MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026	8:30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 16 September 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
	Lyn Daly	General Manager – Community
	Joel Richards	Chief Financial Officer
	Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
	Ross Patching	Development Navigator

MDC 25-28/392

MEETING OPENING

Cr Bridget Bell opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/393

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apology from Councillor Shelley Dew-Hopkins for lateness, be approved.

That the apology from Councillor Rob Duindam for early departure, be approved.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/394

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 02 September 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: **Cr Grant Hadfield**

Seconded by: **Cr Sam Hill**

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/395

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alison Short – Item 10.3 Town Centre Refresh.

MDC 25-28/396

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND – MANAWATU UNDER 14 REPRESENTATIVE NETBALL TEAM, NATIONALS TOURNAMENT IN NEW PLYMOUTH

Isla-Rose Hill was in attendance speaking to Council.

- Isla learnt more about strong communication within a team environment.
- The support from Council helped with transport and other costs.
- Isla was voted “player’s player” by her teammates.
- Isla also assists with umpiring at intermediate school competitions.
- There was a lot of training leading up to the tournament (4 days a week).

MDC 25-28/397

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND – NETBALL PACIFIC HORIZONS CUP

Ben Chase and Max Chase were unable to attend Council, but pre-recorded videos were played:

- Ben Chase spoke about his experience at the netball tournament. He learnt a lot of new skills and structures for the game.
- Max Chase spoke about the opportunity to represent New Zealand and expand his netball career. He enjoyed meeting new people at the tournament and working with his coach.

MDC 25-28/398

PUBLIC FORUM – GARY BARNETT

Gary Barnett was in attendance and spoke to Council about the Town Centre Refresh engagement:

- Gary's primary concern was the feedback he received around the design of the concept. He does not believe the concept aligns with the Edwardian architecture that defines other buildings in the town centre.

- Gary queried why a Wellington professional was engaged to design the concept, and why the design was not addressed at the start of the project with the community.

MDC 25-28/399

PUBLIC FORUM – GEORDIE WILSON

Geordie Wilson was in attendance and spoke to Council about the Mt Lees Homestead:

- George Wilson who built the homestead was Geordie's grandfather.

- The homestead has suffered neglect since it was gifted to the Crown. Geordie believes work is required to be completed in order to make the homestead useful, and demolition is irreversible.

- Geordie would like the community to have time to properly consider what it does with the homestead. They need to understand what submissions have been made on the subject, what discussions and research has been completed by Council staff.

- The building is inseparable from the reserve. There are many options for the building, and the Wilson family would like these explored prior to demolition proceeding. An independent heritage assessment should be completed.

- The Wilson family is willing to work constructively with the Council, to give it a fair chance before an irreversible decision is made.

MDC 25-28/400

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/401

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Recommendation from Manawatu Water Services Committee in Public Excluded.

MDC 25-28/402

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
District Development Committee	• 09 September 2026
Manawatū Water Services Committee	• 09 September 2026

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 7 September 2026
Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader	• 15 September 2026
Rongotea – Cr James McKelvie	• 7 September 2026
Sanson – Cr Alison Short	• 10 September 2026

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- District Development Committee – Cr Colin Dyer: the Committee discussed the Government reforms and the impact these will have on spatial planning.
- Manawatū Water Services Committee – Mr Colin McFadzean: the Committee's main focus was discussion around a loan opportunity.
- Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford: the Committee has submitted an application to the contested fund for a pathway for school children to walk from the top end of Halcombe to the school. There is a working bee at the Halcombe walkway 11 October. The ANZAC Day Committee will do a poppy day where people can learn how to make them.
- Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader: Hiwinui school recently held its bi-annual production "Reach your Peak". The Committee continues to work alongside the enviro-school and helps with native planting. The Committee intends to come back to Council to request a reconsideration of the funding position for the pathway project.
- Rongotea – Cr James McKelvie: the Committee discussed the work around the footpath repair at Rongotea, which they are grateful for. The safety cameras are operating. There is a "spud in the bucket" competition coming up to see who can grow the biggest potato.
- Sanson – Cr Alison Short: both the Village and RNZAF Base Ohakea were excited about the F-35 visit from the Royal Australian Air Force. The two jets are not allowed to fly supersonic while they are here, although they can reach a top speed of 1,900 km/h. The Committee is making money from the hall hire and have added more chairs.

MDC 25-28/403

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

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

- Cr Bridget Bell – a koroneihana took place with the Māori Queen's visit. Several rangatahi performed for her visit. She acknowledged all the marae that were able to attend.

MDC 25-28/404

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council approval to amend the terms of reference for the District Development Committee and Finance and Performance Committee, strengthening the District Development Committee's oversight of community development and transferring responsibility for Council's community grant funding to it.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. **Adopt the amended District Development Committee terms of reference (attachment 1), specifically to:**
   a. **Provide broader governance oversight of community development.**
   b. **Add responsibility for Council's community grant funding oversight.**
   c. **Add two additional elected members to the membership list, being Cr Rob Duindam and Cr James McKelvie, in recognition of the expanded governance oversight.**
2. **Adopt the amended Finance & Performance Committee terms of reference (attachment 2), specifically to:**
   a. **Remove responsibility for Council's community grant funding oversight.**

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/405

BUDGET CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS FROM 2025-26 TO 2026-27

Report of the Chief Financial Officer seeking Council to approve the requested financial budget carry forward expenditure along with relevant funding as listed on the attached document from the 2025-26 financial year to the 2026-27 financial year as per the Delegations Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. Approve the requested financial carry forwards of $18,417,570 for capital budgets into the 2026-27 financial year to be funded from a mix of development contributions, renewal reserve and loan funding.

2. Note the capital and operational budget carry forwards approved by the Chief Executive of $9.7M capital expenditure and $1.6M of operational expenditure under section 10.4 of the Delegations Manual.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/406

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 02 September 2026
2. Recommendation from Committee: Manawatu Water Services - Otamakapua Rural Water Supply Scheme - Kanoa Loan Pre-approval
3. Request for special resolution & CEDA funding re RIF loan for Te Utanganui development.

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; 02 September 2026	*To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 02 September 2026.* *Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.*	s48(1)(a)
14.1 * Recommendation from Committee: Manawatu Water	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations	s48(1)(a)

	Services - Approval to include Otamakapua Rural Water Scheme Loan and Financial Modelling Assumptions in 2027-37 LTP and Water Services Strategy	*To protect Council's negotiating position while the terms of the Kānoa loan agreement remain subject to negotiation and finalisation*	
14.2	Request for special resolution & CEDA funding re RIF loan for Te Utanganui development	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations *To protect Council's negotiating position while shareholder funding arrangements with CEDA and the associated RIF commitments are negotiated and finalised.*	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 Mr Colin McFadzean be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of his knowledge of Rural Water Schemes. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter as he is the Chairperson of the Manawatū Water Services Committee.**

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

Cr Andrew Quarrie raised a point of order, contesting the change of the order of business and delay of Item 10.3 Town Centre Refresh. Mayor Michael Ford explained his reasoning behind the change of order of business and ruled against the point of order.

CARRIED (10-1)

Cr Andrew Quarrie voted against the motion.

The meeting went into public excluded session at 9.26 am. For items MDC 25-28/407 to MDC 25-28/408 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 9.51 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.51 am and reconvened at 10.13 am.

Cr Alison Short left the meeting at 10.13 am, due to her declared conflict of interest for item 10.3 Town Centre Refresh.

MDC 25-28/409

TOWN CENTRE REFRESH ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Report of the General Manager – Community presenting the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement on two proposed Feilding Town Centre Refresh projects and seeking direction on the next steps for each proposal.

The engagement tested a proposed permanent all-weather cover over the Brick Quadrant in the Square; and proposed one-way traffic and placemaking changes to sections of Fergusson and Goodbehere Streets.

Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins joined the meeting at 10.15 am.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives the Feilding Town Centre Refresh engagement outcomes set out in this report.**

CARRIED (11-0)

2. **In relation to the proposed cover over the Brick Quadrant in the Square:**

   - **Notes that 77.3% of the 753 formal submitters who answered the relevant question did not support the proposed cover, and that the independently collected short-form feedback also showed strong opposition.**

CARRIED (11-0)

Original part of motion

- Agrees that Council does not proceed with the proposed cover over the brick quadrant in Manchester Square at this time. Council can revisit whether to open up the concept design for weather protection in the brick quadrant to all and consider a concept design competition. Council can also decide not to pursue weather protection in Manchester Square at all.

Proposed amendment to part of motion

- Agrees that Council defers consideration of the proposed cover over the brick quadrant in Manchester Square for the 2025-28 triennium. Council can revisit whether to open up the concept design for weather protection in the brick quadrant to all and consider a concept design competition. Council can also decide not to pursue weather protection in Manchester Square at all.

Moved by: Cr Jerry Pickford

Seconded by: Cr Andrew Quarrie

LOST (2-9)

The amendment failed, and the original part of the motion became the substantive part of the motion

Substantive part of motion

- **Agrees that Council does not proceed with the proposed cover over the brick quadrant in Manchester Square at this time. Council can revisit whether to open up the concept design for weather protection in the brick quadrant to all and consider a concept design competition. Council can also decide not to pursue weather protection in Manchester Square at all.**

CARRIED (10-1)

Cr Andrew Quarrie voted against this part of the motion.

- **Agrees that Council will carry out a temporary placemaking weather protection trial in June/July 2027, by erecting a large marquee in the brick quadrant of Manchester Square and working with Feilding & District Promotion to run 2 significant events in the marquee and 4 Farmers Market events along with making the marquee available for casual use with seating and tables in order that people can informally meet friends and family, eat lunch, dinner and generally hang out.**

CARRIED (8-3)

Cr Jerry Pickford and Cr Andrew Quarrie voted against this part of the motion.

- **Officers and the Town Centre Refresh Focus Group provide a report on alternative Town Centre Refresh work programme projects to the District Development Committee.**

CARRIED (11-0)

Moved by: **Mayor Michael Ford**

Seconded by: **Cr Raewyn Loader**

The motion was voted on in parts, as listed above

That the Council:

3. In relation to the proposed one-way traffic and placemaking changes:

a. Notes that 61.5% (437) of the 710 formal submitters who answered the relevant question supported the proposed Fergusson and Goodbehere Street traffic improvement and placemaking improvements.

b. Agrees that Council progresses a 12-month Fergusson and Goodbehere Street traffic improvement trial that considers speed, safety, parking dimensions, reversing visibility, and business servicing.

c. **Agrees that Council implements the Fergusson and Goodbehere Street streetscape placemaking improvements.**

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer

CARRIED (11-0)

Cr Rob Duindam left the meeting at 11.29 am.

Cr Alison Short returned to the meeting at 11.29 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.29 am and reconvened at 1.30 pm.

The meeting went back into public excluded session at 1.30 pm. For items MDC 25-28/410 to MDC 25-28/411 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 1.51 pm.

MDC 25-28/412

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 1.51 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