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

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 04 November 2026, which commenced at 8.30 am at the Manawatū District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT:	Mayor Michael Ford	Chairperson
	Councillor Bridget Bell	
	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
	Kate Jarvis	General Manager – People
	Joel Richards	Chief Financial Officer
	Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
	Jeena Baines	Data, Insights and Research Analyst
	Axel Malecki	Senior Policy Adviser
	Michael Taylor	Community Assets Manager
	Karyn Crawley	Community Operations Adviser

MDC 25-28/467

MEETING OPENING

Jan McGaffin from the Hub Church opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/468

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 25-28/469

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 21 October 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: **Cr Grant Hadfield**

Seconded by: **Cr James McKelvie**

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/470

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 28 October 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: **Cr Grant Hadfield**

Seconded by: **Cr Colin Dyer**

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/471

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 25-28/472

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 25-28/473

REPRESENTATIVE FUND – U12'S MANAWATU MĀORI RUGBY LEAGUE (ANZMRL TAMARIKI TOURNAMENT, ROTORUA)

Junior Hati-Moeau was unable to attend Council, and a pre-recorded video was played instead. Highlights:

- Junior was the team Captain and enjoyed getting to challenge himself against talented players from other teams.
- He was awarded the 'Best Back' award and 'Player's Player' award.

MDC 25-28/474

PETITION – SH 54 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Colin Dyer, Fiona Underwood, and Esther and Quinn (Feilding High School) spoke to Council about their petition to NZTA for traffic improvements in Feilding, and their request for Council support. Highlights:

- Colin Dyer presented concerns regarding traffic congestion and safety at several intersections along State Highway 54, particularly in Feilding.

- The presenters highlighted existing safety concerns, crash history, and increasing congestion, emphasising the need for transport infrastructure improvements to accommodate future residential and industrial growth.

- A public petition launched on 28 August 2026 and presented to Council contained over 2,400 signatures. The presenters explained that while cost was a factor in many people's discussions on the issue, nobody refused to sign on this basis.

- The presenters requested Council prioritise $250,000 within the Long-term Plan 2027-37 to develop a business case for a comprehensive Traffic Master Plan. This is required by NZTA before major traffic changes can be considered. Although there has been advocacy for traffic changes in previous years, a full business case has never been submitted to NZTA.

- Members acknowledged the financial risk associated with developing a business case, noting that while it would not guarantee NZTA funding for intersection improvements, it was a necessary first step and a risk worth taking.

MDC 25-28/475

PRESENTATION – RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY WAVE 1 SUMMARY

Jeena Baines (Data, Insights and Research Analyst) spoke to Council about the first quarter results of the 2026/27 resident satisfaction survey.

MDC 25-28/476

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Report of the Chief Financial Officer seeking Council adoption of the Annual Report 2025-26. Debbie Perera from the Audit Office was in attendance and spoke to the item.

- The Audit Office has given the Council an unqualified audit opinion on the Annual Report 2025-26.

- There is an emphasis of matter around the uncertainty of the Local Government amalgamation reforms.

RESOLVED

1. **That the Council adopt the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2026.**

2. **That the Council note that Audit Office will issue a formal Audit Report with findings and recommendations which will be presented to the Finance & Performance Committee.**

3. **Council permits the Chief Executive to make minor changes as necessary within the Annual Report in order to meet any further requirements from Audit Office and the proofreader.**

Moved by: **Mayor Michael Ford**

Seconded by: **Cr Grant Hadfield**

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/477

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/478

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/479

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

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

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 2 November 2026
Rongotea – Cr James McKelvie	• 2 November 2026
https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/community-committees-and-plans	

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford. The Committee is working on their family event in February next year. A BMX track is being proposed, with the materials potentially being provided with no charge – they are waiting on feedback from MDC and HRC around consenting implications.
- Rongotea – Cr James McKelvie. WIFI is up and running in the Community Centre. The Open+ project for the library has been put on hold. There are issues with the filling of the community swimming pool – the colour of the water has quite a greenish tinge. Street lighting continues to be a concern.

MDC 25-28/480

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

There were no updates.

MDC 25-28/481

ADOPTION OF THE TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking Council's adoption of the Tree Management Policy.

RESOLVED

1. **That Council adopts the Tree Management Policy 2026 (Annex A), replacing and superseding the existing Road Planting Policy and Guidelines (P282).**

   AND

2. **That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make minor editorial amendments to the Tree Management Policy prior to publication, provided those amendments do not alter the policy's intent.**

   AND

3. **That Council notes that operational guidelines, technical standards and supporting tools may be maintained and updated administratively in accordance with Council delegations and do not form part of the Council-adopted policy.**

Moved by: **Cr James McKelvie**

Seconded by: **Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins**

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/482

MANAWATŪ COMMUNITY TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking Council's receipt of the Manawatū Community Trust Annual Report. Liam Geer (Chair), Teresa Hague (General Manager), and Tracey Hunt (Trustee) were in attendance to speak to the item.

RESOLVED

That the Council receives the Manawatū Community Trust Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026 and notes the reported service achievements and financial results.

Moved by: **Cr Bridget Bell**

Seconded by: **Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins**

CARRIED (12-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 9.51 am and reconvened at 10.16 am (without Cr Alison Short and Cr Raewyn Loader present).

MDC 25-28/483

APPLICATION OF THE COMMON SEAL FROM APRIL TO 12 OCTOBER 2026

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council's receipt of the report and schedule of sealed documents from 08 April to 12 October 2026.

Cr Alison Short and Cr Raewyn Loader joined the meeting at 10.17 am.

RESOLVED

That Council receive and accept the schedule of sealed documents from 08 April to 12 October 2026, as listed in Section 3 of this report.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/484

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/485

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

1. **Confirmation of Minutes; 21 October 2026**
2. **Release of Public Excluded items into Open Session**

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; 21 October 2026	*To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public*	s48(1)(a)

		excluded Council meeting on 21 October 2026. *Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.*	
14.1	Release of Public Excluded items into Open Session	s7(2)(a) – privacy s7(2)(h) – commercial activities *This report includes notes on public excluded resolutions that may not be approved for release into the public forum*	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 Colin Dyer**

CARRIED (12-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 10.19 am. For items MDC 25-28/486 to MDC 25-28/488 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 10.22 am.

MDC 25-28/489

CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED RESOLUTIONS IN OPEN SESSION

FPC 25-28/051 – Awarding of Priority Services Grants (24 June 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Finance and Performance Committee approve the following Priority Services funding allocation for the two-year period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028:

- *Feilding Bluelight, $23,400 per annum.*

Moved by: *Cr Colin Dyer*

Seconded by: *Cr Rob Duindam*

CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

That the Finance and Performance Committee approve the following Priority Services funding allocation for the two-year period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028:

- *Tenants Union, $5,000 per annum.*

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Mayor Michael Ford*

CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

That the Finance and Performance Committee approve the following Priority Services funding allocation for the two-year period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028:

- *Feilding Community Patrol Incorporated, $10,000 per annum.*

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Cr Colin Dyer*

CARRIED (6-1)

Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins voted against the motion.

RESOLVED

That the Finance and Performance Committee approve the following Priority Services funding allocation for the two-year period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028:

- *Lions My Free Health Check Trust, $10,000 per annum.*

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Mayor Michael Ford*

CARRIED (6-1)

Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins voted against the motion.

FPC 25-28/052 – Key Project Status Report (24 June 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Committee received the Key Projects Report.

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins*

CARRIED (7-0)

FPC 25-28/053 – Internal Audit Update and Procurement Audit 2026 (24 June 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

1. Receives the Internal Audit Programme Update; and

2. Receives the Procurement Audit 2026.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (7-0)

CEE 25-28/024 – CE Performance Indicators 2026-27 (06 July 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Committee approve the proposed Chief Executive's Key Performance Indicators for the 2026-27 financial year, as attached to this report with the following amendments:

- *Add the words "Should it decide to do so" to the action and measure relating to reform, to read: "Provide the Council with sufficient information to enable Council to submit a proposal to Government, should it decide to do so".*
- *Delete the words "Organisational adaptation" from the 'Change management plan developed' measure.*
- *Add "Propose" to the 'Organisational Efficiencies and Savings' objectives heading – to read "Propose Organisational Efficiencies and Savings".*

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (5-0)

MDC 25-28/327 – Tender Award Recommendation – Community Resilience Programme (22 July 2026)

RESOLVED

1. That Council award the design and construction contract for the Community Resilience Programme to Tū Mai Rā Energy General Partner Limited for the sum of $621,764.17 plus GST.

2. *That Council approve a project contingency amount of $40,235.82 plus GST utilised only upon the written approval of the Engineer of the Contract.*

3. *That Council note the project is jointly funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and Central Energy Trust (CET) funding and that all works are required to be completed by 30 December 2026.*

Moved by: *Cr Sam Hill*

Seconded by: *Cr Colin Dyer*

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/329 – Feilding Civic Centre Trust Interim Trustee Appointment (22 July 2026)

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. *Notes that Sarah Manthel has resigned with effect 31 October 2026.*

2. *Notes that Mark Marsden and Brodie Noon's terms as Trustees expired on 14 June 2026.*

3. *Notes that Brodie Noon and Mark Marsden do not wish to be considered for a further term as a Trustee.*

4. *Appoint the following people as interim Trustees of the Feilding Civic Centre Trust for a period ending no later than 31 January 2027.*

    a. *Stella Rackham*

    b. *Russell Wilson*

    c. *Robert Coulson*

5. *Note the appointments are temporary and have been made solely to ensure the Trust remains able to discharge its governance responsibilities while the organisational change process and any consequential governance decisions are completed.*

6. *Note that Council intends to consider the future governance and appointment requirements for the Trust, once the outcome of the organisational change process is known.*

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins*

CARRIED (12-0)

MWS 25-28/034 – Potable and Non-Potable Monitoring Contract Tender Award (23 July 2026)

RESOLVED

1. *That the Manawatū Water Services Committee award Contract MDC1644-1 – Potable and Non-Potable Water Monitoring Services to Eurofins ELS Limited for a total operational contract value of up to one million, three hundred and fifty-six thousand, four hundred and ninety-nine dollars ($1,356,499.00) exclusive of GST over an initial contract term of three (3) years, with two (2) rights of renewal of one (1) year each, at the sole discretion of the Manawatū District Council.*

2. *The annual operational sum for the initial contract term is two hundred and seventy-one thousand, two hundred and ninety-nine dollars and eighty cents ($271,299.80) exclusive of GST, subject to agreed annual price adjustments over the duration of the contract term.*

3. *That the Manawatū Water Services Committee approves a contingency value of two hundred and three thousand, four hundred and seventy-four dollars and eighty-five cents ($203,474.85, 15% of total contract value) exclusive of GST to be spent only on written approval to the General Manager, Infrastructure.*

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Cr Jerry Pickford*

CARRIED (6-0)

MDC 25-28/348 – Sale of Part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding (05 August 2026)

RESOLVED

1. *That the Council approves the sale of part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding to Peter Michael Deegan for the purchase price of $110,000 inclusive of GST (if any).*

2. *That the Chief Executive be delegated all powers necessary to conclude the transaction, including settling the final conditions of sale, imposing any required easements or reasonable covenants, and executing all documentation necessary to complete the transfer of the land.*

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Cr Colin Dyer*

CARRIED (10-1)

Cr Jerry Pickford voted against the motion, and Cr Bridget Bell abstained from voting.

MDC 25-28/370 – Community Honours 2026 (19 August 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the below nominees as recipients for the 2026 Manawatū District Community Honours Awards:

- *Chloe Dodunski*
- *John Silvester*
- *Tracey Mouat*
- *John Culling*

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Cr Raewyn Loader*

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/410 – Request for Special Resolution & CEDA Funding RE RIF Loan for Te Utanganui Development (16 September 2026)

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. *Approves continuation of funding to the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) for six financial years from 1 July 2027 to 30 June 2033, based on the existing annual shareholder funding arrangements and subject to the annual adjustments agreed through the shareholder funding agreement.*

2. *Notes that the six-year funding period comprises the three-year Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) pre-construction period, followed by the three-year notice period that would apply if a shareholder subsequently decided to exit CEDA.*

3. *Approves by Special Resolution, and in its capacity as a shareholder of CEDA, that CEDA borrows $22.4 million as outlined in the RIF agreement for the Te Utanganui Rail Freight Hub project.*

4. *Authorises the Chief Executive to sign or otherwise assent to the written shareholder Special Resolution on behalf of Council, subject to:*

    a. *Palmerston North City Council passing a corresponding Special Resolution;*

    b. *The final agreement and legal advice being satisfactory to the Chief Executive;*

    c. *Council not being required to provide a guarantee, indemnity or security; and*

d. No amount being drawn under tranche two unless the agreement has first been novated to the special purpose vehicle (SPV) and CEDA has been released from the construction-stage obligations.

5. Authorises the Chief Executive to negotiate and execute the shareholder funding agreement with CEDA, consistent with the funding commitment approved above, subject to Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) approving a corresponding commitment as the other shareholder.

6. Notes that this decision supports CEDA to deliver the pre-construction work and establish the proposed SPV, but does not approve Council investing in, funding, guaranteeing, providing security to, or accepting liability for the SPV or construction stage.

7. Requires CEDA to report regularly to both shareholders during the pre-construction period on performance, delivery milestones, co-funding, material risks and progress toward establishment of the SPV.

8. Agrees that the resolutions may be provided to PNCC and CEDA immediately following this meeting and released publicly following PNCC's meeting on 30 September 2026. The report and supporting information will remain confidential until the Chief Executive determines that there is no longer good reason to withhold them.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (10-0)

Cr Bridget Bell abstained from voting.

FPC 25-28/075 – Key Project Status Report (23 September 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Committee receives the Key Projects Report.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Mayor Michael Ford

CARRIED (7-0)

FPC 25-28/076 – Information Services Security and Audit Update (23 September 2026)

RESOLVED

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

Moved by: *Cr Grant Hadfield*

Seconded by: *Mr John Fowke*

CARRIED (7-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10.22 am and reconvened at 10.34 am.

MDC 25-28/490

REPRESENTATIVE FUND – FOOTLOCKER U18 BASKETBALL NATIONALS IN AUCKLAND

Brock Piper and Luca Giordiani spoke to Council about their attendance at the U18 Footlocker Basketball Nationals in Auckland. Highlights:

- Brock and Luca enjoyed the tournament and the challenges they faced against skilled opponents.
- They would both like to pursue basketball professionally, either overseas or domestically.

MDC 25-28/491

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 10.42 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