

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
THURSDAY 05 JUNE 2025	8:31 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 05 June 2025, which commenced at 8.31 am at Hato Hone St Johns, 35 Bowen Street, Feilding.

PRESENT:	Mayor Helen Worboys	Chairperson
	Cr Bridget Bell	
	Cr Steve Bielski	
	Cr Lara Blackmore	
	Cr Stuart Campbell	
	Cr Michael Ford	
	Cr Grant Hadfield	Via Zoom
	Cr Colin McFadzean	
	Cr Andrew Quarrie	
	Cr Kerry Quigley	
	Cr Alison Short	
	Cr Fiona Underwood	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Shayne Harris	Chief Executive
	Hamish Waugh	General Manager – Infrastructure
	Frances Smorti	General Manager – People and Corporate
	Lyn Daly	General Manager – Community (via Zoom)
	Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
	Lisa Thomas	Strategy Manager

MDC 22-25/1164

MEETING OPENING

Bobby Kusilifu from St Pauls Church opened the meeting.

MDC 22-25/1165

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 22-25/1166

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 15 May 2025 be adopted as a true and correct record, as amended:

- **Correct Haimona Searancke's name (spelling of surname)**
- **Correct Te Tū Mataora (adding macron above the 'u')**

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Kerry Quigley

CARRIED (12-0)

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MDC 22-25/1167

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 22-25/1168

PUBLIC FORUM

Gary Barnett was in attending speaking to council about – parking, specifically the CBD, Grey Street & Hobson Street. Highlights:

- In September 2023, Gary addressed the Council on behalf of several residents regarding the parking on Grey Street and Manchester Street by Council officers. This causes safety concerns. There were two large mirrors erected on Grey Street – at no stage did this account for the safety of residents. The Health and Safety Committee did not approach the residents and let them know about the installations ahead of time.
- These mirrors are not safe, due to the distortion of mirrored images and lack of visibility in wet weather.
- The Hobson Street carpark is now operational, and Gary was advised by the Chief Executive in 2023 that this could be used for staff parking. Gary spoke to a staff member recently and they advised him that they could not park there.
- The new pedestrian crossing is partially obscured by staff cars that are parked nearby, which is a health and safety hazard.

In response to questions, Gary advised:

- Gary advised that the residents would like yellow painted lines to indicate that those particular areas are not suitable for parking (except for residents which could be indicated by signage).

MDC 22-25/1169

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

MDC 22-25/1170

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 22-25/1171

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

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MDC 22-25/1172

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

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

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Cheltenham Community Committee	• 3 June 2025
Colyton Community Committee	• 22 May 2025
Hiwinui Community Committee	• 20 May 2025
Rangiwahia Community Committee	• 21 May 2025
Rongotea Community Committee	• 2 June 2025
Tangimoana Community Committee	• 19 May 2025
Waituna West Community Committee	• 21 May 2025

YOUTH COUNCIL	
Meeting	• 19 May 2025

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Cheltenham Community Committee – Cr Andrew Quarrie. They are a bit concerned about their budget but overall are happy and had a good ANZAC parade.
- Colyton Community Committee – Cr Lara Blackmore. The draft Community Plan has gone out for community consultation. They have a beautification plan and have been having discussions with various stakeholders around this. Cr Stuart Campbell advised that there is a project to revamp the playground at the back of the hall, and the school are redeveloping their grounds.
- Hiwinui Community Committee – Cr Fiona Underwood. They are pleased around the new signage that will be installed at the intersection at Watershed Road.
- Rongotea Community Committee – Cr Fiona Underwood. They have been concerned around safety issues on Banks Road and have had a discussion around the extension of the 70 km zone and extending the existing walkway to cover a couple of new houses further down the road.
- Rangiwahia Community Committee – Cr Grant Hadfield. The Community Plan review was addressed at the last meeting. They have had a discussion around feral cats, and a river catchment pilot on some of the farms up there.
- Tangimoana Community Committee – Cr Alison Short. They had a Deep South update from Massey University and Horizons, where they demonstrated a new interactive flood mapping tool which Horizons are trialling. They invited the Scotts Ferry community to attend.
- Waituna West Community Committee – Cr Kerry Quigley. There are still washouts on Tapuae Road. There is an Australian company that wants to install wind turbines – the Community Committee is keen for somebody to follow-up on this opportunity.

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- Youth Council – Cr Bridget Bell. The 03 June meeting was cancelled. The 19 May meeting was attended by Cr Bell. The Youth Council is busy with the Youth Market. They are excited for the Young Achievers Awards and are deciding some of the details around this.
- Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre in Rongotea - Cr Andrew Quarrie. The local community has celebrated 25 years of use. The Council spent \$40 k for upgrading, and the community raised \$25 k for further upgrades. The hall is very popular and seeing a lot of use.

MDC 22-25/1173

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Cr Bridget Bell spoke about the Te Pōtitini kapa haka event that was held in Palmerston North on 01 June – out of the five sponsors, three were local marae; Te Tikanga, Aorangi, and Taumata o Te Rā. She was proud of the District's participation in this event.

MDC 22-25/1174

AWAHURI FOREST KITCHENER PARK TRUST DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025 – 2026

Report of the General Manager – Community presenting for consideration the Awahuri Forest Kitchen Park Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 for feedback in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002. If there are no material changes required, Council are asked to agree to the draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 as the final version.

Bessie Nichols was in attendance from the Trust.

RESOLVED

That the Council agree to the Awahuri Forest Kitchen Park Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 -2026 with no changes, confirming this as the final version.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1175

DELIBERATIONS FOR THE SIGNIFICANCE & ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate seeking deliberation on all oral and written submissions for the draft Significance & Engagement Policy, and to make decisions on the requested changes that submitters have made.

RESOLVED

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That the Council receives this report and the submissions received on the Significance & Engagement Policy (attachment 1).

Moved by: Cr Bridget Bell

Seconded by: Cr Blackmore

CARRIED (12-0)

RESOLVED

That the Council considers and agrees in principle (with minor amendments) to the following changes raised by submitters, for inclusion in the revised draft Significance & Engagement Policy to be presented for adoption on 19 June 2025:

- a. Replace 'equality' with 'equity', in Schedule 4: Inclusiveness and Equality, and change word 'ensure' to 'foster'
- b. Replace 'stakeholder' with 'community' and avoid 'ratepayers and residents', throughout the Policy
- c. Acknowledge the overlap between iwi, hapū and marae with other communities, in Section 7: The Community
- d. Make several wording changes to Schedule 4: Māori and Mana Whenua participation:
 - Include 'Tangata Whenua' in the principle title
 - Include '... enhanced and nurtured' in the last outcome
 - Change the word 'might' to 'will' in the final indicator
- e. Add reference to whaikaha (disabled) communities, in Schedule 4: Inclusiveness and Equality
- f. Add commentary on the Council's commitment to LGOIMA transparency, to the outcomes of Schedule 4: Transparency
- g. Add commentary on the Council's commitment to pre-engagement, in Schedule 4: Transparency
- h. Add more emphasis on social media channels, to Schedule 2: Engagement Methods (Council's Method of Engagement)
- i. Add 'Parents and caregivers of young children, to the bottom paragraph of Section 7: The Community
- j. Include the consideration of future generations in Council's decision-making, as a separate bullet point within Section 1: Purpose

Moved by: Cr Bridget Bell

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Seconded by: Cr Lara Blackmore

CARRIED (12-0)

Cr Hadfield left the meeting at 9.18 am.

RESOLVED

That the Council notes that the following requests from submitters are outside the scope of this Policy review, but may be actionable via other avenues in the future if there is appetite to do so:

- Establishment of a Disability Reference Group – this could be incorporated as an action within the upcoming Community Development Strategy
- Establishment of a Feilding Community Committee – this could be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Community Committees Policy (e.g., via a community public meeting chaired by the Mayor)
- Establishment of joint Council and community committees (e.g., citizen assemblies, joint committees) – this could be considered separately by the Council
- Opening and/or recording of Council Workshops – this was considered separately by the Council in response to the Ombudsman's report: Open for business, in 2024. At that time, no changes were made. The Council may reconsider this issue at any time in the future
- Formal appointment of a councillor to SINCOSS (Social Issues Network Council of Social Services) – attendance at SINCOSS meetings are open, and the Council currently has one councillor who regularly attends. Future attendance by other councillors is at their discretion and does not require a formal appointment

Moved by: Cr Bridget Bell

Seconded by: Cr Fiona Underwood

CARRIED (11-0)

Cr Hadfield returned to the meeting at 9.18 am.

MDC 22-25/1176

DELIBERATIONS FOR THE FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW (PART 1)

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate seeking Council to deliberate on all oral and written submissions received on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw.

And

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To make decisions on options presented by officers to guide the preparation of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw that will be presented to Council for final decisions at the 19 June Council meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Council receive this report and the submissions received on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw.

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

CARRIED (12-0)

Members discussed several of the matters raised in submissions and by officers in the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw, before the item was paused at 9.43 am.

MDC 22-25/1177

MANAWATU COMMUNITY TRUST FINAL STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025/26

Report of the General Manager – Community presenting the Manawātū Community Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025-2026 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 Schedule 8 Part 1.

Liam Greer, Tyson Schmidt, Allan Davey, Joanne Shortall, Tracey Hunt, Teresa Hague, Victor Cheng, Phil Clark, and Sarah Aydon attended the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Council agrees to the Manawātū Community Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (12-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 9.48 am and reconvened at 10.34 am.

MDC 22-25/1178

FEILDING CIVIC CENTRE TRUST DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025 - 2026

Report of the General Manager – Community presenting for consideration the Feilding Civic Centre Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 for feedback in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002. If there are no material changes required, Council are asked to agree to the draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 as the final version.

Carla Bennett, Tony Chapman, Evan Tull, Allan Williams, Mark Marsden, and Lindsay Taylor attended the meeting.

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RESOLVED

That the Council agree to the Feilding Civic Centre Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 -2026 with no changes, confirming this as the final version.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1179

DELIBERATIONS FOR THE FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW (PART 2)

This item continued at 10.42 am.

RESOLVED

That the Council considers and makes decisions on the matters raised in submissions and by officers on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw, as follows:

- a. **That freedom camping in self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles be provided for at Kina Street Reserve in Option 2 C (the road berm outside the reserve).**
- b. **Support Option 2 - that the Ellison Reserve Carpark be included in the bylaw as a new Schedule 3 site for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles.**

AND

That a site-specific restriction be included that limits the number of vehicles to two at any one time.

- c. **Support Option 1 (status quo) – that the amendments to the bylaw to remove all reference to Approved Camping Area and to insert a new definition of “Camping Ground” are retained as notified.**
- d. **Support Option 1 (status quo) – no compulsory fee to stay at the Old School Reserve in Pohangina.**
- e. **Support Option 1 (status quo) – that the Old School Reserve is retained in the bylaw as a Schedule 3 site.**
- f. **Support Option 1 (status quo) – retain the maximum length of stay at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, at five nights in any 30 day period.**
- g. **Support Option 1 (status quo) – that there are no changes to the designated freedom camping area at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina.**
- h. **Support Option 1 (status quo) restrictions on the use of the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, during events is managed by Council through the events application process.**

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- i. Support Option 2B – that Council designate the offroad carpark just to the east of the Campbell Street toilet block (within the park boundaries) as suitable for non-self-contained freedom camping vehicles.

Note – this change would necessitate Council leaving the Campbell Street toilet block unlocked overnight.

- j. Support Option 1 (Status quo). That the bylaw does not provide for freedom camping in a tent or other temporary structure at Timona Park.
- k. Support Option 1 (Status quo). That no additional areas are designated for self-contained vehicles at Timona Park.
- l. Support Option 1 (Status quo). That only self-contained vehicles are allowed to freedom camp at the Kimbolton Domain.
- m. Support Option 2 – that Council develop guidelines to support enforcement of the freedom camping bylaw and to set clear expectations around how Council will engage with unhoused individuals staying in freedom camping locations.
- n. Support Option 1 (Status quo). Freedom camping is only provided for within the area fenced from stock at the Āpiti Reserve.
- o. Support Option 1 (Status quo). Freedom camping vehicles are allowed to park within the carpark at Mt Lees, and tents are permitted to be located on the grass area adjacent to the toilet block.
- p. Support Option 1 (status quo)– that the bylaw generally provides for a five night stay at Bartletts Ford but retains provision to extend this time with written approval of an Enforcement Officer.
- q. Support Option 1 (status quo) – No change to the bylaw with respect to Almadale Reserve.
- r. Support Option 2 – That the northern half of Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill) be designated as a Schedule 3 site, allowing for both self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.
- s. Support Option 1 (status quo) – freedom camping at Kowhai Park is prohibited, except with Council approval in association with an event.
- t. Support Option 1 (status quo). That the current scoring methodology in the Site Assessment is retained, with the threshold for prohibition of freedom camping remaining at 9 out of 15.
- u. Support Option 2A - That the Feilding Central Business District shopping area map be amended so that the prohibited area matches the time limited parking zones.

AND

That the four Council-owned off-street carparks (Warwick Street, Manchester Street and two on Eyre Street) in the Feilding CBD be

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designated as Schedule 2 freedom camping sites for self-contained freedom camping only.

- v. Support option 2 – remove the current prohibition of freedom camping on Feilding residential road reserves.
- w. Support option 2 – reference to road reserves is deleted from the introduction to Schedule 1 and Council re-evaluates (i.e. assigns separate significance scores) each village independently to determine their suitability for freedom camping.
- x. Support Option 1 (Status Quo) – freedom camping on road reserves in Kimbolton is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- y. Support Option 2 – that Schedule 1 of the Bylaw is amended to remove the current prohibition from Rongotea Road and Mersey Street. And that the prohibition be retained on the remaining residential streets and around Douglas Square, Rongotea.
- z. Support Option 2 – Remove Cheltenham Road Reserves from the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- aa. Support Option 2A – that the current prohibition be removed from those roads that are State Highway, but retained on local roads in Sanson.
- bb. Support Option 1 (Status quo) – freedom camping on road reserves in Halcombe is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- cc. Support Option 1 (status quo) - freedom camping on road reserves in Himatangi Beach is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- dd. Support Option 1 (status quo) - freedom camping on road reserves in Tangimoana is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- ee. Support Option 2 – That a new Schedule 3 area be identified at the carpark in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve.

AND

That a site-specific restriction be included that restricts the number of vehicles to no more than three on any one night.

- ff. Support Option 2 – that the bylaw is amended to reclassify Sanson Domain as a schedule 3 site suitable for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.
- gg. Support Option 2 – Remove Āpiti Village Road Reserves from the Freedom Camping Bylaw.

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Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1180

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 15 May 2025
2. Makino Aquatic Centre Lifeguarding
3. Manawatu Community Trust – Appointment of Trustee
4. Renewal of Building Services Contract with Palmerston North City Council

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; 15 May 2025	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 15 May 2025.</i> <i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i>	s48(1)(a)

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14.1	*Makino Aquatic Centre Lifeguarding	7(2)(c)(ii) – obligation of confidence It includes sensitive commercial and staffing information, that if made public, could affect Council's negotiations and operations	s48(1)(a)
14.2	Manawatu Community Trust – Appointment of Trustee	7(2)(a) – privacy It includes private details about the recruitment and potential appointment of a trustee	s48(1)(a)
14.3	Renewal of Building Services Contract with Palmerston North City Council	7(2)(b)(ii) – prejudice commercial position It contains sensitive contractual and performance information	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.

***Also, that Sonia Griffin and Tyson Schmidt from Third Bearing be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of Third Bearings participation in the Section 17A review of the Makino Aquatic Centre. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter.**

Moved by: Mayor Helen Worboys

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

CARRIED (12-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 11.39 am. For items MDC 22-25/1181 to MDC 22-25/1185 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 12.28 pm.

MDC 22-25/1186

DELEGATIONS MANUAL – RMA 1991 AMENDMENTS (LAND DEVELOPMENT TEAM)

Report of the Chief Executive seeking Council approval to make amendments to Section 8.2 (Resource Management Act 1991) of the Delegations Manual, specifically with regards to delegation changes for the Land Development team.

RESOLVED

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That the Council approves the below delegation changes to Section 8.2 (Resource Management Act 1991) of the Delegations Manual, to officer positions within the Land Development team:

- a. Section 17: Duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects
 - ADD: Land Development Technician
- b. Section 22: Power to require certain information (Enforcement Officer)
 - ADD: Land Development Technician
- c. Section 332: Power of entry for inspection
 - ADD: Land Development Technician
 - ADD: Development Team Leader
 - ADD: Land Development Manager
- d. Section 343B and 343C: Approval of infringement notices and serving of infringement notices
 - ADD: Development Team Leader
 - ADD: Land Development Manager
 - REMOVE: Land Development Contractor

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1187

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 22-25/1188

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.30 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>