

# MINUTES

## Ordinary

Date: 10 December 2024 at 3.30 PM

Venue: TSB Chambers, War Memorial Centre, Stratford

### Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), The Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, A K Harris, V R Jones, W J Sandford, C M Tongaawhikau (*part meeting*) and M J Watt.

### In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Acting Director – Corporate Services – Mrs C Craig, the Acting Director – Community Services – Mrs E Bishop, the Acting Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs C Reynolds, the Roading Manager – Mr S Bowden (*part meeting*), the Services Manager – Mr J Cooper (*part meeting*), the Education Officer – Water and Waste (*part meeting*), the Communication Manager – Miss G Gibson, one member of the Media (Stratford Press) and 5 members of the public.

Via Audio/Visual Link – Ms P Thomson (*part meeting*) and Mr L van der Walt (*part meeting*).

#### 1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed Elected Members, members of the public, staff and the media to the meeting.

The opening karakia was read.

The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

#### 2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau.

#### Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

DUDLEY/HALL  
Carried  
CL/24/150

#### 3. Announcements

The District Mayor noted that Items 9 and 10 would be moved forward to accommodate the Auditors joining online.

#### 4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. Councillor Hall and Councillor Dudley both declared a conflict of interest with item 13.

#### 5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

## 6. Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 12 November 2024

#### Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

McKAY/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/24/151

The Acting Committee Secretary and Executive Assistant undertook to make the following amendments:

- Changed Deputy Mayor to the District Mayor in the welcome section of the minutes.

### 6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 19 November 2024

#### Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be adopted.

ERWOOD/BOYDE  
Carried  
CL/24/152

- Councillor Boyde noted he did not believe he said he has concerns over the Chief Executive, he was referring to all staff members.

## 9. Information Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Annual Report 2023/24

D24/52987 Page 46

#### Recommendation

THAT the Percy Thomson Trust Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 be received.

#### Recommended Reason

The Percy Thomson Trust is a Council Controlled Organisation of the Stratford District Council and the audit of their Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 was completed by Deloitte.

BOYDE/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/24/153

*Ms P Thomson and Mr L van der Walt joined the meeting via audio visual link at 3.40pm.*

Mrs P Thomson noted the following:

- The audit is now complete and just waiting on the signed Annual Reports for both Council and the Percy Thomson Trust. Both would be issued unmodified audit opinions. The audit opinion this year will be a 'clean' audit opinion.
- The audit misstatement is similar to last year and is regarding the Percy Thomson Trust investments, however similar to last year this is not considered material.
- The area of focus was the valuation of the infrastructure assets, the roading and three water assets were revalued during the year and as the land and building were last valued in 2023 a fair value movement assessment was completed. No material issues were identified.

Mrs Mr L van der Walt noted the following:

- There was a particular focus on procurement and some sensitive expenditure, with no significant findings. However one area noted was the updating of policies within the organisation, but understand Council are in a programme of works to get on top of these.
- One point of focus was the activity of valuing council assets. There is a difference of the treatment of some work in progress assets between the asset management system and the financial system, which has grown significantly over time. The recommendation going forward is to close the gap.

*Councillor Tongaawhikau joined the meeting at 3.52pm.*

- Councillor Hall noted the Percy Thomson Trust had a \$200,000 deficit which is being addressed, and how the investment portfolio is being dealt with.
- The District Mayor noted long standing Chair of the Percy Thomson Trust Bruce Ellis stepped down as Chair at the October AGM and long time Trustee Jim Clarkson resigned from the Trust at the same time.

## 10. Decision Report – Adopt Annual Report 2023/24

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.  

VOLZKE/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/24/154
2. THAT the Annual Report 2023/24 be received and approved for adoption, subject to any further changes as requested by Deloitte, the independent auditors.
3. THAT the Mayor and the Chief Executive be given authority to sign the Annual Report, incorporating any late, minor, changes that may be required by Deloitte.
4. THAT the Chief Executive be authorised to publish an audited Summary Annual Report within one month of adopting the Annual Report 2023/24.  

VOLZKE/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/24/155

### Recommended Reason

Section 98(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to adopt the Annual Report 2023/24 by 31 October 2024. However Council resolved to delay the adoption to 31 December 2024, as an extension was granted as a result of the Water Services Acts Repeal Act 2024. The audited Annual Report gives the community transparency on the Council's performance for the year. It is a statutory requirement for a local authority to, within one month after the adoption of its Annual Report; make publicly available a summary of the information contained in its Annual Report.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted Council achieved 74% of the performance measures for the year and questioned if there should be a figure in the performance measure on keeping within budget as there are a whole lot who achieved the KPI but blew the budget. It was noted Elected Members adopt the measures and this is what is reported on. Councillor Boyde questioned if other councils have measures in relation to the budgets. It was advised not many do, as these are non-financial reporting measures.

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 26 November 2024

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2024 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 November be adopted.

DUDLEY/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/24/156

7. District Mayor's Report

**Recommendation**

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/ERWOOD  
Carried  
CL/24/157

The District Mayor noted the following:

- A highlight in his report is the opening of the new extension of the Stratford Health Centre which is important for the Stratford Community as this centre services 7,500 people.

8. Information Report – Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) Survey

**Recommendations**

THAT the report be received.

SANDFORD/HALL  
Carried  
CL/24/158

The Education Officer – Water and Waste noted the following:

- The point of this survey was to identify the trends which were Stratford specific.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall questioned if the information in this report gives Elected Members the opportunity to consider the information in the report and to bring it back for discussion. It was advised this information is for noting but can a key ingredient for any future decisions Elected Members make. It was noted if Elected Members want to make a change they need to signal to staff and this can be investigated and presented back to Elected Members.

The Education Officer – Water and Waste, the Services Manager and the Communication Manager left the meeting at 4.20pm.

## 11. Decision Report – Americarna 2025 – Proposed Road Closures

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/SANDFORD  
Carried  
CL/24/159

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, approval is hereby given that the Stratford District Council proposes to close the following roads on Friday 21 February 2025, between the hours of 7.00am and 3.00pm for the purpose of the 2025 Americarna event.

- SH3 Broadway between Seyton Street and Fenton Street.
- Regan Street between Miranda Street and Juliet Street between the hours of 7am to 3:00pm
- Miranda Street between the Seyton Street and Fenton Street.

3. THAT the Council approves the alternative routes detailed below:

- **Southbound traffic** – Left into Seyton Street, right into Juliet St, left on to Celia and right on to Orlando, continue along Orlando Street, on to Hills Road, returning to SH3.
- **Northbound traffic** – Left onto Fenton St, right into Portia St, continue to Pembroke Road West, turn right on Pembroke Road West and rejoin SH3.

DUDLEY/SANDFORD  
Carried  
CL/24/160

### Recommended Reason

In order for the Stratford Business Association to host Americarna, it is necessary to close the roads listed above for safety reasons and for the participants to exhibit their vehicles via a static display. The proposed road closures require formal endorsement by a Council resolution.

### Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor noted his concerns that the road closure of 7am-3.30pm interferes with commuting traffic in the morning, and if this was moved to 8am most of the commuters would have been through. The Roading Manager advised it is closed at this time to stop anyone parking in the main street.
- Councillor Dudley requested the recommendation be updated to Pembroke Road West.

### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/JONES  
Carried  
CL/24/161

2. THAT the following, updated and new policies, being the:

1. Child Protection Policy
2. Mayor's Relief Fund Policy

be adopted.

VOLZKE/BECK  
Carried  
CL/24/162

2. THAT the following policies, being the:

1. Petitions in Council Buildings Policy
2. Conferences, Seminars, Tours Policy

be withdrawn.

HARRIS/ERWOOD  
Carried  
CL/24/163

### Recommended Reason

This is part of council's rolling review of policies. Policies require review from time to time to ensure they still reflect current legislation and best practice, as well as elected members' views and meet the business needs of the organisation. Any policies recommended for withdrawal have either been found to be not required, amalgamated into an existing policy or replaced by a new policy as outlined in the body of this report.

The Chief Executive noted:

- The original Child Protection Policy was long and contained operational detail.
- The Police no longer supported many roles for the level required in this policy. The intent is still the same, any staff who are in a position to form a relationship with children come under this policy.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall noted on page 281 it refers to Child Youth and Family, this needs to be updated to Oranga Tamariki.
- The Deputy Mayor questioned how it will be tracked that the training required is being completed. It was advised a training register was being maintained. It was discussed how often training would be required, it was agreed to put every two years.

The Chief Executive noted:

- The Mayor's Relief Fund is not a rate funded fund, it is voluntarily donated by individuals. The significant change in the policy is the establishment of the Taranaki Disaster Relief Fund which takes over most of the responsibilities within this policy.
- Both of the policies to be withdrawn are covered elsewhere in other policies or delegations.

### 13. Decision Report – Percy Thomson Trust - Letter of Expectation

#### Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/SANDFORD  
Carried  
CL/24/164

2. THAT elected members determine to present Percy Thomson Trust with a Letter of Expectations for the 2025/2026 financial year.

HARRIS/BOYDE  
Carried  
CL/24/165

3. THAT elected members adopt the attached Letter of Expectations

McKAY/HARRIS  
Carried  
CL/24/166

#### Recommended Reason

Elected Members have voiced concerns regarding certain areas of Percy Thomson Trust's performance and operations for some time now. A Letter of Expectations is the appropriate mechanism for a council to express its expectations to a council controlled organisation.

The Chief Executive noted:

- Percy Thomson Trust is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and one mechanism Council can use to ensure the CCO delivers to their expectations is a letter of expectation. The letter of expectation is responded to with their statement of intent.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The Deputy Mayor questioned if the level the information required needs to be specified, as she has concerns regarding the level the information coming back to Elected Members, particularly regarding the investments. It was advised if the draft Statement of Intent came back not at the required level, it can be refused and signalled more work needs to be done.
- The District Mayor noted the letter is silent on the employment of staff, particularly the director. He advised that in the review of their activities he would like the Trust to look at their employees, and investigate the option of Council employing the staff and contracting them out to the Trust. This would allow the employer responsibilities to fall on Council, allowing the Trust to concentrate on other things. The Deputy Mayor advised if the District Mayor wanted this to happen, it should be included in the letter, and that she would like to ask for some options on the employment of staff. It was agreed to put this into the letter.

### 14. Questions

There were no questions

### 15. Public Forum Response

**Speaker:** Dinnie Moeahu

**Response:** Submission on the Treaty Principle's Bill

- The District Mayor advised Mr Moeahu has asked if Stratford District Council will submit on the Treaty Principle's Bill and the opposition to it. He has suggested this as a joint submission with neighbouring Councils, or standalone.
- Councillor Hall advised she believes Council should put a submission in against the Treaty Principles Bill individually, and if the other two Council's put in a submission in her eyes this is joint. She noted she holds this view for the following reasons:

- The process in which the Bill has been developed and put forward feels wrong. There has deliberately been no engagement with Māori, neither party of the Treaty were involved in the development of the bill (Māori and the Crown), and there have been many significant individuals and organisations who have stated opposition.
- The considerations of relationships between iwi and hapu. They are significant, from what I have heard Council has really strong and meaningful relationships with hapu, iwi and marae. She noted her question is “What type of partner are we in this? If we don’t express our opposition to this bill, what does that say about us and the value we put on our iwi and hapu and their partnership?”. Council has a number of legislative requirements to work within, and this bill directly contradicts that.
- Despite the major coalition partner saying they will not support this bill further, damage has been done and it is divisive.
- Councillors Jones, Boyde, Watt, Sandford, Beck and Erwood all opposed putting in a submission, it was discussed that not enough was known/understood on the bill to put in an informed submission.
- Councillor Jones questioned how many bills are passed by Government which Council does not submit on, and if submissions are only sent in on ones which directly affect Council, and if this bill directly affects Council, why was a decision report not presented? It was advised many bills are passed by Government, with those which affect Council submitted on. It was also noted if Elected Members wished there to be a submission they could request the Mayor or Chief Executive to write a submission, or if 1/3 of Elected Members were in support, an Extraordinary meeting could be called for next week where Elected Members could debate the submission.

*The Roding Manager left the meeting at 4.55pm.*

- Councillor Harris noted her support for a submission.
- The Deputy Mayor noted the views around the table is why in her view Council should write a submission on the bill. Her biggest concern with this bill is that if it passes the first reading it goes into the hands of the majority of the country to adopt and pass the bill, yet it is not read or understood. She noted this is what should be submitted on, that Council is not happy with how the bill has been presented and that there are inconsistencies. She is concerned if it goes any further it will then be asking the people of New Zealand to have their say through a referendum on something they will not understand. Councillor Dudley noted her agreement with the Deputy Mayor.
- Councillor Tongaawhikau advised he supports the request from Mr Moeahu.
- The District Mayor questioned if Councillors would be supportive of a submission which is critical of the process and the highlights impact this process has on Council and our community, not the contents of the bill itself. This was supported.

## 16. Closing Karakia

*The meeting closed at 5.25 pm.*

N C Volzke  
**Chairman**

Confirmed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

N C Volzke  
**District Mayor**