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# Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

## OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee held in the Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council, Levin, on Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 4.00 pm.

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### PRESENT

Chairperson	Mr P Jones	
Deputy Chairperson	Mrs C B Mitchell	
Members	Mr D A Allan	
	Mr W E R Bishop	
	Mr R J Brannigan	(from 4.37 pm)
	Mr T N Isaacs	
	Mr B J Jackson	
	Mr S J R Jennings	
	Mrs V M Kaye-Simmons	
	Mrs J F G Mason	
	Mayor B P Wanden	

### IN ATTENDANCE

Reporting Officer	Mr D Law	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mrs J Straker	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mr D M Clapperton	(Chief Executive)
	Mrs N Brady	(Deputy Chief Executive)
	Mr B Maguire	(Group Manager – Infrastructure Development)
	Mr K Peel	(Group Manager – Infrastructure Operations)
	Mr D McCorkindale	(Group Manager – Customer & Strategy)
	Mrs L Slade	(Group Manager – People & Culture)
	Mr B Harvey	(Community Facilities & Events Manager)
	Mr S Magi	(Information Services Manager)
	Mrs V Miller	(Compliance Manager)
	Mrs K J Corkill	(Meeting Secretary)

### 1 Apologies

Apologies were recorded for Crs Ketu and Tukapua (on Parental Leave), and for Cr Brannigan for lateness.

MOVED by Cr Jennings, seconded Cr Allan:

*THAT the apologies from Councillors Ketu and Tukapua, and Cr Brannigan for lateness, be accepted.*

**CARRIED**

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## 2 Public Participation

Mr Charles Rudd queried items in the Activity Updates for Infrastructure Development and Operations in relation to stormwater and water, particularly in relation to the Tara-Ika growth area, providing a copy of his comments.

Mrs Sue-Ann Russell raised issues she had with regard to the comprehensiveness and clarity of information provided in some of the reports, including the monthly financial reporting, highlighting areas she suggested were vague or misleading and could be improved upon for transparency, with one area particularly noted being in relation to project reporting where external funding had been received which also involved groups external to Council.

It was explained to Mrs Russell that the format for the provision of some of the information in the financial report was as required by the Local Government Act in terms of Council reporting against its Annual Plan, with Mrs Straker also adding that what would be done for the next monthly report was rather than adjusting the budget, the forecast would be adjusted so there would be more clarity.

Responding to a comment from Mr Brett Russell with regard to the dredging of the river loop at Foxton being to a depth of only .500 m, rather than the 1.5m it should have been, Mr Maguire said that the .500 m depth was at low tide; at high tide it was at least 1.5m, and more in some places.

## 3 Late Items

There were no late items.

## 4 Declarations of Interest

When Cr Jennings reiterated a conflict of interest recorded at a previous meeting with regard to the Tara-Ika development (which was mentioned in some reports), the Chief Executive noted that that previous advice subsisted and did not need to be repeated.

## 5 Confirmation of Minutes

MOVED by Cr Bishop, seconded Mr Jackson:

*THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee held on Wednesday, 27 January 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

**CARRIED**

Responding to a query if it was possible, in the interests of transparency, for the sale of the Roe Street property (which had been raised during Public Participation at the previous FAR meeting), to be brought out of In Committee, particularly now that the process had been concluded, the Chair said he would deal with that later in the Agenda.

## 6 Announcements

There were no announcements.

## 7 Reports

### 7.1 Community Facilities - Activity Update

#### Purpose

To provide the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee with an update on the projects and activities being undertaken within Community Facilities which form part of the Communities, Partnerships and Business Group.

Requesting the report be taken as read, Mrs Brady expressed her disappointment that the Hydroslide opening had been delayed by two weeks, albeit for good reason; it would now open on Sunday 7 March in support of Children's Day.

MOVED by Cr Jennings, seconded Deputy Mayor Mason:

*THAT Report 21/38 Community Facilities - Activity Update be received.*

*THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**CARRIED**

## **7.2 Infrastructure Development - Activity Update**

### **Purpose**

To provide the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee with an update on the projects being undertaken by the Infrastructure Development Group.

Mr Maguire spoke to the report and responded to a query in relation to the Manawatū River Improvement Festival. This year hosting rights for the Manawatū River Festival had been granted to Foxton to acknowledge the rebirth of the River Loop; it was not about the opening the Park as such. The Park opening would occur in May/June when all the work had been completed.

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Isaacs:

*THAT Report 21/39 Infrastructure Development - Activity Update be received.*

*THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**CARRIED**

## **7.3 Infrastructure Operations - Activity Update**

### **Purpose**

To provide the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee with an update on the projects being undertaken by the Infrastructure Operations Group.

Speaking to the report and responding to a number of queries, Mr Peel also advised that the Horowhenua Alliance had been successful in recruiting a new Alliance Director, Mr David Yorke, giving a background to Mr Yorke's career including his previous association with HDC.

Cr Brannigan joined the meeting (4.37 pm).

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Mr Jackson:

*THAT Report 21/40 Infrastructure Operations - Activity Update be received.*

*THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**CARRIED**

## **7.4 Customer and Strategy - Activity Update**

### **Purpose**

To provide the Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee with an update on the projects and activities being undertaken within the Customer and Strategy portfolio of Council.

Mrs Miller and Mr McCorkindale joined the table to speak to the report and respond to any queries. As well as highlighting a number of changes made to the report to provide more information, Mrs Miller noted a correction on page 40, which related to the building consents issued, not value.

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Jennings:

*THAT Report 20/465 Customer and Strategy - Activity Update be received.*

*THAT this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.*

**CARRIED**

## **7.5 Seven Month Report 1 July 2020 - 31 January 2021**

### **Purpose**

To present to the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee the financial report for the seven months to 31 January 2021.

Recently appointed Chief Financial Officer, Mrs Straker, spoke to the report and responded to queries, with comment also provided by Mr Law.

With regard to the query as to whether the sale of the Roe Street property could be made publicly available, Mr Clapperton advised that under Standing Orders there was the ability for the Chief Executive to determine whether matters that had been considered with the public excluded could be released, and he would provide a summary of that transaction either to the next FAR Committee or Council meeting.

Also requested by the Chair was more information on other properties acquired, as well as further detail on the Professional Services unfavourable variances as recorded in Note 5A.

MOVED by Cr Mitchell, seconded Mr Jones:

*THAT Report 21/41 Seven Month Report 1 July 2020 - 31 January 2021 be received.*

*THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**CARRIED**

## **7.6 FAR Committee - Actions**

### **Purpose**

To report back to the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee on requested actions.

#### **20/291 Monitoring Report - Audit Recommendations**

Mr Law advised that while Audit did have an officer going through the recommendations line by line and some progress had been made, there had been no formal response.

MOVED by Cr Brannigan, seconded Cr Allan:

*THAT Report 21/43 FAR Committee - Actions be received.*

*THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**CARRIED**

4.53 pm

There being no further business, the Chairperson  
declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD  
AT A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK  
COMMITTEE HELD ON

**DATE:**.....

**CHAIRPERSON:**.....