

Glen Oroua-Taikorea Community Committee



MEETING MINUTES

FINAL MINUTES

DATE	15 September 2026	MEETING OPENED	7:00 pm
LOCATION	Glen Oroua Hall	SECRETARY	Philippa Love
COMMITTEE CHAIR	Raewyn Persson (apology)	MEETING CHAIR	Christine Finnigan

IN ATTENDANCE

Ellise Lightbourne, Phil Lightbourne, Lyndon Craw, Tina de Bes, Jocelyn McTavish, Ian Cooper, Chris Hehir, Trevor Smith, Shelley Dew-Hopkins, Christine Finnigan, Philippa Love

APOLOGIES / ABSENT

Apologies were read out and accepted.

Francie Carroll, Andrew Pedley, Adam Naylor, Raewyn Persson, Sandi Pearson

WELCOME

Christine opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Christine will be chairing this meeting for Raewyn who is unwell.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Glen Oroua-Taikorea Community Committee meeting held on 21 July 2026 were presented for confirmation as a true and correct record.

Tina/Phil/Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM 21 JULY 2026 MINUTES

Emergency Management training

At the July meeting, Raewyn was to contact Hannah Tokona, Emergency Management Officer, to confirm a new training date. Hannah had also indicated that she would bring the new draft 2026-2030 Community Response & Recovery Plan for the committee to review. This has been confirmed by email for 17 November, the date of the next committee meeting. Emergency Management training and review of the draft plan will be added to the November agenda.

Rangiotu Road / Main Drain Road intersection

At the July meeting, the committee agreed that Philippa would compile a letter to Hamish Waugh at Manawātū District Council outlining the safety concerns at the intersection, and Ian offered to prepare a potential solution to accompany the letter. Thanks to Philippa and Ian for their work on this.

Pathway

No report on pathway.

Community Plan

The committee had agreed that the Community Plan would be discussed at this meeting, with members asked to read it beforehand and bring feedback. The link to the Community Plan was included with the September meeting material. (discussed below)

Terms of Reference

The updated Terms of Reference have been filed with MDC and distributed to all committee members. Key provisions include a quorum of five members, five scheduled meetings per year, generally held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Roadside trees / storm clean-up

At the July meeting, concern was raised about fallen trees and storm debris remaining on roadsides. Update: Communication has been ongoing between Philippa and the MDC. It has now resulted in the MDC liaising directly with the leaseholder involved.

CORRESPONDENCE

2027-37 Long-term Plan - engagement with Community Committees

Correspondence was received from Mayor Michael Ford regarding Council's preparation of the 2027-37 Long-term Plan. Council advised that, because of uncertainty around the financial environment and proposed rates caps, Community Committees will not be invited to submit requests for new initiatives ahead of the initial budget-setting process. Council expects formal consultation to take place in March 2027 and has encouraged Community Committees to consider the priorities and issues most important to their communities in preparation for that process.

Manawātū's Rural Month

Correspondence/information was received regarding Manawātū's Rural Month, running from 27 September to 31 October 2026 and promoting the district's 16 country villages. The promotion includes a booklet and online village profiles. Thanks to Philippa for arranging this with Feilding & District Promotion. More information about Manawātū Rural Month here <https://feilding.co.nz/events-activities>

Other correspondence

Rangiotu and Main Drain Road intersection – Reply from MDC received. Matt Williams' reply stated:

"I can confirm that the committee's letter has been passed to the Roading department and investigation has duly commenced. We also thank you (and Mr Cooper in particular) for taking the time to provide both detail of your concerns and possible solution(s)."

They will progress the assessment and provide updates accordingly.

LIAISON COUNCILLOR REPORT - SHELLEY DEW-HOPKINS

Shelley Dew-Hopkins provided an update on Manawatū District Council matters relevant to the community.

Council has received the latest customer satisfaction survey results. Overall satisfaction has continued to trend upwards over the past three years, with residents aged over 65 recording the highest satisfaction levels. Areas where satisfaction had declined included funding and maintenance of community halls and footpaths. Shelley noted that the district continues to have an ageing population, while remaining well regarded as a place to raise and educate families.

Shelley also noted that, despite the difficult wider economic environment, Manawatū had recorded some economic growth while the national economy had shown signs of contraction. Improved returns from the primary production sector and the resulting flow-on effect to supporting businesses were noted as contributing factors.

Council considered the Development and Financial Contributions Policy in August. The policy is intended to ensure a fair and reasonable recovery of growth-related infrastructure costs from new development, including new connections or additional demand on Council's three waters networks.

Council also received the Feilding & District Promotion Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026. Shelley noted the organisation's significant level of activity and its role in promoting the district locally and regionally. The Halls Policy and Road Stopping Policy were also adopted during August.

The Feilding Town Refresh proposal was due to be considered by Council on 16 September, with significant public interest expected.

Rates capping and the future structure of local government remain significant issues for Council. Shelley advised that surrounding rural councils have signed a memorandum of understanding and presented their collective position to Parliament. Recent Government comments have also indicated that council amalgamations will not necessarily be compulsory, with further clarity expected following the election.

Christine commented that she would like Manawatū District Council to retain Community Committees, noting the value they provide both to their communities and to Council.

Shelley advised that Feilding First, the new local Feilding district newspaper, will now be delivered to the Rongotea Dairy for collection. She encouraged the committee to support the paper and said she would look into helping Feilding First access more Rural Delivery routes in the future. Feilding First is also available to read online and is shared on its Facebook page on Fridays.

EVENTS PLANNING

Spring Potluck - review

The Spring Potluck was held on 5 September 2026 at Glen Oroua Hall. The event had been planned as a traditional potluck, with attendees bringing a plate to share. A budget of up to \$500 had been approved at the July meeting.

About 25 people attended. Feedback from those attending was very positive, and the evening concluded shortly after 9.00 pm. Thanks were recorded to Raewyn, Jocelyn, Sandi, Tina, Phil and Ellise for helping with set-up. Discussion was held about whether this was the best time of year to hold the event, and this will be considered when planning next year's events.

Refunds / costs to date

Photocopying flyers \$30; distribution \$50; hall hire \$115. Additional meat from the Matariki potluck event to be reimbursed: \$40.

Christmas event

The committee discussed arrangements for the 2026 community Christmas event. Tina suggested a Christmas Craft Market, and the committee agreed this could offer a different way to bring the community together. Sunday, 29 November in the afternoon was agreed as the proposed date. A subcommittee of Tina, Jocelyn and Philippa was formed to meet and propose a plan to the rest of the committee by email. Philippa will coordinate advertising, with a focus on clearly communicating everything the event will offer. Ideas discussed included a sausage sizzle, ice cream truck, play trailer, craft market stalls, gold coin entry, and a free hot drink and something to eat. These ideas are to be developed further by the subcommittee.

FUNDING

Community Committee Project Funding

The committee noted that \$3,000 in Community Committee Project Funding has been approved for 2026/27. The approved allocation is \$2,200 for events, \$450 for the pathway, \$240 for historical photos and \$110 for meeting costs.

Community Committee Contestable Fund - Glen Oroua Hall weatherproofing

The committee noted that \$8,000 from the Community Committee Contestable Fund has been allocated toward the Glen Oroua Hall weatherproofing project.

It was moved that a purchase order be sought for payment of an invoice up to the value of \$8,000 + GST for weatherproofing works at Glen Oroua Hall. The funding is to be applied toward a contractor selected by the Glen Oroua Hall Society at its next meeting.

Christine/Tina/Carried

HISTORICAL PHOTOS

Photos are still to be hung. Denise Saunders has provided a cleaned-up photograph of the church from the image in the first Glen Oroua history book. Lyndon is looking for the original photo files used in the history books. Chris has also provided photographs from Taikorea that require some minor editing. The committee noted that good progress is being made with the historical photo project.

COMMUNITY PLAN

The committee discussed the current Glen Oroua-Taikorea Community Plan and reflected on the positive things that have been achieved within the community. These included the pathway, community events, the successful Afternoon Tea with the Past events, and the historical photo project.

The committee will continue discussion on the Community Plan at the next meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Country Hall Shindig - This event is taking place on 30 October 2026 and is being hosted by the Glen Oroua Hall Society. The event is being promoted through Feilding & District Promotion as part of Manawatū's Rural Month. Shelley indicated that she may be able to offer a jacket to the Glen Oroua Hall

Society for the Country Hall Shindig silent auction and will follow this up. Shelley asked for this offer to be recorded in the minutes.

Acknowledging the past - Philippa shared that, while researching the contribution for Manawatū Rural Month, she had collated a substantial amount of historical information about the area. She suggested that a future event could build on this work by holding an afternoon tea where local people are invited to bring along photographs, documents, artefacts or stories to share. The committee could document the material brought along and potentially invite representatives from the library's heritage team and the Coach House Museum to attend and provide advice on preserving, recording and caring for historical material. This could complement the successful "Afternoon Tea with the Past" events held previously, while also helping to capture and preserve more of the history of Glen Oroua and Taikorea.

NEXT MEETING - 17 November 2026

MEETING CLOSED 8.36 pm

ACTIONS ARISING

- Add Emergency Management training and review of the draft 2026-2030 Community Response & Recovery Plan to the 17 November agenda.
- Tina, Jocelyn and Philippa to develop the Christmas event plan and circulate a proposal to the committee by email.
- Philippa to coordinate advertising for the Christmas event once the plan is confirmed.
- Seek a purchase order for up to \$8,000 + GST for Glen Oroua Hall weatherproofing works, following selection of the contractor by the Glen Oroua Hall Society.
- Shelley to follow up the possible donation of a jacket to the Glen Oroua Hall Society for the Country Hall Shindig silent auction.