

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026	8:30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 05 August 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	
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
Steph Skinner	Governance and Strategy Officer
Jeena Baines	Data, Insights and Research Analyst

MDC 25-28/333

MEETING OPENING

Colin Thompson – Feilding Bible Chapel opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/334

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 25-28/335

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 22 July 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record, as amended:

- **Change “trees around the Memorial” to “the memorial trees.”**

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer

CARRIED (12-0)

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026	8:30 AM

MDC 25-28/336

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 25-28/337

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 25-28/338

PRESENTATION - RESIDENT SATISFACTION QUARTERLY/YEARLY SUMMARY

Jeena Baines (Data, Insights and Research Analyst) was in attendance speaking to Council.

Highlights:

- Overall stats are up by 6% - excellent results.
- All age demographics saw increases and 10 out of the 11 main questions saw a yearly increase.
- Quarter 4 Wave results also saw increases.
- Happy or Not Happy – gives immediate customer reactions to service. The console has been at front of house, the MAC, and the library with pleasing results.
- Elected members felt there was a gap in information between the Feilding Herald stopping and the Feilding First Newspaper starting. They also voiced disappointment at the distribution of the newspaper, which is based mainly in Feilding township.

MDC 25-28/339

PRESENTATION - MANAWATŪ DATA SNAPSHOT

Jeena Baines (Data, Insights and Research Analyst) was in attendance speaking to Council.

Highlights:

- This is an adaptable report, and Jeena is able to pull out data for elected members if they require deeper results.
- District Economy remains resilient. Any beef, sheep or dairy sent out of our district for processing are not counted in GDP or export figures for Manawatū. The TLA processing these animals get the GDP or export figures.
- We also need to support the value of *other services* exports in our district.
- Housing remains affordable – rental pricing is closer to the national average.
- Do we need to look at charging stations for electric vehicles?

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026	8:30 AM

- How do we encourage people to stay in the district between the ages of 19 and 40?
- Our crime rates are below Horowhenua and Palmerston North, however 89% of the crime increase was attributed to theft and burglary.

MDC 25-28/340

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/341

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/342

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Manawatū Water Services	• 23 July 2026

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 3 August 2026
Himatangi Beach – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 23 July 2026
Rongotea – Cr James	• 3 August 2026

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Cr Colin Dyer – Regional Transport Committee. New electric bus service rolled out in Feilding. In two weeks, the Orbiter has seen overall usage increased by 39%.
 - Cr Andrew Quarrie asked for economics/figures on the rural bus service and usage. Lyn Daly to follow up.
- Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford. The committee recently adopted changes to their financial policy and are undertaking fundraisers for ANZAC Day 2027.
- Himatangi Beach – Cr Jerry Pickford. Committee meeting with MDC staff around stormwater at the beach and pursuing a sunset viewing platform. The Surf Club recently received several regional awards, with two members heading off to nationals.
- Rongotea – Cr James McKelvie. Work has been done on Douglas Square, and the safety camera project is moving ahead.

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026	8:30 AM

MDC 25-28/343

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

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

- Kauwhata Marae – Cr Raewyn Loader met with Melissa Edge, Chair of Kauwhata Marae committee for a general catch up, which included discussion about encouraging people back to the marae. Powhiri held at Kauwhata Marae to welcome the new General Manager Morehu Te Momo of Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata. This was a good opportunity for Raewyn to re-connect with whanaungatanga. Manawatu District Council staff were also present.
- Parewahawaha Marae – Cr Alison Short was part of recent treaty claims hearing in Palmerston North, including discussion around the Marae being an affected party of the Ohakea PFAS contamination. There was also a focus at the hearing on the Rangitikei River, acknowledging it as a tupuna and worthy of guardianship status from headwaters to the sea. Cliff Brown attended the recent workshop for marae funding at MDC, thanking MDC as this makes an enormous difference. He attended civil defence hui in Bulls with the Rangitikei District Council. They are also following the RMA and local government reforms.
- Taumata-o-te-rā Marae – Cr Colin Dyer met with Amber Moffet for an update on current marae affairs and challenges.
- Cr Bridget Bell recently met with Te Kōtui Reo members, discussing why some marae were not wanting to access available Council funding. Bridget will work with liaison councillors to support their marae on this process.

MDC 25-28/344

OFFICER REPORTS

There were no officer reports for consideration.

MDC 25-28/345

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/346

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026	8:30 AM

1. Confirmation of Minutes; 22 July 2026
2. Sale of part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding

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; 22 July 2026	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 22 July 2026.</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 Sale of part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations <i>This report will be considered in public excluded to protect Council's commercial position while it is negotiating the sale of Council-owned land.</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 9.27 am. For items MDC 25-28/347 to MDC 25-28/349 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 12.12 pm.

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 05 AUGUST 2026	8:30 AM

MDC 25-28/350

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.12 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>