

MEETING MINUTES		
COUNCIL		TIME
THURSDAY 1 MAY 2025		8:30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 01 May 2025, which commenced at 8.30 am at Hato Hone St Johns, 35 Bowen Street, Feilding.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Helen Worboys	Chairperson
Cr Bridget Bell	
Cr Steve Bielski	
Cr Stuart Campbell	
Cr Grant Hadfield	
Cr Colin McFadzean	
Cr Andrew Quarrie	
Cr Kerry Quigley	
Cr Alison Short	
Cr Fiona Underwood	

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Lara Blackmore, Cr Michael Ford

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lyn Daly	Acting Chief Executive
Hamish Waugh	General Manager – Infrastructure
Frances Smorti	General Manager – People and Corporate
Amanda Calman	Chief Financial Officer
Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
Lisa Thomas	Principal Policy Adviser
Janine Hawthorn	Community Wellbeing Manager

MDC 22-25/1116

#### MEETING OPENING

Jan McGaffin from the Hub Church opened the meeting with prayer.

MDC 22-25/1117

#### APOLOGIES

Cr Lara Blackmore and Cr Michael Ford are on pre-approved leaves of absence for the LGNZ conference.

MDC 22-25/1118

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

**That the minutes of the Council meeting held 17 April 2025 be adopted as a true and correct record, as amended:**

- The resolution numbering (“Recommendations from Committees” onwards) to be revised and made sequential

**Moved by:** Cr Bridget Bell

**Seconded by:** Cr Alison Short

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**CARRIED (10-0)**

MDC 22-25/1119

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 22-25/1120

**PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND RECIPIENT – IRONMAN 70.3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

Cheryl Hirschberg was in attendance speaking to Council. Highlights included:

- Cheryl trained at the Makino swimming pool, and on the bike near her farm in Pohangina. She does a lot of her running training at the Manawatu Gorge.
- She finished 24<sup>th</sup> out of 166 competitors in her age group – a result that exceeded her expectations.
- Cheryl's father, a strong supporter of her sporting journey, passed away two days before the event. She shared with Council that, despite a setback during the final bike leg, she competed in the Vintage category in his honour and was proud of her performance.

MDC 22-25/1121

**PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND RECIPIENT – U16 YOUTH TOUCH NATIONALS**

Tiana Keo was in attendance speaking to Council. Highlights included:

- This was her first time competing in the Youth Touch Nationals, and the grant assistance was appreciated as it helped her to attend the event.
- Over 20 teams competed, and the Manawātū sent six teams. She was in the under 16 mixed team.
- She learnt new skills alongside her teammates and enjoyed meeting new people.
- Moving forwards, she intends to build her skills and attend future touch rugby events.
- In response to a question, Tiana advised that she trained twice a week in the lead up to the event.

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MDC 22-25/1122

#### PUBLIC FORUM - CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION

Angela Baker and Philip McConkey were in attendance speaking to Council. Highlights included:

- Philip has been involved in climate change action for several decades, and they belong to an organisation called Extinction Rebellion.
- Climate change will have a disproportionate impact on young people.
- They have both been participating in a small group in Palmerston North for the last six or so years, trying to raise awareness of climate change and stimulate action.
- Philip does not believe that our leaders are taking enough action.
- Angela noted that people feel powerless on what to do about climate change, and she felt that small tangible steps are helpful to get people taking action. She agreed that our leaders need to increase their guidance and action in this space.
- Angela suggested that the Council extend its emissions reduction work to the business community. For example, the Council could celebrate businesses that perform well in this area (e.g., awards).
- Philip suggested that the materials he provided could be disseminated wider to residents. He felt that leaders needed to put more effort into mitigation, as it is difficult to predict the outcomes of climate change (making adaption more difficult).
- Angela noted her support for any kitchen waste initiatives that the Council might be considering.

MDC 22-25/1123

#### NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 22-25/1124

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 22-25/1125

#### COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

The following Council Committees, Community Committees and Youth Council meetings were notified for information.

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COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Colyton Community Committee	• 17 April 2025
Himatangi Beach Community Committee	• 24 April 2025
Kiwitea Community Committee	• 30 April 2025
Tangimoana Community Committee	• 28 April 2025

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Cr Quarrie – the Himatangi Beach Community Committee is looking at building a platform over the sand dunes. They are wanting to get Wi-Fi installed at the library.
- Cr Short – the Tangimoana Community Committee is going strong at the moment and are seeing good engagement from community members. There is some concern around the green waste area – one new fence has been built, but they would like to complete more. They also suggested that signage should be installed providing guidance on what green waste material can be included.

MDC 22-25/1126

#### MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided a verbal update on their attendance at marae meetings.

- Te Hiiri Marae – Cr Bell advised that the marae had a wananga (workshop) on the weekend to work on their long-term plan and environmental strategy. They are partnering with Te Awanuiārangi to host about 30 students and 6 teachers, to work towards diplomas.
- Te Kōtui Reo – Cr Bell advised that the group met 30 April 2025 and several staff presented, discussing Papakāinga housing and the Significance and Engagement Policy.

MDC 22-25/1127

#### HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS FOR LOCAL WATER DONE WELL CONSULTATION (PART 1)

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate providing an opportunity for submitters to present their views and to verbally interact with Council, as required by Section 83(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 2002.

#### RESOLVED

1. **That the Council receive this report and the submissions received on Local Water Done Well.**

#### AND

2. **That the Council considers the matters raised in oral and written submissions on the Local Water Done Well consultation document.**

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***Council will formally adopt the preferred option for the delivery of water services at the Council meeting on 15 May 2025.***

***The Water Services Delivery Plan will be developed based on the preferred option and will be presented to Council for adoption and approval for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs at the 19 June 2025 Council meeting.***

**Moved by: Cr Alison Short**

**Seconded by: Cr Kerry Quigley**

**CARRIED (10-0)**

First block of verbal submissions

**007 Shane Casey**

Highlights:

- Supports the status quo option, noting the significant capital investment that the Council had made in previous years.
- There does not appear to be any consideration of Papakāinga housing, and requested that this covered in the formal response to his submission.
- He suggested that the Council should offer support to the Palmerston North City Council, in terms of advocating for Government assistance.
- The Government should not expect to be able to foist new standards onto local authorities without offering tangible support.

In response to questions, Shane Casey advised:

- There are a lot of links between Palmerston North and the Manawātū District, and many individuals who live and work in both locations.

**089 Waituna West District Community – John Williamson**

Highlights:

- The Waituna West District Community supports the status quo.
- The Council will need to carefully monitor its bore water quality and volume.
- John felt that it would be helpful to advocate for Palmerston North and try and include them where we can.

**378 Luke Doidge-Bailey**

Highlights:

- Acknowledged the work of previous councils and their investment in capital works over the years.

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- Generally supports the status quo, but noted a few additional issues:
  - Risks from climate change. The changing environment is likely to increase insurance costs.
  - Regulatory change. It is highly likely that the Government and local government sector will be required to raise water, wastewater and storm water standards in the future.
  - Cultural analysis. The financial impacts were well analysed, but there was little to no discussion about what this means for the District's relationship with mana whenua.
  - The risk that we are reinforcing the isolation of local authorities by not joining together with neighbouring councils. Luke suggested that the Council should at least consider other forms of interoperability (e.g., data management, other partnerships), in case the Council is forced to amalgamate in the future.
- There is an opportunity cost to investing in water infrastructure, and Council should be aware of this.

#### **460 Angela Baker**

##### Highlights:

- Acknowledged the work and investment that Council has made over the years.
- Angela is worried about the Council getting stuck in its own microcosm, and felt that this was not discussed in the consultation material. The discussions so far have not been as transparent as they could have been. For example, the meeting recording from December 2024 is not available and other parts of the discussion would have taken place in workshop sessions. She feels that the public has been underserved by this.
- During a public meeting, she heard the argument on how adopting a Council stand-alone model would be the best option for protecting water services from future corporatisation.
- Angela queried the bioplant initiative (that did not proceed) and what lessons were learnt from this.

#### **468 Lynne Prior**

##### Highlights:

- Lynne pays rates in both the Manawatū and Palmerston North.
- The Manawatū District Council rates are among the highest in the country. Over the years the Council has invested significantly in capital works and growth.

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- Supports the status quo option:
- Kāpiti Coast District Council – they have a well established network.
- Horowhenua District Council – have offered restrictions in the installation of metres, and are overseeing the provision of private water tanks in light of water volume challenges.
- Palmerston North City Council – they would want to join the Manawatū District. They do not appear to have been insightful over the years in their investment, and joining together with them would result in significant costs for Manawatū ratepayers.
- Fluoride – this has become a hot topic, but the body of evidence has increased supporting non-fluoridated water. The Council decision to add an industrial bi-product to water is making it more difficult for residents. She feels that the Council should provide both fluoridated and non-fluoridated options to residents.

In response to questions, Lynne Prior advised:

- She would prefer a non-fluoridated option to be available across the whole town.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9.55 am and reconvened at 10.20 am.*

#### **442 Hinemoana Durie – on behalf of Aorangi Marae**

Highlights:

- Aorangi Marae supports option 1 (status quo), and would not agree with subsidising ratepayers from other local authority areas.
- Hinemoana acknowledged the previous work of Council to invest in capital works.

#### **498 Hinemoana Durie and Frances Pere - on behalf of Te Kōtui Reo**

Highlights:

- Te Kōtui Reo supports option 1 (status quo).
- They would like to reinforce their desire for authentic partnership with the Council, based on mutual trust, shared commitment and the wellbeing of the community.
- They appreciated the workshop that Council held with iwi on this reform.
- Te Kōtui Reo would like iwi, hapu and marae to be part of all aspects of water service delivery. The current reform is focused on Feilding water service, but they would like to draw attention to water needs for rural whanau. It is important that an iwi voice is layered across all water-related Kaupapa.

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- They acknowledged the growing relationships between marae chairs and councillors.

MDC 22-25/1128

#### FEES AND CHARGES: ADOPTION OF ANIMAL CONTROL FEES

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate seeking Council approval to set fees and charges for Animal Control for the period 01 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

#### RESOLVED

**That the Council adopt the Animal Control fees and charges (attachment 1) for the financial year commencing 01 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026.**

**Moved by: Cr Alison Short**

**Seconded by: Cr Bridget Bell**

**CARRIED (10-0)**

MDC 22-25/1129

#### HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS FOR LOCAL WATER DONE WELL CONSULTATION (PART 2)

##### Second block of verbal submissions

##### **486 Ngawhakaraua Marae - Peter Te Rangi**

##### Highlights:

- Peter was initially in favour of option 1 (status quo), but after further thought he considered the role of Horowhenua District Council who have jurisdiction for the Manawatū river at its sea point.
- Peter's preference is now option 3.
- Hamish Waugh advised that the setting of the environmental standards has traditionally been set by Horizons Regional Council, and the new water and wastewater standards from Taumata Arowai will reinforce this.

##### In response to questions, Peter Te Rangi advised:

- The financial burden of a joint model would understandably fall on Manawatu whanau, however Horowhenua and Palmerston North are progressing towards metred water supply and this will cater for extra sources of revenue to meet the demands of Local Water Done Well.
- Whanau were aware of the concern around losing input within a joint model due to the risk of corporatisation, however they are supportive of the idea of collaborating with our neighbours across the wider region.



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#### 483 Allan Dodge

##### Highlights:

- Allan was appreciative of the thorough financial analysis behind the consultation. He supports option 1 (status quo), for four reasons:
  - Financial and managerial governance will be a lot easier.
  - It will give residents more of a voice, as they would not need to compete with residents from other areas.
  - Since only Manawātū iwi would be involved, it would be easier to organise hui.
  - It would be significantly cheaper.
- Allan requested that the Council continue its maintenance of old pipes. Burst pipes cost more money to fix, and older pipes give the water an unpleasant taint.
- Allan requested that there is no water metering in the District, as this would present a burdensome cost to retirees.

MDC 22-25/1130

#### FEES AND CHARGES: PROPOSED PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2025/26

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate seeking Council adopts the Statements of Proposal for the review of Planning Service fees and charges, Environmental Health fees and charges, and Development Contribution fees and charges for 2025/26, for public consultation.

#### RESOLVED

**That the Council adopts the Statement of Proposal (attachment 1) for the review of Planning service fees and charges for the financial year commencing 01 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026, for public consultation.**

#### AND

**That the Council adopts the Statement of Proposal (attachment 2) for the review of the Environmental Health fees and charges for the financial year commencing 01 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026, for public consultation.**

#### AND

**That the Council adopts the Statement of Proposal (attachment 3) for the review of the Development Contribution fees for the financial year commencing 01 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026, for public consultation.**

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**Moved by:** Cr Stuart Campbell

**Seconded by:** Cr Alison Short

**CARRIED (10-0)**

MDC 22-25/1131

**RECEIPT OF THE WELCOMING COMMUNITIES FOCUS GROUP PLAN 2025-2027**

Report of the General Manager – Community presenting to Council for formal receipt the Welcoming Communities Focus Group Plan 2025-2027.

**RESOLVED**

**That Council formally receives the Welcoming Communities Focus Group Plan 2025-2027.**

**Moved by:** Cr Grant Hadfield

**Seconded by:** Cr Alison Short

**CARRIED (10-0)**

MDC 22-25/1132

**CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 22-25/1133

**PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED**

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 17 April 2025
2. Manfeild Park Nine-Month Report to 31 March 2025
3. Electricity Procurement (report tabled)
4. Tender Award Recommendation - MC1888-1 Rongotea Wastewater Centralisation - Pump Stations and Rising Main. SEPARABLE PORTION B - Pump Stations Construction
5. CE Mid-Year Performance Review

**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:**

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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; 17 April 2025	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 17 April 2025.</i>  <i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.1 *Manfeild Park Nine-Month Report to 31 March 2025	<i>7(2)(c)(i) – obligation of confidence</i>  <i>This report discusses future options (potentially including commercially sensitive areas) for Manfeild Park</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.2 Electricity Procurement	<i>7(2)(c)(i) – obligation of confidence</i>  <i>7(2)(j) – improper gain or improper advantage</i>  <i>This report includes discussion on key negotiations and processes between the Council and electricity suppliers</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.3 Tender Award Recommendation - MC1888-1 Rongotea Wastewater Centralisation - Pump Stations and Rising Main. SEPARABLE PORTION B - Pump Stations Construction	<i>7(2)(h) – commercial activities</i>  <i>This report includes discussion on tender offers that are subject to negotiation and agreement</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.4 Chief Executive Mid-Year Performance Review	<i>7(2)(f)(ii) – protection from improper pressure or harassment</i>  <i>This report includes discussion on key performance indicators that are subject to a private employment agreement between the Council and Chief Executive</i>	

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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.

\*Also, that Manfeild Trust Board members, Hamish Waugh (Chair), Amanda Linsley, Stefan Speller, Stella Coleman, Kevin Hansen, Chief Executive Officer Paul Cocks, and respective Electoral College Representatives Richie Arber, Brian Davies, and Gary Child be permitted to attend this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their in depth knowledge of Manfeild Park. This knowledge and expertise will be of assistance in relation to the Nine-Month Report being discussed.

Moved by: Mayor Helen Worboys

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

**CARRIED (10-0)**

*The meeting went into public excluded session at 11.35 am. For items MDC 22-25/1134 to MDC 22-25/1139 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 2.53 pm.*

MDC 22-25/1140

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 2.53 pm.

### Meeting Video

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