

MEETING MINUTES	
YOUTH COUNCIL	TIME
TUESDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2023	6.15 PM

Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Council held on Tuesday 7 February 2023, which commenced at 6.15pm in the Manawātū District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT: Grace Carmen Chairperson  
Jesse Devonshire  
Sadie Bruce  
Corbyn Dekker  
Alyssa Viner  
Shania McLaughlin  
Finn Macdonald  
Amalie Allan  
Sienna Jones  
Sophie McLaughlin  
Cr Lara Blackmore MDC Liaison Councillor

IN ATTENDANCE: Barbara Bowling  
Eric Schuster

YC 22-25/001

#### MEETING OPENING

Chair Grace Carmen welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

YC 22-25/002

#### APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

YC 22-25/003

#### REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no requests for leave of absence

YC 22-25/004

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

**That the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held 05 December 2022 be adopted as a true and correct record.**

**Moved by: Chair Grace Carmen**

**Seconded by: Sadie Bruce**

**CARRIED**

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YC 22-25/005

## PRESENTATIONS

### 1. INTRODUCING THE YOUTH COUNCIL

Power Point Presentation to introduce the 2023 Youth Council

- Members highlighted a vision they wanted to achieve while they were on youth council as their slide was presented.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Steph Skinner, Governance Officer from Manawatu District Council was in attendance to speak explain what Declarations of Interest are and clarify their meaning.

- The presentation would be shared after the meeting.

### 3. PROPOSED CHANGES TO YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS & STRUCTURE

Liaison Councillor Lara Blackmore and Chair Grace Carmen spoke to the presentation about the proposed changes to the meetings and structure.

- Members had the chance to discuss the proposed changes and meeting structure. The presentation would be shared after the meeting.
- Members to put their feedback onto team's chat and we will draft a report for the next meeting.

YC 22-25/006

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

YC 22-25/007

## NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

YC 22-25/008

## STANDING ITEM - COUNCIL REPORTS OF NOTE

Ros Johnstone, Strategy, Governance and Assurance Manager presented the report, and Councillor Blackmore discussed the consultation process through council and summarised the verbal submissions council heard.

Youth Councillors to provide feedback on the Council Reports of Note:

2 February 2023 – Item 11.1 Proposed Traffic Safety and Road Use Bylaw - Hearing of Submissions

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- Slowing speeding cars with street speedbumps instead of lowering the speed limit.
- Long term parking for those working in the Feilding Town centre was lacking.
- Replacing free parking with time limited parking – reducing the time you can park would not be popular.

YC 22-25/009

#### JOINT REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Report of the General Manager – Corporate Services dated 16 January 2023 seeking Youth Councillors feedback on the proposed joint climate actions contained in the Regional Climate Action Plan to be implemented by councils within the Manawatu Whanganui region.

Kemi Hughes, Senior Adviser Environmental Policy from Manawātū District Council explained the related agenda documents and the draft form of the plan to tackle climate change in our region. Youth have the most up to date ideas about climate change.

*Jesse Devonshire left the meeting at 6.53pm*

- It was asked that Youth Council members to take time to look at the plan and how can Manawatu District Councils actions align with the national initiative.
- Public transport – there was limited access for transport to Palmerston North. Because of regularity, it was preferable for people to take their car than wait for a bus.

*Jesse Devonshire returned to the meeting at 6.57pm*

- Public Transport – how well was it used?, it seemed cost prohibitive. Timetables out of date and not user friendly.
- Getting communities involved - that the public understand they can get involved on what is happening around our district, not just their local community.
- Public feedback would be helpful to feed into the action plan. Local communities have projects to get involved in.
- Increase advertising to the wider community.

#### RESOLVED

**That the Youth Council provide feedback on the Regional Joint Climate Action Plan on or before its first meeting of the year slated for February 7, 2023.**

**Moved by: Chair Grace Carmen**

**Seconded by: Alyssa Viner**

**CARRIED**

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YC 22-25/010

## INQUIRY INTO THE 2022 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Report of the General Manager – Corporate Services dated 12 January 2023 informing the Youth Council of the election inquiry into the 2022 Local Government Elections by the Justice Committee.

*Amalie Allan left the meeting at 7.03pm*

Ros Johnstone, Strategy Governance and Assurance Manager explained the related documents and the review of the Local Government Elections.

There were differing views on lowering the voting age. Older Youth Council members said no, younger youth council members said yes.

Comments voiced by members:

- Lowering the voting age would add more voters, this brings responsibility.
- Apathy to voting as people do not understand about local elections. Most people do not care about local elections.

*Amalie Allan rejoined the meeting at 7.06pm*

- 16 is a good age to vote because it is our future.
- If the age was lowered it gives younger people a voice in our community.
- Another opinion is that 16 was far too young and it is an immature age. At 18 it was difficult to understand a lot about national government let alone local government.
- It was not about lowering the age – it should be about would people actually about vote if we lower the age – will this increase the numbers turning out?
- Education through schools. 16 is a good age to understand what was happening locally.
- Start education early, providing more knowledge about local government. – this could potentially increase the voter turnout.
- This was about targeting the market – at a level youth understand. Packaging it well would inspire younger voters. The wrong messages, not targeted correctly, can put people off elections and voting.
- Youth influencing parents to vote and holding those family discussions. Change parents' mindset on voting for the same person or party – look at bigger picture.
- Younger candidates may influence younger voters.
- If you do not own a house or pay rates – local body elections do not affect you!

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**RESOLVED**

**That the Youth Council receives the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Government Elections report.**

**Moved by: Chair Grace Carmen**

**Seconded by: Amalie Allen**

**CARRIED**

YC 22-25/011

**YOUTH COUNCIL EXPENDITURE**

Report of the General Manager – Community dated 25 January 2023 providing Youth Council with information regarding budget spending for approval.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Youth Council receives the report and approves the amount of \$610.37 spent in December 2022 and January 2023.**

**Moved by: Jesse Devonshire**

**Seconded by: Sadie Bruce**

**CARRIED**

YC 22-25/012

**CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items notified for consideration.

YC 22-25/013

**MEETING CLOSURE**

The meeting was declared closed at 7.30pm