

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026	8:31 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 15 April 2026, which commenced at 8.31 am in 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 Grant Hadfield	
Councillor Sam Hill	
Councillor Raewyn Loader	
Councillor James McKelvie	
Councillor Jerry Pickford	
Councillor Andrew Quarrie	
Councillor Alison Short	

APOLOGIES: Councillor Colin Dyer

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shayne Harris	Chief Executive
Hamish Waugh	General Manager – Infrastructure
Frances Smorti	General Manager – Corporate
Lyn Daly	General Manager – Community
Kate Jarvis	General Manager – People
Joel Richards	Chief Financial Officer
Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
Lisa Thomas	Strategy Manager
Amy Beazer	Junior Policy Adviser
Jeena Baines	Data, Insights and Research Analyst

MDC 25-28/206

MEETING OPENING

Chaplain Roger Black (RNZAF Base Ohakea) opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/207

APOLOGIES

Cr Colin Dyer was on a pre-approved leave of absence.

MDC 25-28/208

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 01 April 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

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CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/209

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jerry Pickford: Item 14.1, Contract Award – Turners Road Extension.

MDC 25-28/210

PUBLIC FORUM

William Rice (Rapid Response Team) spoke to Council. Highlights:

- The Rapid Response Team provides community support focused on care and compassion, including emergency/disaster relief, youth support, and helping people facing hardship.
- Support is delivered through practical services like catering, product donations, and on-the-ground disaster response.
- Strong local impact in Feilding, including events, donations, and thousands of meals delivered over the past year.
- Part of a wider national and global network, contributing to large-scale relief efforts and volunteer initiatives.
- Rapid response capability, with the ability to mobilise quickly for emergencies and support first responders and affected communities.

MDC 25-28/211

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

MDC 25-28/212

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/213

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/214

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

The following Community Committees meetings were notified for information.

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COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Annual Community Committee and Marae/Hapū Forum	• 01 April 2026
Halcombe Community Committee	• 06 April 2026
Kimbolton Community Committee	• 13 April 2026
Pohangina Valley Community Committee	• 08 April 2026
Rongotea Community Development Group	• 06 April 2026
Sanson Community Committee	• 09 April 2026
https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/community-committees-and-plans	

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Annual Forum – Mayor Ford. Thanked staff for their attendance and presentations.
- Halcombe – Cr Pickford. Colin McFadzean attended. The other main topic was the Halcombe pathway along the back of the rugby field.
- Kimbolton – Cr Duindam. Well attended meeting. ANZAC Day presentations are in progress.
- Pohangina – Cr Bell. Acknowledged the Communications and Engagement Team for their support. The Committee had constructive feedback around the communications support during the recent state of emergency, and they had criticisms around the content on the Antenno app during this event.
- Rongotea – Cr McKelvie. They have a 150 years celebration coming up, but are still deciding exactly which date to do it on. Buses are still a hot topic.
- Sanson – Cr Short. Most of the meeting was about finalising the plans for ANZAC Day. They also discussed emergency management.

MDC 25-28/215

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Mayor Ford noted that six liaisons will be appointed at the 06 May 2026 Council meeting.

Cr Bell attended the first Te Kōtui Reo meeting. She acknowledged Hamish Waugh for his attendance at Aorangi Marae, alongside the Palmerston North City Council and Waka Kotahi. Cr Bell also acknowledged Kauwhata Marae and their architecture hui and flood mitigation discussion. Lastly, she gave a mihi to the seven marae participating in the Tangata Rau Kapa Haka festival.

MDC 25-28/216

FEES AND CHARGES 2026/27 – ADOPTION

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council’s adoption for the fees and charges for the 2026/27 financial year.

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RESOLVED

That the Council:

- 1. Adopts the activity fees and charges for the financial year commencing 01 July 2026 and ending 30 June 2027.**
- 2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make any minor changes to the Fees and Charges before publication.**
- 3. Adopts the corrected figures for the two significant fees listed below, replacing those included in the report attachment:**

Agenda Page Number	Description	Attachment	Corrected
31	Building Services – Certificate of Acceptance deposit.	\$1,052.00	\$1,454.00
62	Ohakea Rural Water Scheme (outside current Pfas plume area)	\$15,575.00	\$14,942.00

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Jerry Pickford

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/217

APPLICATION OF THE COMMON SEAL BETWEEN 13 NOVEMBER 2025 AND 18 MARCH 2026

Report of the General Manager – Corporate listing the documents that have been sealed under the Common Seal under delegation since the last schedule was prepared and presented to Council on 18 September 2025.

RESOLVED

That Council receive and accept the schedule of sealed documents, listed in Section 10 of this report, from 13 November 2025 to 18 March 2026.

Moved by: Cr Alison Short

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (11-0)

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MDC 25-28/218

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/219

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes; 01 April 2026**
- 2. Contract Award – Turners Road Extension**
- 3. Town Centre Refresh Engagement**
- 4. Feilding Civic Centre Trust – Appointment of Chairperson**

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; 01 April 2026	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 01 April 2026. Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.1 Contract Award – Turners Road Extension	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations <i>This report discusses sensitive commercial information, including consideration of a contract award sum</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.2 Town Centre Refresh Engagement	s7(2)(h) – commercial activities <i>This report includes early design concepts and indicative costings for the</i>	s48(1)(a)

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	<i>Town Centre Refresh project, which are still being developed and may be subject to future procurement processes</i>	
14.3 Feilding Civic Centre Trust – Appointment of Chairperson	s7(2)(a) – privacy <i>This report discusses details of a private individual who may or may not be appointed to the Trust</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 James McKelvie

CARRIED (11-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 9.15 am. For items MDC 25-28/220 to MDC 25-28/222 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 10.27 am.

MDC 25-28/223

MANAWATŪ DISTRICT POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council’s endorsement of the population, household and age demographic projections prepared by Infometrics.

RESOLVED

That the Council endorses the high growth scenario projections (population, household and age demographics) provided by Infometrics and approves them for use in the Long-term Plan 2027-37 and all related documents.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (8-3)

***Cr Sam Hill voted against the motion
Cr Jerry Pickford voted against the motion
Cr Andrew Quarrie voted against the motion***

The meeting went back into public excluded session at 11.12 am. For items MDC 25-28/224 to MDC 25-28/225 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 12.02 pm.

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MDC 25-28/226

CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED RESOLUTIONS IN OPEN SESSION

MDC 25-28/221 – Contract Award – Turners Road Extension (15 April 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. *Authorise the award of contract MDC 1111-4 Separable Portion B to Stringfellows Contractors Ltd to construct the Turners Road Extension from the culvert to the existing Turners Road, for the total sum of seven million four hundred fifty-three thousand two hundred seventy-three dollars and fifteen cents (\$7,453,273.15) plus GST.*

Note – the contract will be financially split across budgets of the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27:

- a. *2025/26 amount: \$3,260,887.83 (three million two hundred sixty thousand eight hundred eighty-seven dollars and eighty-three cents) plus GST*
- b. *2026/27 amount: \$4,192,385.32 (four million one hundred ninety-two thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars and thirty-two cents) plus GST*

2. *Approve a total 10% contingency amount of seven hundred forty-five thousand three hundred twenty-seven dollars and thirty-one cents (\$745,327.31) plus GST, to be expended only upon written instruction of the Engineer to the Contract.*

Note – the contingency will be financially split across budgets of the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27:

- a. *2025/26 amount: \$326,088.78 (three hundred twenty-six thousand eighty-eight dollars and seventy-eight cents) plus GST*
- b. *2026/27 amount: \$419,238.53 (four hundred nineteen thousand two hundred thirty-eight dollars and fifty-three cents) plus GST*

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

Note: The above resolutions can be immediately released to the public domain.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Mayor Michael Ford

CARRIED (9-1)

*Cr Sam Hill voted against the motion
Cr Jerry Pickford abstained from voting (conflict of interest)*



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MDC 25-28/227

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.02 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>