MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026	8:30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 21 October 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	Via Zoom
	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
	Jeena Baines	Data, Insights and Research Analyst
	Kemi Hughes	Senior Adviser – Environmental Policy

MDC 25-28/435

MEETING OPENING

Cr Rob Duindam opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/436

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 25-28/437

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held 7 October 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: **Cr Grant Hadfield**

Seconded by: **Cr Colin Dyer**

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/438

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 25-28/439

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 25-28/440

PRESENTATION - REPRESENTATIVE FUND - MANAWATŪ U18 MENS HOCKEY TEAM (U18 HOCKEY NATIONALS) IN TAURANGA

Mac Kowalewski attended and spoke to Council. Highlights:

- There were four-five weeks of trials and training in the lead up to the tournament.
- The Team placed fourth, narrowly missing out on a medal.

MDC 25-28/441

PRESENTATION - REPRESENTATIVE FUND - MĀORI RUGBY LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Nina Soteria Alio Skipper was unable to attend the meeting.

MDC 25-28/442

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/443

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/444

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Manawatū Water Services	• 13 October 2026

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader	• 20 October 2026
Kimbolton – Cr Rob Duindam	• 12 October 2026
Kiwitea – Cr Andrew Quarrie	• 19 October 2026
Pohangina Valley – Cr Bridget Bell	• 14 October 2026
Sanson – Cr Alison Short	• 08 October 2026
Tangimoana – Cr James McKelvie	• 19 October 2026

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader. The meeting was postponed.
- Kimbolton – Cr Rob Duindam. The Chair has stood down as they are moving overseas, however another member has volunteered to be interim chair until the AGM. Forest Road Reserve – the Committee is keen to tidy this up and develop it further as a community project. The Committee has several CCTV cameras that have not been utilised. The Committee also raised the query of power bills, and whether there is any potential to explore alternative options with the Council – Cr Duindam advised he will raise it with the Council team. They are looking at holding a picnic cake fundraiser in the near future.
- Pohangina Valley – Cr Bridget Bell. The Committee is having ongoing negotiations around the house next to the Hall – there is a lot of attachment to it and the Committee is worried about it going. They are worried about the temporary rock placement and the timeframes for this – Cr Bell advised that she has been in contact with the Roading Manager around this.
- Sanson – Cr Alison Short. Civil Defence staff from MDC met with the Committee, and the Committee is looking into an emergency generator. Two electrical companies have come to look at the Hall to advise further on this, but they have also raised the issue of the switchboard at the Hall potentially requiring an upgrade. One of the two Sanson markets has now moved to Bulls, as their lease concluded for the normal site they were using.
- Tangimoana – Cr James McKelvie. Hall maintenance continues and painting will commence soon. A new civil defence draft has been received and they eagerly await the final version. The Committee is meeting again soon to discuss sites for the war memorial.
- Horizons Regional Passenger Transport Committee – Cr Colin Dyer. Council recently received a deputation from the rural bus trust – it was evident from this that further funding from the regional council was required and Horizons will contribute for the next six months. The new orbital service in July/August has seen a significant rise in usage. The legislation requiring that non-elected members do not have a vote will apply to this Committee.
- Rangiotu Turangawaewae Ball – Cr Raewyn Loader. The name reflects a sense of belonging. It is about building communities and leaders. The community did a good job of beautifying the community hall for the occasion. The evening was recorded and will be made into a film for the community. The Feilding Police, Neighbourhood Support, Feilding Community Patrol, Rongo Mauri Trust and Lions Club supported the event.

MDC 25-28/445

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided verbal updates on their respective marae liaison activities.

- Aorangi Marae – Cr Rob Duindam. Nothing to report.
- Kauwhata Marae – Cr Raewyn Loader. Nothing to report.
- Parewahawaha Marae – Cr Alison Short. Meeting with the Chair tomorrow. They are going to discuss the dangerous sea and river conditions at the mouth of the Rangitīkei river.
- Poupatatē Marae – Cr James McKelvie. Nothing to report.
- Taumata-o-te-rā Marae – Cr Colin Dyer. Nothing to report.
- Te Hiiri Marae – Cr Sam Hill. Nothing to report.
- Te Rangimārie Marae – Cr Jerry Pickford. Nothing to report.
- Te Tikanga Marae – Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins. Nothing to report.
- Ngāti Te Au – Cr Grant Hadfield. Has met with them and will continue to meet regularly.
- Ngāwhakaraua marae – Cr Andrew Quarrie. Nothing to report.

MDC 25-28/446

RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY YEARLY AND BENCHMARKING REPORTS

Report of the General Manager – Corporate presenting the Manawatū DC Resident Survey Final Yearly Report 2025-26 and the Residents Survey Benchmark Report 2025-26 for endorsement, ahead of publication on the MDC website.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. Receive the Manawatū DC Residents Survey Final Yearly Report 2025-26 (Appendix A) and the Residents Survey Benchmark Report 2025-26 (Appendix B) prepared by Key Research.

AND

2. Approves the uploading of these documents to Council's website.

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Jerry Pickford

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/447

VOTING AND QUORUM FOR NON-ELECTED MEMBERS - EXCEPTION REQUESTS

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council approval to request two exceptions under section 260A of the Local Government Act 2002, to enable non-elected members of the Finance & Performance Committee and Manawatū Water Services Committee to continue to vote and be counted towards quorum.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. **Approves an application to the Minister of Local Government seeking an exception from clauses 23(4) and 31A(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Finance & Performance Committee, to enable those members to continue to vote and be counted towards quorum for the 2025-28 triennium.**

2. **Approves an application to the Minister of Local Government seeking an exception from clauses 23(4) and 31A(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act for the Chair of the Manawatū Water Services Committee, to enable that member to continue to vote and be counted towards quorum for the 2025-28 triennium.**

3. **Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to finalise and submit the exception applications to the Minister of Local Government.**

Moved by: **Cr Grant Hadfield**

Seconded by: **Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins**

CARRIED (10-2)

Cr Jerry Pickford and Cr Andrew Quarrie voted against the motion

MDC 25-28/448

SUBMISSIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

Report of the General Manager – Corporate presenting to Council, for information, copies of recent submissions lodged on behalf of Manawatū District Council.

RESOLVED

That the Council receives and notes the following submissions lodged on behalf of Manawatū District Council between 5 June and 18 September 2026:

1. **Ring-fencing Revenue for Water Entities**
2. **Better Regional Boundaries Bill**
3. **Climate Change Response (Tort Liability) Amendment Bill**
4. **Conservation Amendment Bill**

5. **Consultation on Groups of Activities**
6. **Resilience Principles for Infrastructure Providers**
7. **Environmental Reporting Amendment Bill**
8. **International Visitors Levy (IVL) Investment framework for tourism**
9. **National Engineering Design Standards**
10. **Local Government (Management of Local Authorities) Amendment Bill**

Moved by: **Cr Grant Hadfield**

Seconded by: **Cr Sam Hill**

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/449

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/450

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

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

1. **Feilding Civic Centre Deed of Surrender request**

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
13.1 Feilding Civic Centre Deed of Surrender request	s7(2)(i) commercial negotiations s7(2)(j) improper gain or advantage *This report discusses sensitive contract terms*	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 (12-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 9.57 am. For items MDC 25-28/451 to MDC 25-28/452 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 10.52 am.

MDC 25-28/453

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 10.52 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