Minutes of a Meeting of the
Marlborough District Council
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2026 commencing at 9.00 am

Present

Mayor Nadine Taylor (in the Chair), Clrs Scott Adams, Sally Arbuckle, Allanah Burgess (9.11am), David Croad, Deborah Dalliessi, Cyril Dawson, Barbara Faulls, Gerald Hope, John Hyndman, Raylene Innes, Thelma Sowman, and Malcolm Taylor

In Attendance

Messrs John Boswell (Chief Executive), Geoff Blake (Chief Financial Officer), Chris Lake (Financial Services and Planning Manager), Gilly Lawrence (IT Services & Infrastructure Manager), Phillip Eyles (Strategic Delivery Manager), Neil Henry (Group Manager Strategic Management), Setareh Masoud-Ansari (General Counsel), Claudia Mark (Solicitor), Hans Versteegh (Group Manager Environmental Science & Policy), 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

Clr Innes / Clr C Dawson
That the apology for absence from Clr B Dawson and Clr Stace be received and sustained.

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

Cncl-0626-431 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.

Cncl-0626-432 Confirmation of Minutes -

No requests for corrections were received.

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That the Minutes for the Council Meeting held on 14 May 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0526-379 to Cncl-0526-402) be taken as read and confirmed.

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

Cncl-0626-433 Confirmation of Minutes -

No requests for corrections were received.

The Mayor / Clr Croad:

That the Minutes for the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 26 May 2026 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0526-410 to Cncl-0526-412) be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

Committee Reports

Cncl-0626-434 Finance (combined with Infrastructure & Community Facilities) 21 May 2026 -

No requests for corrections were received.

Clr Croad / Clr Adams:
That the committee report contained within (Minute Nos. Fin-0526-403 to Fin-0526-409) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0626-435 Civil Defence Emergency Management 21 May 2026 -

The timestamp for attendance by Group Manager Infrastructure and Services/Group Recovery Manager for Emergency Management was identified as requiring a correction from 10.52 am to 11.52 am.

Clr Adams / Clr Arbuckle:
That the committee report contained within (Minute Nos. CDEM-0526-410 to Fin-0526-414) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0626-436 Environment & Planning 28 May 2026 -

During consideration of the Environment and Planning Committee minutes, councillors discussed the management approach for Chilean needle grass and the importance of ensuring the revised programme remains effective. Members acknowledged the significance of the pest to Marlborough's primary sector and supported receiving a future workshop to better understand the implications of the current approach and to inform the upcoming Regional Pest Management Plan review.

It was identified the meeting date in the heading for the minutes required correction from 25 June to 28 May. Clr Adams requested his attendance be noted as arriving for the start of E&P-0526-417 Sediment in Pelorus/ Te Hoiere Summary item. Noting these administrative amendments, the committee report was subsequently adopted.

Clr Faulls / Clr Arbuckle:
That the committee report contained within (Minute Nos. E&P-0526-415 to E&P-0526-424) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0626-437 Strategy & Community Partnerships 4 June 2026 -

Clr Hope / Clr Dalliessi:
That the committee report contained within (Minute Nos. S&CP-0626-424 to S&CP-0626-430) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

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

Cncl-0626-438 Adoption of the 2026-27 Annual Plan -

During discussion, the Chief Financial Officer outlined the final Annual Plan and advised that it reflected the decisions previously made by Council through the Annual Plan process. Members were reminded that the confirmed average rates increase of 6.81% had been achieved following a series of budget decisions made in May, including the deferral of depreciation funding on revalued water assets, spreading the final COVID rates relief adjustment over two years, and deferring the commencement of funding for the Emergency Events Reserve. It was noted that these decisions, together with identified savings, had reduced the rates increase from a position that would otherwise have exceeded nine percent.

Members discussed a number of minor editorial matters identified within the document, including references to superseded committee structures and terminology. It was noted that these matters were administrative in nature and did not alter the substance of the Annual Plan or Council's previously agreed budget decisions. Councillors acknowledged the significant amount of work undertaken by staff to prepare the document and noted that the final Annual Plan accurately reflected the direction and priorities agreed by Council throughout the Annual Plan deliberations process.

The Mayor noted that the limited nature of the issues identified during final review provided confidence that the document accurately represented the decisions made by Council and reflected the financial position previously resolved. Members expressed support for authorising minor editorial amendments prior to publication to ensure the final document was accurate and consistent.

The Mayor / Clr Faulls:
That Council:

1. **Adopt the Annual Plan for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027; and**
2. **Authorise the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Chief Executive to approve minor editorial, formatting or correction amendments to the document prior to publication.**

Carried

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

Cncl-0626-439 Setting of Rates for the 2026-27 Financial Year F270-26-01

The Chief Financial Officer presented the annual rates resolution, advising that the report represented the statutory mechanism required to give effect to the Funding Impact Statement contained within the adopted Annual Plan. It was noted that the resolution formally set the rates and charges required for the 2026–27 financial year and enabled rating information to be entered into Council's rating systems ahead of issuing rates assessments.

Mr Blake highlighted several matters of interest for the coming year, including the completion of the Southern Valleys Irrigation loan rate and the French Pass roading loan rate following repayment of those schemes. He advised that, while the average district-wide rates increase was confirmed at 6.81%, individual property increases would vary depending on the targeted rates applied, services received, location within rating areas, and property classifications.

Members were referred to the benchmark property examples contained within the Annual Plan and were advised that some properties within the Marlborough Sounds roading recovery zones would experience higher increases due to the differential funding arrangements for Sounds road recovery works. It was also noted that the rates resolution represented the detailed mechanism by which Council's overall rates requirement would be allocated across the district's rating base and implemented through the annual rates assessments.

Councillors discussed the variability of rates increases across the district and noted the importance of ensuring ratepayers understood the relationship between targeted rates, service provision and individual property assessments. Members were satisfied that the rates resolution appropriately reflected the decisions contained within the Annual Plan.

Clr Croad / Clr Hyndman:
That Council:

1. **Sets the rates and charges, as set out in the schedule attached as Attachment 1, under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, on rating units in the District for the financial year commencing on 1 July 2026 and ending on 30 June 2027; and**
2. **Notes that the rates and charges give effect to the Funding Impact Statement contained in the 2026–2027 Annual Plan.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Gilly Lawrence, IT Services & Infrastructure Manager, presented the following item.

Cncl-0626-440 Proposed Amendments to Land Information Memorandum (LIM) Fees I100-005-002-03

Council considered proposed amendments to Land Information Memorandum (LIM) fees following a review of the service. Ms Lawrence advised that legislative amendments relating to natural hazard information and increased demand for LIMs had significantly increased both the complexity and time required to prepare reports. Members were informed that recent legislative changes required expanded hazard information, additional mapping requirements and more detailed explanations to be included within LIMs, resulting in increased staff resourcing requirements and associated costs.

Discussion focused on the principle of cost recovery and the extent to which the service should be subsidised by the wider ratepayer. Members noted that LIMs are generally obtained as part of private property transactions and acknowledged the importance of ensuring the costs associated with providing the service were appropriately recovered from users. Questions were raised regarding forecast demand, staffing implications and opportunities to utilise existing staff resources before considering additional recruitment. Ms Lawrence confirmed that internal allocation of staff resources would be explored where practical and that fee levels would continue to be reviewed as part of Council's regular fees and charges process.

Councillors also acknowledged the value of LIMs in supporting informed property purchasing decisions and noted that Council already provides significant property-related information free of charge through its publicly accessible records systems. Following discussion, members supported the proposed increase as a financially sustainable approach that better aligned fees with service delivery costs while reducing the need for ratepayer subsidy.

Clr Faulls / Clr Adams:
That Council:

1. **Adopts amended Land Information Memorandum (LIM) fees pursuant to section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 44A of LGOIMA, as follows (inclusive of GST):**
   - **(a) Residential: $470**

(b) **Commercial/Rural/Industrial: $810**

(c) **Hourly charge: $146**

2. **Confirms the amended fees take effect from 1 July 2026.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Phillip Eyles, Strategic Delivery Manager, and Neil Henry, Group Manager Strategic Management, presented the following item.

Cncl-0626-441 Simplifying Local Government - Head Start Pathway -

Council considered a report seeking approval for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive to participate in exploratory discussions regarding the Government's Head Start local government reform pathway. Officers advised that Marlborough District Council, as a unitary authority, was not required to participate in the process but that participation in preliminary discussions would enable Council to better understand any future opportunities, implications and strategic considerations arising from the reform programme.

Extensive discussion was held regarding regional governance arrangements, community representation, future service delivery models and the need for Marlborough to remain proactive as local government reform progressed. Members noted recent correspondence from Kaikōura District Council indicating that Kaikōura had resolved to commence similar exploratory discussions and was considering potential future arrangements involving neighbouring councils. Councillors acknowledged that any discussions would be preliminary only and would not commit Council to any proposal.

Members emphasised the importance of ensuring Marlborough's interests remained protected, noting that future changes to local government structures could have implications for representation, service delivery, infrastructure management and water services. It was also recognised that community views would be critical to any future proposal and that Council should remain informed and actively engaged rather than adopting a passive approach. Council noted that any substantive proposal arising from the discussions would require further consideration and approval by Council before progressing.

The Mayor / Clr Faulls:
That Council:

1. **Approves the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive to engage in exploratory discussions with neighbouring councils regarding potential involvement in the Government's "Head Start" initiative; and**
2. **Notes that due to the compressed Government timeframe, a light-touch and time-limited engagement approach will be undertaken.**
3. **Agrees these discussions are exploratory only and do not commit Council to any future reorganisation proposal, amalgamation process, or governance change. No binding commitments, financial commitments or formal positions will be made without further Council approval.**
4. **Notes Marlborough District Council is not required to participate in the Head Start process as a unitary authority and any decision to support or submit a Head Start proposal will be subject to further analysis, statutory decision-making requirements and Council approval.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 10.08 am and resumed at 10.17 am for the following item. Setareh Masoud-Ansari, General Counsel, presented the following item.

Cncl-0626-442 East Coast Beach Vehicle Bylaw 2023 – Review and Scope of Review of Bylaw L150-019-16-04

Council considered a report regarding the statutory review of the East Coast Beach Vehicle Bylaw 2023 and the proposed scope of that review. Ms Masoud-Ansari outlined the history of the bylaw, noting that it was adopted following an extensive consultation process undertaken in response to environmental concerns and increased vehicle access following the Kaikōura earthquake. Members were advised that subsequent monitoring had confirmed that many of the environmental values and management concerns that led to the bylaw's adoption remained relevant.

Ms Masoud-Ansari advised that while the bylaw remained valid and enforceable, the review provided an opportunity to consider a wider range of matters including the effectiveness of existing controls, the management of vehicle access, developments since the bylaw was adopted, and improvements to enforcement provisions. It was noted that one identified limitation of the current bylaw was the absence of infringement mechanisms, restricting Council's ability to take formal enforcement action where breaches occurred.

Members discussed the significant environmental, cultural and recreational values associated with the East Coast coastline and acknowledged the strong interest previously demonstrated by community groups, landowners, tangata whenua and recreational users. Councillors noted the importance of ensuring the review process remained transparent, evidence-based and inclusive of all interested parties. It was confirmed that previous submitters and key stakeholders would be contacted directly as part of the consultation process and that the review would enable the community to help determine the scope of matters considered.

Council supported a comprehensive review process and noted that undertaking both the scheduled review and broader statutory requirements concurrently would provide efficiencies and avoid duplication. Members considered that consultation on the review scope represented the most appropriate method of determining future bylaw requirements.

The Mayor / Clr Croad:
That Council:

1. **Receive this report and agree to initiate consultation on the proposed scope of a review of the East Coast Beach Vehicle Bylaw 2023.**
2. **Agree to initiate consultation as set out in Option 1: That Council will undertake consultation using the Special Consultative Procedure to seek community views on whether a review of the East Coast Bylaw should be undertaken and, if so, the appropriate scope of that review.**
3. **Approves consultation using the Special Consultation Procedure under sections 83 and 87 of the Local Government Act 2002, and adopts the Statement of Proposal (and supporting material) provided with this Council report for the purpose of consultation and to:**
   - **(a) receive submissions from the community between 24 July and 28 August; and**
   - **(b) conduct a public workshop (in a drop-in format) following the close of submissions, but before any hearing, to provide an opportunity for submitters and interested parties to informally discuss and clarify matters raised in submissions, noting that no decisions will be made at the workshop.**
4. **Delegates to the Mayor the establishment of a hearing panel and its members following the workshop to hear submissions and make recommendations to Council.**
5. **Authorise the Mayor and/or the Chief Executive to correct any minor errors, omissions, or typographical matters in the Statement of Proposal, including relevant email addresses for submissions, following adoption of the Council's decision and before public consultation commences.**
6. **Records and notes that the consultation and review process will require staff time, communications support and associated resourcing, and that any unbudgeted costs will need to be managed through existing budgets or reported back to Council if further funding is required.**

Carried

Cncl-0626-443 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -

The Mayor / Clr Burgess:
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)
- Reserve Land at Hutcheson and Russell Terrace

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 Section 48(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.**
Reserve Land at Hutcheson and Russell Terrace	**To enable Council, as holder of the information, to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities as provided for under Section 7(2)(h).**	**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.**

Carried

The meeting closed at 11.21 am.

Confirmed this 6 day of August 2026

N P TAYLOR
MAYOR

Record No. 26141602