

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025	8:30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 18 September 2025, which commenced at 8.30 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 Via Zoom
 Cr Michael Ford
 Cr Colin McFadzean
 Cr Andrew Quarrie
 Cr Kerry Quigley
 Cr Alison Short
 Cr Fiona Underwood

APOLOGIES: Cr Grant Hadfield

IN ATTENDANCE: Shayne Harris Chief Executive
 Frances Smorti General Manager – People and Corporate
 Hamish Waugh General Manager – Infrastructure
 Lyn Daly General Manager – Community
 Amanda Calman Chief Financial Officer
 Ash Garstang Governance and Assurance Manager
 Matthew Mackay Principal Policy Planner
 Richard Hills Senior Policy Planner
 Axel Malecki Policy Adviser

MDC 22-25/1296

MEETING OPENING

Cr Bridget Bell opened the meeting.

MDC 22-25/1297

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apology from Councillor Grant Hadfield be approved.

Moved by: Mayor Helen Worboys

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

CARRIED (10-0)

MDC 22-25/1298

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

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That the minutes of the Council meeting held 4 September 2025 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (10-0)

MDC 22-25/1299

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 22-25/1300

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 22-25/1301

PRESENTATION – REPRESENTATIVE FUND – 2025 TRI SERIES IN BALLARAT, AUSTRALIA

Jonty Howland spoke to Council about his experience in attending the 2025 Tri Series in Ballarat, Australia. Highlights:

- Jonty attended the tri series swimming competition in Ballarat, Australia. New Zealand, Victoria and Western Australia were the three competing countries/states. The New Zealand swimmers considered of two teams; NZ Black and NZ White (Jonty was a member of NZ White)
- His journey started with travel to Auckland to meet his team members. They had to qualify for the opportunity via swim competitions

Cr Stuart Campbell joined the meeting at 8.37 am.

- He enjoyed the challenge and made new friends at the event. His next swimming goal is to attend another international swimming event and represent New Zealand in swimming

MDC 22-25/1302

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

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MDC 22-25/1303

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 22-25/1304

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

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

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Hiwinui Community Committee	• 16 September 2025
Sanson Community Committee	• 11 September 2025
Tangimoana Community Committee	• 15 September 2025

YOUTH COUNCIL	
Meeting	• 15 September 2025

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Hiwinui Community Committee – Cr Fiona Underwood. They received some funding from the contestable funding which they intend to put towards their pathway. Enviro Schools came and presented to the Committee.
- Sanson Community Committee – Cr Alison Short. They have taken delivery of their history boards that they are going to be putting up. A member of the community proposed a native planting gallery at the back of the centre, which would be a two-year (or so) process.
- Tangimoana Community Committee – Cr Alison Short. She wasn't able to attend due to YAA, but has heard they are going fine.
- Young Achievers Awards – Cr Lara Blackmore. This took place in lieu of the Youth Council meeting.

MDC 22-25/1305

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

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

- Aorangi Marae
- Kauwhata Marae
- Parewahawaha Marae
- Poupatatē Marae
- Taumata-o-te-rā Marae
- Te Hiiri Marae

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- Te Rangimārie Marae
- Te Tikanga Marae
- Ngāti Te Au

MDC 22-25/1306

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS – PUBLIC PLACES BYLAW

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate providing elected members with a copy of the submissions received in relation to the draft Public Places Bylaw (the “draft Bylaw”).

The purpose of the Hearing is to provide an opportunity for submitters to present their view and to verbally interact with Council, as required by Section 83(1)(d) of the Local Government Act.

RESOLVED

That Council receive the report on the Hearing of Submissions – Public Places Bylaw, and hear from submitters who have indicated that they wish to be heard.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Lara Blackmore

CARRIED (11-0)

15 Health New Zealand, Te Whatu Ora – Sally Darragh

Highlights:

- Sally is a Health Promotion Advisor, and her professional focus is on creating healthy environments.
- They recommend including a clause around outdoor dining conditions, such as a prohibition on smoking and vaping within outdoor dining areas.
- They recommend including a statement around Council’s commitment to maintaining smoke free public places (e.g., sports grounds).
- Smoking and vaping rates in the District are higher than the national average.

In response to questions, Sally Darragh advised:

- In reply to a request, Sally will forward through information around the ongoing cost to the health care system from smoking and vaping. She noted that the level of addiction with vaping can be a lot higher as users are less constrained with their usage than smokers are.
- There is a lot of research on proactive public health strategies to reduce public smoking rates. Health NZ also advocates in the compliance space – for example, they run control-purchase operations where young people attempt to purchase products to see how the vendor responds.

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- Council can assist in this space by promoting a smokefree culture. For example, by encouraging smokefree events, advocating to government, and reporting any suspected vendors that might be selling smoke or vaping products to young people.

01 Cancer Society, Jose Gutry

Highlights:

- The Cancer Society in the Manawātū believes strongly in having smokefree environments, to encourage rangatahi to lead healthy lifestyles.
- Jose expressed disappointment in the Smokefree and Vapefree Policy being adopted without public consultation. She believes that the Public Places Bylaw is not a sufficient way of discouraging smoking. There are substantial questions that herself and other health providers would have raised if consultation was conducted for the Smokefree and Vapefree Policy.
- Notwithstanding her thoughts on the Smokefree and Vapefree Policy, Jose supported the intent of the Public Places Bylaw.

In response to questions, Jose Gutry advised:

- That there was a lot of new research being produced on the negative physical and mental health effects of vaping, particularly on rangatahi. She will share some of this research and data with members.
- Jose will look further into what statistics are available on smoking and vaping within the Manawātū District, although she acknowledged that it is easier to source this information at a national level.

13 Timona Park Orchard Trust, Barbara Robson

Highlights:

- The Trust looks after the native bush and worrying state of the stormwater pond at the northern area of the Park.
- The riding of motorcycles and other vehicles in Timona Park should be a matter of concern, given the risk of injury and death to the public. Barbara does not feel that the Bylaw goes far enough to discourage this activity. She believes that wording should be included into clause 4.2 to this effect.

In response to a question, Barbara Robson advised:

- There are frequent instances of dirt bikes going into the bush, and motorbike users during sports games.
- The Trust would support the banning of vehicles from the park, except for the purpose of entry and exit, or specific events. The issue is primarily around motorbikes.

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MDC 22-25/1307

**APPROVAL TO APPLY TO A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT SECTION 80V
EXEMPTION TO PLAN STOP**

Report of the General Manager – Community.

The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 impacts Council's District Plan Review Programme. The purpose of this report is to:

1. Provide further advice on Manawātū District Council plan change projects which are subject to 'Plan Stop' under Sections 80U and 80V of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and
2. Seek approval for officers to be given delegated authority to lodge 'Plan Stop' exemption applications on behalf of Manawātū District Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council note the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 effectively stops the District Plan Review Programme in its current form, except for identified plan change work granted an exemption by the Minister for the Environment.
2. That the Council lodge 'Plan Stop' exemption applications with the Minister for the Environment for Proposed Plan Change E: Feilding Town Centre and for a draft plan change relating to designations.
3. That the Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive to prepare Plan Stop applications on behalf of the Manawātū District Council.
4. That the Council withdraw Plan Change B: Residential Zone in accordance with Section 80Q of the Resource Management Act, and give public notice as required by Section 80R.
5. That the Council give public notice of the status of all proposed planning instruments (including draft Plan Change A) as required by Section 80Y.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Lara Blackmore

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 22-25/1308

APPLICATION OF THE COMMON SEAL 24 FEBRUARY 2025 TO 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate informing Council of documents that have been sealed under the Common Seal under delegation since the last schedule was prepared and presented to Council.

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RESOLVED

That Council receive and accept the schedule of sealed documents, listed in Section 10 of this report, from 24 February 2025 to 1 September 2025.

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Steve Bielski

CARRIED (11-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 9.47 am and reconvened at 10.22 am.

MDC 22-25/1309

MANAWATU COMMUNITY TRUST FUTURE PLANS – BUSINESS CASE

Report of the General Manager – Community.

Manawatū Community Trust is seeking a \$5.3million 20-year loan to construct twelve new accessible rental units at Corrick Court.

This is an objective detailed in the Trust's 2025 to 2026 Statement of Intent, working to increase the number of community housing units in the region from the current stock of 205 to 250 units by 2030.

The Trust is seeking loan funding from the Local Government Funding Authority (LGFA) through Manawatū District Council's access to this facility. Funding through LGFA would provide a more favourable interest rate for Manawatu Community Trust than through a bank.

Teresa Hague spoke to the Council about the item.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- 1. Approve loan funding of five million and three hundred thousand dollars (\$5.3million) for a period of twenty (20) years to Manawatu Community Trust, with repayments of interest and principal to be repaid monthly. This funding is for the construction of twelve (12) new accessible rental units at Corrick Court, Feilding.**
- 2. Note that Council will source this funding from the Local Government Funding Authority (LGFA) as a fixed-term loan of up to 20 years which will be on-lent to Manawatu Community Trust.**
- 3. Note there is no ongoing rates impact from this decision.**

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Steve Bielski

CARRIED (11-0)

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MDC 22-25/1310

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 22-25/1311

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

1. **Confirmation of Minutes 4 September 2025**
2. **Contract Award Recommendation – Rongotea Wastewater Pumpstation Construction**
3. **Feilding Civic Centre Appointment of Trustees**
4. **Town Centre Refresh project progress report**
5. **Sale of Council Land – Bailey Road and Gravel Reserve**
6. **Recommendation from the CE Employment Committee – Consideration of Chief Executive Reappointment**

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; 04 September 2025	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 04 September 2025.</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 Contract Award Recommendation – Rongotea Wastewater Pumpstation Construction	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations <i>The report addresses confidential contract costs</i>	s48(1)(a)

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	<i>and other key contractual matters</i>	
14.2 Feilding Civic Centre Appointment of Trustees	s7(2)(a) – privacy <i>The report may discuss the private details of individuals who may or may not be appointed to the Trust</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.3 Town Centre Refresh project progress report	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations <i>The report addresses confidential contract costs and other key contractual matters</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.4 Sale of Council land – Bailey Road and Gravel Reserve	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations <i>The report addresses confidential contract costs and other key contractual matters</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.5 Recommendation from the CE Employment Committee – Consideration of Chief Executive Reappointment	s7(2)(a) – privacy <i>The item includes discussion around the Chief Executive’s employment</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 Helen Worboys

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

CARRIED (11-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 10.36 am. For items MDC 22-25/1312 to MDC 22-25/1318 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at x.

MDC 22-25/1319

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 3.00 pm.

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Meeting Video

<https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/videos-of-council-and-committee-meetings/manawatu-district-council-meeting-videos>