

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 04 FEBRUARY 2026	8:30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 04 February 2026, which commenced at 8.30 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
Wiremu Greening	Acting General Manager – Infrastructure
Frances Smorti	General Manager – People and Corporate
Lyn Daly	General Manager – Community
Amanda Calman	Chief Financial Officer
Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
Karyn Crawley	Community Operations Adviser
Helen King	Grants Connector

MDC 25-28/104

MEETING OPENING

MDC 25-28/105

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 25-28/106

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 17 December 2025 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (11-0)

Cr Grant Hadfield abstained from voting

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MDC 25-28/107

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 25-28/108

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 25-28/109

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND – BALLARAT CUP (FOOTBALL)

Saskia Symonds was in attendance speaking to Council. Highlights:

- This is Australia's largest all female football competition. The team finished 3rd out of 96 teams
- Saskia hopes to join Palmerston North United this year

MDC 25-28/110

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND – 2025 ASIA PACIFIC CUP CANOE POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Brandon Weston was not present.

MDC 25-28/111

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/112

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/113

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

The following Council Committees, Community Committees and Youth Council meetings were notified for information. 17 December 2025 and 2 February 2026:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Halcombe Community Committee	• 2 February 2026
Himatangi Beach Community Committee	• 22 January 2026

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Pohangina Valley Community Committee	• 17 December 2025
Rongotea Community Development Group	• 2 February 2026
Sanson Community Committee	• 15 January 2026
Tangimoana Community Committee	• 17 December 2025 • 19 January 2026

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford. The triennium meeting was held recently. They have 11 members, with a good age range. The existing Chair, Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected.
- Himatangi – Cr Jerry Pickford. Only 3 members turned up, so no official meeting.
- Pohangina – Cr Bridget Bell. Discussed elections coming up for the Committee. There continues to be an issue around the school bus. Cr McKelvie is also working on this issue.
- Rongotea – Cr James McKelvie. Bit of a mix up in times. The new Committee re-elected Lance Berry as Chair. School bus is also an issue.
- Sanson – Cr Andrew Quarrie. There was discussion around the Sunday market, and hopefully the opposing parties have come together a bit more on this.
- Tangimoana – Cr James McKelvie. The December meeting went well. They mentioned their concerns around speeding near the beach access. Officers are looking into the possibility of putting up a sign to make the speed limit here clearer. The Committee are also concerned about fire bans and looking at getting a fire sign showing the current risk. Bus issues here as well.
- Liaison Councillors for Marae – Cr Bridget Bell. The celebration at Taumata o Te Rā on Saturday. This marae is willing to work with a new elected member, which will be announced later. Other marae still need to decide on which councillor they would like to work with. The marae collectively are looking forward to hosting the Māori queen at Parewahawaha marae this year. After this kaupapa is finished, we will get more certainty around liaison councillors.

MDC 25-28/114

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking Council to establish the Creative Communities Funding Panel and to appoint elected member representatives to it.

RESOLVED

1. **That the Council establishes the Creative Communities Funding Panel and appoints the following two elected members:**
 - **Councillor Raewyn Loader**

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- **Councillor James McKelvie**

2. **That the attached terms of reference document for the Creative Communities Funding Panel be adopted by Council without amendment.**

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Rob Duindam

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/115

MANAWATU COMMUNITY TRUST STATEMENT OF EXPECTATION 2026/2027

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking Council approval of the Statement of Expectations for the 2026 to 2027 year for Manawātū Community Trust.

RESOLVED

That Council approves the Manawātū Community Trust Statement of Expectations for the 2026 to 2027 year, as amended:

- **MCT will not have access to funding from LGNZ**

Moved by: Cr Alison Short

Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/116

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/117

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

1. **Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes**
2. **Release of Public Excluded Items**

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

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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; 17 December 2025	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 17 December 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 Release of Public Excluded Items	s7(2)(a) – privacy s7(2)(h) – commercial activities <i>This report includes notes on public excluded resolutions that may not be approved for release into the public forum.</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 Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (12-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 8.58 am. For items MDC 25-28/118 to MDC 25-28/120 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 9.03 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.03 am.

The meeting was reconvened at 10.34 am.

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MDC 25-28/121

PRIORITY SERVICE CONTRACTS - ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking Council approval to receive these reports.

Every three-years Council makes Priority Services funding available to the community. Applications that meet the criteria in Manawātū District Council's Community Development Policy are considered. Successful organisations enter into a three-year Priority Service Contract with Council and are required to report to Council on their performance against agreed performance measures at six-monthly and 12-monthly intervals.

The Priority Service Contracts for the previous triennium ended on 30 June 2025. This report presents the 12-month reports for the final period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 from four of the 18 contracted organisations.

Presentations from:

- SnapBACK Gym- Charmaine Saua and Tanneeka Howe
- Te Manawa Family Services- Kyley Davies
- Feilding and Districts Arts Society- Eris Newson

RESOLVED

That Council receives the 12-month Priority Service Contract reports for the period ending 30 June 2025 from:

- **SnapBACK Gym**
- **Te Manawa Family Services**
- **Feilding and Districts Arts Society**

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/122

CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED RESOLUTIONS IN OPEN SESSION

MDC 22-25/1313 – Feilding Civic Centre Appointment of Trustees (18 September 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

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1. *Appoints Sandra Crosbie as a Feilding Civic Centre Trustee from 01 October 2025 to 30 September 2028.*
2. *Appoints Sarah Manthel as a Feilding Civic Centre Trustee from 01 October 2025 to 30 September 2028.*

Moved by: Cr Alison Short

Seconded by: Cr Stuart Campbell

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 22-25/1314 Contract Award Recommendation – Rongotea Wastewater Pumpstation Construction (18 September 2025)

RESOLVED

1. *That the Council authorise the award of contract MC 1888, Separable Portion 2B, to Max Tarr Infrastructure Engineers Ltd for Rongotea Wastewater Centralisation – Rongotea Pump Station Construction, for the sum of three million, one hundred and eleven thousand, seventy-six dollars and forty-one cents (\$3,111,076.41) plus GST.*
2. *That a contingency amount of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) plus GST is approved, to be spent only upon written instruction from the Engineer to the Contract.*

Note: This project is funded through wastewater renewal budgets which are depreciation funded via rates.

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Colin McFadzean

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 22-25/1317 Recommendation from the CE Employment Committee – Consideration of Chief Executive Reappointment (18 September 2025)

RESOLVED

That on the basis of the review and other relevant factors considered, the Council offers to the incumbent Chief Executive a further appointment for a second term not exceeding two years, commencing upon the expiry of the current term (i.e. that a two year extension be offered).

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

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CARRIED (8-1)

ARC 22-25/249 Cash Handling Audit (25 September 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Audit & Risk Committee:

1. *Receives the Cash Handling Audit report completed by Grant Thornton in July 2025.*
2. *Notes the management actions agreed to address the findings.*

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Mr John Fowke

CARRIED (6-0)

ARC 22-25/250 Fraud Awareness Review (25 September 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Audit & Risk Committee:

1. *Receives the Fraud & Corruption Gap Analysis reported completed by Deloitte in August 2025.*
2. *Notes the management actions agreed to address the findings.*

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (6-0)

ARC 22-25/251 Information Services Security and Audit Update (25 September 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Information Services Security and Audit Update report, containing progress updates on the penetration test issue resolution, be received.

Moved by: Mr John Fowke

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (6-0)

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ARC 22-25/252 MDC Key Project Status Report (25 September 2025)

RESOLVED

That the MDC Key Project Status Report is received.

Moved by: Cr Stuart Campbell

Seconded by: Mr John Fowke

CARRIED (6-0)

MDC 22-25/1340 Late Report – Gas Procurement September 2025 (02 October 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Council enter a gas supply contract with Contact Energy Limited with an annual value of up to Four Hundred and Twenty Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Forty Three dollars (\$428,143) plus GST for a seven-year term commencing 1 October 2025 until 30 September 2032.

Note: The total value of this contract is up to Two Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven Thousand and One Dollars (\$2,997,001) plus GST.

Note: The gas consumed at Council facilities is an operational cost which is funded via rates.

Moved by: Mayor Helen Worboys

Seconded by: Cr Colin McFadzean

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 22-25/1343 Tender Award Recommendation – Turners Road Culvert (02 October 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

- 1. Authorise the award of contract MDC 1111-4 Separable Portion C to Stringfellow Contracts Ltd to construct the Turners Road Bridge, for the sum of nine hundred and ninety-one thousand, two hundred and thirteen dollars and fifty cents (\$991,213.50) plus GST.*
- 2. Approve a contingency amount of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) plus GST, to be expended only upon written instruction of the Engineer to the Contract.*

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Note: This project utilises existing budgets. It is debt funded, and costs will be recovered through a combination of rates and development contributions.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1344 CEDA Appointment of Directors (02 October 2025)

RESOLVED

That Council approves:

- That advertising commences seeking directors for the Central Economic Development Agency Board.*

That Council notes that:

- 1. Two director's terms expire on 31 December 2025, of which one is a director who has completed one term, and the other is a director who has completed a second term.*
- 2. That the CEDA Electoral College will make a recommendation to a future Council meeting as to whether the interviewing process will be for one or two directors, after having considered the re-appointment process in the "CEDA Appointment of Directors Policy" where first term directors can be appointed without requiring an interview subject to the criteria in the Policy being met.*

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Mayor Helen Worboys

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/014 Sale of Council Land at 79 South Street, Feilding (29 October 2025)

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Council disposes of 'real property', by entering into a sale and purchase agreement for the sale of 2,947 square metres (more or less), legally described as Lot 1 Deposited Plan 573030 (Record of Title 1042220) with Rangitikei Valley Trust for the purchase price of four hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$475,000) plus GST (if any).*

AND

- 2. That the Chief Executive be delegated all powers necessary to conclude the transaction including settling the final conditions of sale, imposing any*

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reasonable covenants, and anything else necessary to execute an Agreement for Sale and Purchase and complete the transfer of the land.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (9-0)

Cr's Bell, Hill, and Loader abstained from voting on the motion

MDC 25-28/053 Manfeild Park Annual Report 2024-2025 (19 November 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Manfeild Park Trust Annual Report to 30 June 2025 be received.

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/080 CEDA Appointment of Directors (03 December 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

- 1. Approves the increase in directors from five to six, which is consistent with the allowable number of directors in the Central Economic Development Agency Appointment of Directors Policy.*
- 2. Re-appoints Katie Brosnahan as director of Central Economic Development Agency, for a second term, until 31 December 2028.*
- 3. Appoints Colin McFadzean as director of Central Economic Development Agency until 31 December 2028.*
- 4. Appoints Antony Heywood as director of Central Economic Development Agency until 31 December 2028.*
- 5. Notes the cost for the additional director (\$25,000pa) is not budgeted. CEDA will be required to fund this from operational funding.*

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Jerry Pickford

CARRIED (11-0)

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MDC 25-28/081 Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trustee Recruitment (03 December 2025)

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. *Accepts Paul Simpson's resignation from the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust as a trustee effective from 04 December 2025.*
2. *Approves appointment of Bessie Nicholls for a further six months to 30 June 2026.*
3. *Approves the Trust's recommendation to appoint Jo Morris as Chair of Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust from 01 January 2026.*
4. *Approves a recruitment process is commenced early in 2026 for up to three trustees.*

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/123

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11.44 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>