groundwater infiltration, had created significant uncertainty regarding the feasibility, cost and technical delivery of the remaining works.

Members discussed the risks associated with progressing the project in its current form, including the potential for substantial cost escalation and the need to ensure prudent use of ratepayer funding. Support was expressed for taking a measured approach to allow further investigation of alternative engineering solutions and to better understand the changing groundwater conditions affecting the site.

Councillors also discussed community experience and perceptions, noting feedback that residents were concerned about a lack of visible progress and not feeling fully heard. The importance of maintaining effective communication and engagement with affected communities was emphasised, alongside continuing to incorporate community input through established channels.

Advice was provided that there are no enforceable consent timeframes requiring the immediate delivery of the remaining works, and that a pause to reassess options would not place Council in breach of its regulatory obligations.

Members noted the expectation that the review period would include investigation of alternative solutions, appropriate resourcing, and continued engagement with the community, with findings to be reported back to Council.

The Mayor / Clr Hyndman:
That Council place Option G project on hold for at least 12 months while further investigations on viable solutions take place, including, but not limited to, Status quo, Original Option G alternative, Pump Station at Murphys Creek outlet.

Carried

The meeting adjourned for a break at 10.32 am and reconvened at 10.57 am.

ATTENDANCE: Chief Financial Officer, Geoff Blake spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0526-393 Summary of Annual Plan Ideas Received F230-A26-010

Clr Faulls noted a declaration of interest in relation to the submission titled “Te Ara Tuhono Link Pathway ongoing repair and care”. Clr Faulls participated in discussion of the agenda item but did not participate in voting.

During discussion, officers presented a summary of submissions and ideas received through the Annual Plan process, outlining the range of community feedback and themes identified. Members acknowledged the level of community engagement (50 submissions) and noted the value of the ideas in informing Council’s planning and decision-making.

Councillors discussed the importance of carefully considering community input alongside financial constraints and strategic priorities, recognising that not all ideas could be progressed within the current planning cycle. It was noted that the feedback provided a useful indication of community expectations and emerging issues, which may inform future work programmes and Long Term Plan considerations.

Members also highlighted the importance of maintaining transparency with the community regarding how submitted ideas are considered and incorporated into Council decision-making. Mr Blake noted that a summary of categorisation would be made available on the consultation webpage for submitters to review.

The Mayor / Clr Innes:
That Council:

1. **Receive the information contained in this report.**
2. **Notes that no community ideas are recommended for inclusion in the draft 2026–27 Annual Plan budget.**
3. **Notes the categorisation of ideas into Business as Usual, Long Term Plan Levels of Service considerations, and out-of-scope matters.**
4. **Notes that relevant ideas will be considered through future Long Term Plan processes and existing work programmes.**
5. **Notes that this approach supports prudent financial management and that feedback will be provided publicly on the website.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, John Boswell introduced the following item with Chief Financial Officer, Geoff Blake speaking to the report details. Hard copies explaining cost movements in graph form were circulated in the meeting and have been made available on the website and preserved as CM record no: 2698189.

Cncl-0526-394 Proposed Budget for Annual Plan 2026-27
F230-A26-010

During discussion, officers presented the proposed budget and outlined the key drivers influencing the overall rates increase, including changing economic conditions, recent storm events, increasing infrastructure demands, and government reform requirements. Members acknowledged the significant work undertaken by staff to review and refine budget assumptions and identify opportunities to minimise the impact on ratepayers.

It was highlighted that the proposed changes primarily relate to the timing and phasing of funding, rather than reductions in service levels or overall investment intent. Members also noted that the proposed changes had been assessed against the significance provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 and were considered to represent non-material differences from the Long Term Plan, as they relate to timing rather than substantive changes to services or investment. On that basis, formal consultation on the Annual Plan was not required.

Councillors discussed the need to balance adherence to the Long Term Plan with responsiveness to changing circumstances, noting that adjustments were necessary to reflect current financial pressures. There was general support for a pragmatic approach that maintained financial sustainability while moderating short-term impacts on the community.

The baseline rates increase of 9.26% (reflecting updated cost pressures) was discussed, alongside the impact of proposed timing adjustments and savings, resulting in a provisional average rates increase of 6.97% for 2026–27. Members acknowledged that, while still above the Council's rates cap benchmark, this represented a material improvement on the LTP position

In considering the specific recommendations, members supported deferring depreciation funding for Three Waters assets, noting the upcoming separation of water services and the need to review depreciation policy more comprehensively through the Long Term Plan process.

The proposal to spread repayment of COVID rates relief over two years was debated, with discussion focusing on the trade-off between smoothing rates increases across two years versus incurring additional financing costs. Some members supported immediate repayment to minimise long-term cost, while others supported deferral to reduce the immediate burden on ratepayers.

Members also discussed the deferral of funding for the Emergency Events Reserve, acknowledging the importance of maintaining resilience while recognising competing financial pressures. It was noted that this would delay, rather than remove, the establishment of the reserve, and that the matter could be revisited through the Long Term Plan, including consideration of alternative funding sources.

Throughout the discussion, emphasis was placed on the importance of continued financial discipline, scrutiny of expenditure, and identification of efficiencies in advance of the next Long Term Plan, including consideration of levels of service and affordability trade-offs.

The meeting resolved each recommendation in turn. All motions were put to the meeting and carried, with Clr Taylor requesting his vote recorded against the resolution relating to the repayment of COVID rates relief.
Following consideration of the open report, Council resolved to temporarily move into public excluded to consider an addendum associated with cost savings, before returning to open session to complete deliberations.

The Mayor / Clr Hope:
That Council:

1. **Receive the information contained in this Budget Summary Paper and adopt it as supporting information to the 2026-27 Annual Plan.**

   Carried

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That Council:

2. **Resolve to defer the start of funding for the Depreciation on Revalued Three Waters Assets until the 2027-28 financial year.**

   Carried

The Mayor / Clr Dalliessi:
That Council:

3. **Resolve to split the final year of the Covid Rates Relief adjustment between 2026-27 and 2027-28.**

   Carried

   Against: Clr Taylor

The Mayor / Clr Innes:
That Council:

4. **Resolve to defer the start of rates funding for the Emergency Events Reserve for one year to the 2027-28 financial year.**

   Carried

The Mayor / Clr Burgess:
That Council:

5. **Approve the cost savings identified by Council staff.**

   Carried

ATTENDANCE: For discussion of the Proposed Budget Addendum, all public and staff were removed from the room. Chief Executive, John Boswell and Chief Financial Officer, Geoff Blake remained in Chambers speaking to the addendum details.

The meeting moved into public excluded discussion of the addendum at 11.27 pm and resumed deliberation of the Proposed Budget for Annual Plan item in open session at 12.27 pm.

Cncl-0526-395 Public Excluded – Procedural Motion Addendum 7.1 Proposed Budget for Annual Plan 2026-27 F230-A26-010

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That the public be excluded from this part of the proceedings of the meeting, pursuant to section 48(1), section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to consider the Item 7 addendum, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Head of Environmental Policy, Pere Hawes, spoke to the following item. Water Services Establishment CEO, Richard Coningham responded to questions.

Cncl-0526-396 Level of Service Increase: Monitoring of Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

During discussion, Mr Hawes outlined that the existing monitoring programme had been established through a one-off allocation to support implementation of Council’s Climate Change Action Plan. It was noted that funding for this work had now been exhausted, and that continuation of the monitoring contract would require ongoing budget provision.

Members were advised that the monitoring contract covers the collection, storage, analysis, and reporting of emissions data across Council operations, including electricity use and fleet fuel consumption, and is distinct from regulatory monitoring already undertaken for landfill emissions.

Councillors discussed the purpose and value of the monitoring programme, including whether it duplicated existing reporting, the extent to which it had informed decision-making to date, and its alignment with Council’s Climate Change Action Plan commitments. It was noted that while landfill emissions, representing a significant proportion of Council’s total emissions, are monitored separately, the contract provides a broader view across Council activities.

Discussion also covered community expectations, with some members noting the importance of Council demonstrating leadership in climate-related matters, while others questioned the value of continued expenditure in the absence of clear decision-making outcomes. Consideration was given to the relatively modest cost of the programme and the potential implications of discontinuing monitoring, including the loss of continuity of data over time.

Members also discussed resourcing considerations, noting that the required analysis relies on specialist systems and expertise not currently available within Council. There being no amendments proposed, the motion was put to the meeting and carried, with Clr Dalliessi requesting her vote recorded against.

Clr Faulls / The Mayor:
That Council make a budget provision of $22,000 per annum to continue monitoring energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from its operations.

Carried

Against: Clr Dalliessi

ATTENDANCE: Events & Community Partnerships Manager, Samantha Young, spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0526-397 Level of Service Increase: Council Community Events Contract E100-002-012

During discussion, Ms Young presented the report outlining increased delivery costs associated with Council-supported community events, noting that rising market costs had been absorbed in recent years but were no longer sustainable within existing budgets.

Members were advised that the contract provides for delivery of three Council-owned events, with additional support for a community event, and that any proposed increase in funding reflected maintaining current service levels rather than expanding the scope of events.

Councillors discussed the scale of the proposed increase relative to the overall contract value, and the implications of not increasing funding. It was noted that maintaining current funding levels would require a reduction in the scale or quality of events, with potential impacts on community experience, including reduced entertainment or event components. Members also considered options for managing the cost increase, including use of existing budgets, reallocation of funding, or deferring broader decisions to the Long Term Plan. There was general support for a pragmatic approach that maintained event delivery in the short term while allowing further consideration of funding levels and priorities through the Long Term Plan process.

A revised motion was proposed to fund the additional costs for one year from within existing budgets, with no rates impact, and to refer the matter to the Long Term Plan for future consideration. The motion was put to the meeting and carried.

The Mayor / Clr Innes:
That Council approves funding additional costs associated with the Council Community Events Contract for the 2026/2027 financial year from within existing budgets, with no rates impact, and that future funding requirements be referred to the Long Term Plan.

<u>**Carried**</u>

ATTENDANCE: Arts, Culture & Heritage Manager, Nicola Neilson, spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0526-398 Level of Service Increase: Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki Fund / Marlborough Matariki Event Fund

Clr Burgess declared a conflict of interest as a past recipient of the Matariki Fund. Clr Burgess participated in discussion, but did not engage in the voting process on this item.

During discussion, Ms Neilson outlined that the Matariki Fund has operated for several years using reallocated and carryover funding, supporting community-led events and iwi partnerships. It was noted that this approach was no longer sustainable and that an ongoing funding decision was required.

Members discussed the value of the fund in supporting community connection, cultural recognition, and accessibility of Matariki celebrations, noting strong participation and co-investment from iwi and community groups. Councillors also highlighted the role of the fund in enabling events that might not otherwise proceed, and the importance of providing certainty for event planning.

There was discussion regarding the appropriate role of Council in funding recurring events, including whether the fund should continue at its current scale, be integrated into broader community events funding, or be considered alongside other priorities through the Long Term Plan. Some members expressed concern about ongoing funding commitments and the need for consistency with other community funding decisions.

Timing considerations were also raised, with members noting that uncertainty in funding limits the ability of organisers to plan future events, while acknowledging the need to assess longer-term funding through a wider strategic lens.

Following a motion to adopt the status quo (Option 2), which was lost, a subsequent motion was proposed to provide one-year funding from existing carryovers and refer the matter to the Long Term Plan Working Group. This approach enabled short-term continuity while allowing future funding to be considered alongside wider Council priorities.

Clr Dalliessi / Clr Taylor:
That Council continue to support the fund through any available carryover funding from existing budgets as set out in Option 2 of the paper.

Lost (3 votes to 10 following a show of hands.)

Clr Dalliessi requested her vote in favour of Option 2 be recorded.

Subsequent Motion

The Mayor / Clr Innes:
That Council approve a budget provision of $25,000 for the 2026/2027 financial year for the Manawatia Te Kāhui o Matariki Fund to be funded from wider general rates funded carryovers, and that the matter of an ongoing Matariki Fund be referred to the Long Term Plan Working Group for consideration of future funding and policy settings.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Arts, Culture & Heritage Manager, Nicola Neilson, spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0526-399 Level of Service Increase: Public Art Maintenance

During discussion, officers outlined that Council currently owns a number of public artworks located in high-use public spaces, and that maintenance had historically been undertaken on an ad hoc basis as issues arise. It was noted that this approach is not cost-effective and can result in higher reactive repair costs, as demonstrated by recent repairs to specific artworks.

Members were advised that the proposed budget would enable a more proactive approach to maintenance, including the development of a structured maintenance policy and programme. It was also noted that some artworks present potential public safety risks if not maintained appropriately, reinforcing the need for a planned approach.

Councillors discussed the importance of protecting Council's investment in public assets and maintaining the quality and safety of artworks in public spaces. It was acknowledged that while not all funding may be required each year, establishing a dedicated and ring-fenced budget would provide certainty and allow for better long-term planning.

Discussion also highlighted the need to consider ongoing maintenance obligations when accepting new artworks in future, including ensuring that maintenance plans and associated costs are identified at the time of acquisition or gifting. There being no amendments proposed, the motion was put to the meeting and carried.

Clr Faulls / Clr Croad:
That Council make a budget provision of $20,000 per annum for the maintenance of Council-owned public art.

Carried

Cncl-0526-400 Public Excluded – Procedural Motion

Following consideration of the *Public Art Maintenance* item, the Mayor advised that a paper scheduled for public excluded needed to be considered earlier than planned due to the availability of the presenting staff member. It was noted that the meeting would move into public excluded to consider the relevant item and return to open session thereafter.

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That the public be excluded from this part of the proceedings of the meeting pursuant to section 48(1), section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to consider the Level of Service Increase: Emergency Management, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

<u>Carried</u>

The meeting moved into public excluded at 2.06 pm and resumed in open session at 2.20 pm.

The meeting adjourned for a break at 2.20 pm and reconvened at 2.50 pm.

ATTENDANCE: Solid Waste Manager, Mark Lucas, spoke to the following item.

Cncl-0526-401 Annual Review and Approval of Solid Waste Fees and Charges (2026/27)

During discussion, it was clarified that Table 8, as referenced in the recommendation, was contained within the report's attachment 1, under Option One (as the recommended option) and set out the proposed increases across all waste services.

Mr Lucas presented the annual review of solid waste fees and charges, noting that the proposed increases were driven by a combination of inflationary pressures, increased central government waste levies, changes to Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) obligations, contractor cost escalations, and reduced landfill tonnage.

It was highlighted that the recommended option represented a balanced approach, providing for partial recovery of the current operational deficit while avoiding significant cost increases to users. Officers advised that approximately 57% of the proposed landfill increase was attributable to central government requirements, with the remainder reflecting contractual and inflationary cost increases.

Councillors discussed the overall impact on rates and user charges, including the relationship between landfill fees, transfer station charges, and targeted rates such as the kerbside collection (wheelie bin) service. It was noted that while final impacts on the targeted rate were not yet confirmed, savings identified across the waste budget were expected to help offset increases.

Members also raised concerns regarding the potential for increased illegal dumping (fly tipping) as fees rise, and officers advised that education, monitoring, and enforcement measures were in place, including public awareness campaigns and the use of warnings and enforcement under the waste bylaw where necessary.

There was general support for the recommended option, with acknowledgement of the complexity of the solid waste funding model and the need for further review. It was noted that a comprehensive review of waste funding would be undertaken as part of the 2027 Long Term Plan process. The motion was put to the meeting and carried.

Clr Croad / Clr C Dawson:
That Council:

1. **Approve the recommended option for an increase in waste fees and charges as provided in Table 8 of the attached report.**

2. **Implement the new fees and charges on 1 July 2026 as per Clause 41 of the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025.**

<u>Carried</u>

Cncl-0526-402 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -

The Mayor / Clr Arbuckle:
That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- **Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes**
- **Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections)**
- **Level of Service Increase: Communications**

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	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 under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
Level of Service Increases	In order to protect the privacy of natural persons, as provided for under Section 7(2)(a).	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 under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

<u>Carried</u>

The meeting closed at 4.37 pm.

Confirmed this .... day of 2026

N P TAYLOR
MAYOR

Record No. 26100787