

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2025	8:32 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 17 December 2025, which commenced at 8.32 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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Alison Short

IN ATTENDANCE:	Shayne Harris	Chief Executive
	Hamish Waugh	General Manager – Infrastructure
	Frances Smorti	General Manager – People and Corporate
	Lyn Daly	General Manager – Community
	Amanda Calman	Chief Financial Officer
	Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
	Lisa Thomas	Strategy Manager
	Steph Skinner	Governance and Strategy Officer

MDC 25-28/084

MEETING OPENING

Jerald Twomey (Kaitohu Aporei - Māori (Principal Advisor – Māori)) opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/085

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apology from Councillor Alison Short be approved.

Note: Councillor Grand Hadfield is an apology for lateness.

Moved by: Cr Rob Duindam

Seconded by: Cr Jerry Pickford

CARRIED (10-0)

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MDC 25-28/086

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 03 December 2025 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (10-0)

MDC 25-28/087

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 25-28/088

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 25-28/089

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND – 2025 ASIA PACIFIC CUP CANOE POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Seanna Bennitt spoke to Council about her attendance at the 2025 Asia Pacific Cup Canoe Polo Championships. Highlights:

- Games were five per side and took place in a lake. They played seven games, including against teams from Singapore, Malaysia, China, Russia, and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).
- The team finished second with a silver medal.
- Seanna will be playing in Auckland, Christchurch, and Hastings in 2026.

MDC 25-28/090

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND – U11 MANAWATŪ MAORI RUGBY LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

Mataeo Blythe spoke to Council about his attendance at the MRL Tamariki Tournament. Highlights:

- Mataeo played in Rotorua and it was his 3rd year representing the Manawatū.

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- The team won three out of their five games, and Mataeo was awarded the 'Player's Player Award', acknowledging his teamwork and performance.
- He would like to play at a national level when he is older.

MDC 25-28/091

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/092

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/093

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

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

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Āpiti Community Committee	• 11 December 2025
Colyton Community Committee	• 11 December 2025
Kimbolton Community Committee	• 08 December 2025
Pohangina Valley Community Committee	• 15 December 2025
Sanson Community Committee	• 11 December 2025

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Āpiti Community Committee – Cr Sam Hill. New Committee, Chair, Treasury and Secretary were elected. Installed five new heat pumps in the hall.
- Colyton Community Committee – Cr Colin Dyer. They discussed how they might use their funding for next year.
- Kimbolton Community Committee – Cr Rob Duindam. They will be electing their new Committee in February 2026. They will open the new playground in February 2026 as well.
- Pohangina Valley Community Committee – Cr Bridget Bell. This meeting was rescheduled to 17 December 2025.
- Sanson Community Committee – Cr Jerry Pickford. They were happy about fencing off the lease land in the market. Cr Bridget Bell mentioned that they did not meet quorum for their meeting, and they are hoping that MDC will support them in a communications plan to attract new members and volunteers.
- Mayor Michael Ford advised that Sanson had their community event last night, which himself, Cr Dyer and staff attended.

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MDC 25-28/094

ANNUAL PLAN CONSULTATION DECISION

Report of the Chief Financial Officer – seeking a decision from Council on whether or not to undertake public consultation for the Annual Plan 2026/27.

RESOLVED

1. That Council determines that the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 does not contain any significant or material difference from year 3 of the Long-term Plan 2024-34, and therefore, in accordance with section 95(2) and 95(2A), consultation is not required.
2. That the Council notes that following the adoption of the Annual Plan 2026/27, information will be provided to the community regarding the content of the plan.

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (10-0)

MDC 25-28/095

ENDORSEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate, seeking Council's endorsement of the final version of the Environmental Scan and its supplementary Infographic, and to use these as supporting documents for early engagement on the 2027-37 Long-term Plan. These documents will be made publicly available on Council's website and used during early engagement as background information for those interested in the 2027-37 Long-term Plan.

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. Endorse the Environmental Scan (Annex A) and the Infographic (Annex B) as supporting documents, for the Manawātū District Council's 2027-37 Long-term Plan and agrees that these documents be made publicly available for early engagement and on the Council's website.
2. Agree that the Chief Executive make any minor edits to the Environmental Scan (Annex A) and the Infographic (Annex B) prior to publication.

Moved by: Cr Sam Hill

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (10-0)

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MDC 25-28/096

ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNITY HONOURS POLICY

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate, seeking Council’s adoption of the updated Community Honours Policy, with or without amendment.

RESOLVED

That the Council adopts the updated Community Honours Policy (attachment 1), without amendment.

Moved by: Cr Colin Dyer

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (9-1)

MDC 25-28/097

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/098

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes 3 December 2025**
- 2. Contract Award for Additional Works for MDC1581-2 Manawātū CCTV Pipework and Sewerage Network Asset Inspections 2026-2028**

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; 03 December 2025	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council</i>	s48(1)(a)

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	<p><i>meeting on 03 December 2025.</i></p> <p><i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i></p>	
14.1 Contract Award for Additional Works for MDC1581-2 Manawatū CCTV Pipework and Sewerage Network Asset Inspections 2026-2028	<p>s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations</p> <p>This report discussed potential contract amounts that are commercial sensitive</p>	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 Bridget Bell

CARRIED (10-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 9.23 am. For items MDC 25-28/099 to MDC 25-28/101 refer to public excluded proceedings.

Cr Grant Hadfield joined the meeting at 9.50 am.

The meeting returned to open session at 9.51 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.51 am and reconvened at 10.40 am.

MDC 25-28/102

PRIORITY SERVICE CONTRACTS – ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the General Manager – Community, seeking Council receive these reports.

Every three-years Council makes Priority Services funding available to the community. Applications that meet the criteria in Manawatū District Council's Community Development Policy are considered. Successful organisations enter into a three-year Priority Service Contract with Council and are required to report to Council on their performance against agreed performance measures at six-monthly and 12-monthly intervals.

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The Priority Service Contracts for the previous triennium ended on 30 June 2025. This report presents the 12-month reports for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 from four of the 18 contracted organisations.

Presentations from:

- Manchester House Social Services – Maxene Adamson and Belinda Morgan
- Palmerston North Surf Life Saving Club – Alec Mackay
- Manawatū Rural Support Services – Aevryl Jestin and Linda Siewwright
- Whatunga Tuao – Volunteer Central – Kate Aplin and Jordan Dempster

RESOLVED

That Council receives the 12-month Priority Service Contract reports for the period ending 30 June 2025 from:

- **Manchester House Social Services**
- **Palmerston North Surf Life Saving Club**
- **Manawatū Rural Support Services**
- **Whatunga Tuao – Volunteer Central**

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/103

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11.38 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>