

Trustees	
Jo Morris	Chairperson and Trustee
Tracey Alston	Trustee
Vicki Crombie	Trustee
Bessie Nicholls	Trustee

1. WITHDRAWN OF TRUSTEES RESIGNATION

The Board formally noted that Trustee Tracey Alston has rescinded her previously submitted letter of resignation from the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust and has confirmed her intention to continue serving as a Trustee for the foreseeable future.

The matter was discussed with the Chair prior to the meeting, and the withdrawal of resignation was accepted by the Chairperson.

2. OPENING

The original meeting was cancelled. It was subsequently agreed that the board needed to reconvene to discuss the previously circulated report titled “Disbandment of the Trust”. As not all members were able to attend in person, the meeting was held virtually.

The board paper was distributed to all Trustees on Sunday, 12 April 2026 for their review and consideration. It was noted that all other board matters would be deferred until the May 2026 meeting.

Trustees were asked to review the board paper and to consider and approve the recommendations and motion as outlined. Trustees were also invited to provide any feedback.

3.0 OPERATIONAL – MANAGEMENT

3.1 **General Business Operational:**

Proposal to Disband the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust

The Chair circulated an email containing the report that had been previously considered during the March board meeting. At that time, the Trustees were unable to reach a unanimous decision regarding the winding up of the Trust. Following further discussion after the board meeting, it was agreed that the report would be redistributed and reviewed by each Trustee.

The following was raised by the Trustees:

- All current and contingent liabilities of the Trust are identified and resolved prior to final wind-up.
- Operational, contractor, and health and safety responsibilities formally transfer to Manawatū District Council, with no residual obligations for trustees.
- Distribution of any remaining funds complies with clause 18 of the Trust Deed and is appropriately documented
- One Trustee (Bessie Nicholls) wanted her comments included in the minutes as a formal record: “She is in agreement with the recommendation and proposal, but not for the reasons outlined in the paper. Bessie indicated over eleven months ago of her intention to resign from the Trust after seven years of service.

This still stands and her resignation still takes place in June 2026. Bessie understands that a negative vote would not halt the process only delay it until after she had retired from the Trust. By staying involved for a short period allows her to discuss the closure positively and give clear understanding to the many many diverse and related parties that have supported the Trust over the years and what may come next, or where to go to get whatever support or knowledge they may require”

Based on the feedback received, the following recommendation and motion was put forward to all the Trustees:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. **Agreed** to wind up the Trust prior to the end of the financial year.
2. **Requested** that the Council establishes a Community Advisory Group to provide ongoing stewardship and advice relating to the park and wider biodiversity activities.
3. **Approved** that the Chair develops a transition plan, and it must include:
 - A communications plan for stakeholders (MDC Councillors, GBN, Kauwhata, and others)
 - Recommendations for the Trustees to consider the use of the working capital currently available
 - Recommendations for the Trustees to consider of suitable charitable bodies within Manawatū that could receive any surplus funding. Any distribution of any remaining funds must comply with clause 18 of the Trust Deed and is appropriately documented
 - Provisions to ensure that all current and contingent liabilities of the Trust are identified and resolved prior to final wind-up.
 - A process to ensure that all operational, contractor, and health and safety responsibilities are formally transferred to Manawatū District Council, with no residual obligations for trustees
 - A process to work with the Council to ring-fence some funding to support the continuation of the advisory work to be undertaken by Bessie in the 2026/27 financial year (if required)
 - A process to transfer knowledge and intangible assets over to the Manawatu District Council
4. **Authorised** the Chair to work with the Council to finalise the transition plan and bring back any required decisions.

Resolution

The Board agrees to wind up the Trust before the end of the financial year and authorises the Chair to take all necessary actions to complete the process. This includes transferring funds, establishing a community advisory group, and developing a transition plan with Manawatū District Council and stakeholders.

Moved by Jo Morris and seconded by Tracey Alston

All agreed

Carried

Passed

4.0	NEXT MEETINGS
4.1	Next meeting: <u>Thursday, 21 May 2026</u> - 4.30pm Venue: Manawatu Community Trust Committee room



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Jo Morris, Chairperson

22 April 2026

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Date