

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 01 APRIL 2026	8:31 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 01 April 2026, which commenced at 8.31 am at the Manawātū District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT: Mayor Michael Ford Chairperson
Councillor Bridget Bell Via Zoom
Councillor Shelley Dew-Hopkins
Councillor Rob Duindam
Councillor Colin Dyer
Councillor Grant Hadfield
Councillor Sam Hill
Councillor Raewyn Loader
Councillor James McKelvie
Councillor Jerry Pickford
Councillor Andrew Quarrie
Councillor Alison Short

IN ATTENDANCE: Shayne Harris Chief Executive
Hamish Waugh General Manager – Infrastructure
Frances Smorti General Manager – Corporate
Lyn Daly General Manager – Community
Joel Richards Acting Chief Financial Officer
Ash Garstang Governance and Assurance Manager

MDC 25-28/186

MEETING OPENING

Frances Smorti opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/187

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apology from Councillor Bridget Bell for lateness be approved.

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/188

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 18 March 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

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Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/189

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Cr Bridget Bell joined the meeting at 8.36 am.

MDC 25-28/190

PRESENTATION - REPRESENTATIVE FUND - NZ U21 JUNIOR BLACK STICKS JAPAN TOUR 2025

Charlotte Dunn-Hall was in attendance speaking to Council. Highlights:

- Charlotte has played hockey since age 11.
- Played three games, and then two games against the National Team.
- She is going to play hockey in England for a season.
- Plans to invest time in coaching young goalies.

MDC 25-28/191

PRESENTATION - REPRESENTATIVE FUND - WORLD U19 SPRINT TRIATHLON AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

Oscar Skinner was in attendance speaking to Council. His brother George Skinner was unable to attend but provided a video presentation that was viewed.

Oliver Skinner highlights:

- Oscar completed a bike and run in Tauranga as well.
- His performances have improved and it has boosted his confidence.
- Biking is generally his weakest leg, although he performed very well in this Triathlon.

George Skinner highlights:

- George's favourite part of the event was the bike.
- He had a crash a couple of weeks prior to the competition, which presented him with some additional challenges.
- He has now switched over to competing in cycling events only.

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MDC 25-28/192

PUBLIC FORUM

John Girling (Foxton Flax) was an apology and not present to speak to Council.

MDC 25-28/193

**CENTRAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SIX MONTHLY REPORT
2025/2026 PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking Council’s receipt of the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Half Yearly Report to 31 December 2025.

CEDA members presenting – Bobbie O’Fee (Chair), Jerry Shearman (Chief Executive), Jacqui Middleton (Finance and Operations Manager), Greg Bignall (Business Development Manager), Tainui Woodmass (Māori Relationship Manager), and Jordyn Blackett (Marketing & Communications Manager).

RESOLVED

That Council receive the Central Economic Development Agency Half-yearly Report to 31 December 2025.

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/194

**CENTRAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DRAFT STATEMENT OF
INTENT 2026/2027**

Report of the General Manager – Community providing an opportunity for Council to give feedback to the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) on their draft Statement of Intent 2026-27.

RESOLVED

That Council receive the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) draft Statement of Intent 2026-27 (ref: Appendix 1).

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer

CARRIED (12-0)

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MDC 25-28/195

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/196

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/197

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

The following Council Committee and Community Committee meetings were notified for information.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Finance and Performance Committee	• 25 March 2026

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Āpiti Community Committee	• 18 March 2026
Cheltenham Community Committee	• 31 March 2026
Colyton Community Committee	• 19 March 2026
Glen Oroua-Taikorea Community Committee	• 24 March 2026
Himatangi Beach Community Committee	• 26 March 2026

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Finance and Performance – Mayor Michael Ford. It was the first meeting of the triennium. The Mayor gave a brief overview of the items that were discussed and advised that non-members were welcome to attend future meetings.
- Āpiti – Cr Sam Hill. The Committee were concerned around trees maintenance, and other road maintenance issues. Cr Hill has passed on these issues to the operational team. The group are setting up a new Facebook page to promote the area.
- Cheltenham – Cr Rob Duindam. The Committee have now elected six members, with a new Chair.
- Colyton – Cr Colin Dyer. They discussed the outstanding grant for the walkway. The group also discussed the placement of CCTV cameras around the settlement, and placement of signage. They are considering hosting a car boot sale as a fundraiser.
- Glen Oroua Taikorea – Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins. They had their first meeting, with a new Chair. They are looking at bus issues as they cannot offer a bus

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service to the high school – they are intending to meet with the local MP to discuss these concerns.

- Himatangi – Cr Jerry Pickford. They have started revising their community plan. There is a submission process out for speed reductions along SH1 / Himatangi Beach Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.54 am and reconvened at 10.12 am.

MDC 25-28/198

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

There were no updates.

MDC 25-28/199

SUBMISSIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF MANAWATU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the General Manager – Corporate presenting to Council for information, copies of recent submissions lodged on behalf of the Manawatū District Council.

RESOLVED

That the Council receives and notes the listed submissions, lodged on behalf of the Manawatū District Council between 1 November 2025 to 04 March 2026.

- 1 MBIE Insights Briefing – Productivity in a Changing World**
- 2 Consultation on amending the Second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2)**
- 3 Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules for Schemes 501 or more people**
- 4 Public consultation on proposed data collection approach and content for the census**
- 5 Land Transport (Revenue) Amendment Bill**
- 6 Building and Construction Sector (Strengthening Occupational Licensing Regimes) Amendment Bill.**
- 7 Building and Construction Sector (Self-Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill.**
- 8 Public Works Amendment Bill**
- 9 Rates Target Model for New Zealand**
- 10 Emergency Management Bill**
- 11 Planning Bill**
- 12 Natural Environment Bill**
- 13 Earthquake Prone Buildings Amendment Bill**
- 14 Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill**
- 15 Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill**

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- 16 Simplifying Local Government**
- 17 Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections**
- 18 Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment**

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/200

ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT FOR THE MANAWATŪ-WHANGANUI REGION 2025-28

Report of the General Manager – Corporate presenting the Manawatū-Whanganui Region’s Triennial Agreement for the 2025-28 triennium to Council for endorsement.

RESOLVED

That the Council endorses the attached Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region for the 2025-28 triennium.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Rob Duindam

CARRIED (12-0)

RESOLVED

That the Council authorises His Worship the Mayor to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Council.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (12-0)

RESOLVED

That the Council appoints His Worship the Mayor as Council’s representative on the Climate Action Joint Committee.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (10-2)

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Cr Jerry Pickford and Cr Andrew Quarrie voted against the motion.

MDC 25-28/201

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/202

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 18 March 2026

That 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	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
13. Confirmation of Minutes; 18 March 2026	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 18 March 2026.</i> <i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i>	s48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (12-0)



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The meeting went into public excluded session at 10.53 am. For items MDC 25-28/203 to MDC 25-28/204 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 10.55 am.

MDC 25-28/205

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 10.55 am.

Meeting Video

<https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/videos-of-council-and-committee-meetings/manawatu-district-council-meeting-videos>