
Council

OPEN MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED

Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 11:00 am.

PRESENT

Mayor	His Worship The Mayor Bernie Wanden
Deputy Mayor	Councillor David Allan
Councillors	Councillor Mike Barker
	Councillor Rogan Boyle
	Councillor Ross Brannigan
	Councillor Clint Grimstone
	Councillor Nina Hori Te Pa
	Councillor Sam Jennings
	Councillor Paul Olsen
	Councillor Jonathan Procter
	Councillor Justin Tamihana

IN ATTENDANCE

Reporting Officer	Monique Davidson	Chief Executive
	Daniel Haigh	Group Manager - Community Infrastructure
	Jacinta Straker	Group Manager - Organisation Performance
	Brent Harvey	Group Manager - Community Experience and Services
	David McCorkindale	Group Manager – Community Vision and Delivery
	Blair Spencer	Group Manager – Housing & Business Development
	Ashley Huria	Business Performance Manager
Meeting Secretary	Grayson Rowse	Principal Advisor – Democracy

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

3 Late Items

There were no late items

4 Declaration of Interest

Cr Brannigan declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to item 8.1 particularly in relation to Emergency Management and would withdraw from the table should any questions or discussion arise in relation to emergency management.

In relation to item 7.4, Crs Hori te Pa, Tamihana and Procter all noted for the record that they had taken advice from the Chief Executive, and considered what conflicts of interest there may be and although they had linkages through whakapapa to local iwi who may seek to engage in property purchase in the future, this is not the matter about to be before Council. Acknowledging the decision for today is a policy decision, it does not represent a pecuniary interest for anyone, if and when that arises, they would declare an interest and remove not take part in those decisions, but the potential for that to happen will not preclude them from participating in a policy decision that deserves the representation role that they were elected to do. They noted that like many of their colleagues, they wear a number of hats, through the development of this policy, they had firmly worn the hat as an elected member. Therefore, they did not declare a conflict of interest and intended to continue to participate in the decision making process.

Councillor Boyle joined the meeting at 11:05 am.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution number **CO/2025/59**

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 26 March 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Resolution number **CO/2025/60**

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Public Excluded Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 26 March 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Resolution number **CO/2025/61**

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 30 April 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6 Elected Members Reports

6.1 Mayoral Report

This report was to inform Council and the community about events and functions, and Council-related meetings that the Mayor attended 15 March – 30 April 2025, and to provide an update on items of interest.

Resolution Number CO/2025/62

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Young:

A. That Report Mayoral Report be received and noted.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/63

MOVED by Cr Grimstone, seconded Cr Brannigan:

B That Council authorises the Mayor, and Crs Jennings and Olsen to attend the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Christchurch 15-18 July 2025.

C. That Council nominates Crs Jennings and Olsen as the alternates to exercise Council's voting rights, should the presiding delegate not be in attendance at the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand.

CARRIED

6.2 Member's Report Back on Te Maruata Conference 2025

This report was a report back from Councillor's Hori Te Pa and Tamihana on Te Maruata Conference 2025.

Resolution Number CO/2025/64

MOVED by Cr Hori Te Pa, seconded Cr Tamihana:

That Report 25/192 Member's Report Back on Te Maruata Conference 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

6.3 Chairperson's Update -Te Awahou Foxton Community Board

This report updated Council on matters of interest from the Chairperson of Te Awahou Foxton Community Board

Resolution Number CO/2025/65

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/258 Chairperson's Update -Te Awahou Foxton Community Board be received and noted.

CARRIED

7 Reports for Decision

7.1 Adoption of the Annual Plan 2025/26 and the Fees and Charges Schedule 2025/26

This report presented submissions from consultation on the Food Act and Resource Management fees, and presented the Fees and Charges Schedule 2025/6 and the Annual Plan 2025/26 for adoption.

Resolution Number CO/2025/66

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Jennings:

That Report Adoption of the Annual Plan 2025/26 and the Fees and Charges Schedule 2025/26 be received.

That this matter or decision is recognised as significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Receive the submissions made during consultation on the Food Act and Resource Management fees (Attachment 1).

That Council thanks submitters for their time and acknowledges their submissions.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/67

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Olsen:

That Council amends the Shannon Pool fee from \$2.10 to \$2.00, noting the different payment arrangement for Shannon Pool.

That Council amends the proposed Foxton pool admission fee from \$5.70 to \$5.60 to be aligned with charges at Levin Pool.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/68

MOVED by Cr Brannigan, seconded Cr Grimstone:

That Council updates the Unapproved works (activities being undertaken without an approved WAP (Work Access Permit) or Traffic Management Plan) under Corridor Access Requests from \$1,545 to \$1,500 due to this being the legislative maximum fine value.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/69

MOVED by Cr Olsen, seconded Cr Jennings:

That Council, having taken into account the submissions received during the consultation on the Food Act and Resource Management fees and charges, that the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26 be adopted as operative fees and charges for the 2025/26 year, effective 1 July 2025 (Attachment 2).

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/70

MOVED by Cr Jennings, seconded Cr Allan:

That Council approve that, after considering the matters set out in Section 100(2)(a)-(d) of the Local Government Act 2002, that the Annual Plan 2025/26 does not have projected operating revenues at a level that is sufficient to meet projected operating expenses and balance the operating budget. This is in line with the Financial Strategy and it is noted that the budget planned to be balanced by 2027/28.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/71

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Jennings:

That Council adopts the Annual Plan 2025/2026 in accordance with s95 of the Local Government Act 2002 (Attachment 3).

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/72

MOVED by Cr Jennings, seconded Cr Allan:

That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to insert the after growth percentage rates increase, the rating mechanisms and rating examples detail into the Annual Plan 2025/26 after the rates are set on 25 June 2025, and to make editorial changes that arise as part of the publication process for the Fees and Charges Schedule 2025/26 and the Annual Plan 2025/26.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/73

MOVED by Cr Grimstone, seconded Cr Brannigan:

That the Council approve a total rates increase before growth for 2025/26 of 10.2%.

CARRIED

9.4 Proceedings of the Hearings and Regulatory Committee 15 April 2025

This report presented Council the minutes of the Hearings and Regulatory Committee meeting held on 15 April 2025.

Resolution Number CO/2025/74

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Mayor Wanden:

That Report 25/227 Proceedings of the Hearings and Regulatory Committee 15 April 2025 and the minutes be received and noted.

CARRIED

7.2 Adoption of Local Waters Combined Bylaw 2025

This report presented the final proposed Local Waters Combined Bylaw 2025 to Council for adoption.

It follows the consideration of the submissions received to the proposed Bylaw by the Hearings and Regulatory Committee of Council on 15 April 2025, which had subsequently resolved to recommend Council adopt the Bylaw with minor amendments.

Resolution Number CO/2025/75

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Mayor Wanden:

That Report 25/177 Adoption of Local Waters Combined Bylaw 2025 be received.

That this matter or decision is recognised as significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/76

MOVED by Cr Tamihana, seconded Cr Allan:

That Council resolve to adopt the Local Waters Combined Bylaw 2025, attached as Attachment A as an operative bylaw of Council effective 1 July 2025; and in doing so determines that:

A bylaw is still the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problems of regulating Local Waters services; and

That the proposed bylaw is the most appropriate form of bylaw and does not give rise to implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

That the Horowhenua District Council Water Supply Bylaw 2020 is superseded and therefore revoked.

That the Horowhenua District Council Trade Waste Bylaw 2015 is superseded and therefore revoked.

CARRIED

Councillor Grimstone exited the meeting at 11:25 am during consideration of 7.2.

7.3 New Parking Restriction - Ballance Street, Shannon

This report sought approval from Council to install a new restricted parking space located in Balance Street Shannon, outside the Moana Road store in response to a request from the store owner.

Resolution Number CO/2025/77

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/223 New Parking Restriction - Ballance Street, Shannon be received.

That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/78

MOVED by Cr Olsen, seconded Cr Brannigan:

That Council adopt the amendment to schedule 12 of the Land Transport Bylaw 2024, that includes the addition of a P30 parking restriction in Ballance Street Shannon, 18m from Plimmer Terrace extending 12m in a south easterly direction.

CARRIED

Cr Tamihana abstained

7.4 Property Strategy amendment - Iwi First Right of Refusal

This report presented amendments the Property Strategy to introduce a First Right of Refusal for iwi on non-core Property identified for disposal for Councils consideration.

Resolution Number CO/2025/79

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/212 Property Strategy amendment - Iwi First Right of Refusal be received.

That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

Officers offered an apology to iwi partners, who had been engaged in the development of this process, for not advising them that this matter was coming back to council at this meeting.

This is an amendment the Property Strategy and would be the default process for disposal of non-core property.

Councillor Grimstone returned to the meeting at 11:51 am.

Resolution Number CO/2025/80

MOVED by Cr Boyle, seconded Cr Hori Te Pa:

That Council incorporates the proposed amendment to the Property Strategy, allowing for iwi/hapū to have first right of refusal for any non-core property that is to be disposed of.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Councillors: David Allan
Rogan Boyle
Clint Grimstone
Nina Hori Te Pa
Paul Olsen
Jonathan Procter
Justin Tamihana
Bernie Wanden
Alan Young

Against:

Councillors: Mike Barker
Ross Brannigan
Sam Jennings

The division was declared CARRIED by 9 votes to 3.

CARRIED

7.5 Adoption of Policy for Responding to External Consultations

This report sought Council's adoption of the Policy for Responding to External Submissions.

Resolution Number CO/2025/81

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/237 Adoption of Policy for Responding to External Consultations be received.

That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2025/82

MOVED by Cr Jennings, seconded Cr Allan:

That Council adopt the Policy for Responding to External Submissions included as Attachment 1.

CARRIED

7.6 Districtwide Water Meter Project - Update and Delegation

This report provided Council with an update to the Districtwide Water Meter Project including a revised budget and requesting additional financial delegations to the Chief Executive.

Resolution Number CO/2025/83

MOVED by Cr Olsen, seconded Cr Grimstone:

That Report 25/251 Districtwide Water Meter Project - Update and Delegation be received.

That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.

That Council approve the new revised Districtwide Water Meter Project plan noting an increased budget from \$6.46M to \$6.78M noting that the budget increase will be required to come from existing CAPEX budgets.

That Council approve financial delegation to the Chief Executive for the sum of \$6.78M for the delivery of the Districtwide Water Meter Project.

CARRIED

Councillor Boyle exited the meeting at 01:35 pm.

8 Reports for Noting

8.1 Organisation Performance Report - May 2025

This report presented the Organisation Performance Report for May 2024.

Resolution Number CO/2025/84

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report Organisation Performance Report - May 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

Councillor Boyle returned to the meeting at 1.56pm

8.2 Council Resolution and Actions Monitoring Report May 2025

This presented Council the updated monitoring report covering resolutions and requested actions from previous meetings of Council.

Resolution Number CO/2025/85

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Olsen:

That Report 25/199 Council Resolution and Actions Monitoring Report May 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.3 Long Term Plan 2024-44 Monitoring Report May 2025

The purpose of this report presented to Council the ongoing monitoring report, which reflects the progress of those actions and recommendations from the Long Term Plan 2024 - 44.

Resolution Number CO/2025/86

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/243 Long Term Plan 2024-44 Monitoring Report May 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

9 Proceedings of Committees

9.1 Proceedings of Te Awahou Foxton Community Board 10 March 2025

The report presented the minutes of the Te Awahou Foxton Community Board meeting held on 10 March 2025.

Resolution Number CO/2025/87

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/256 Proceedings of Te Awahou Foxton Community Board 10 March 2025 and the minutes be received and noted.

CARRIED

9.2 Proceedings of the Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee 19 March 2025

This report presented Council the minutes of the Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee meeting held on 19 March 2025.

Resolution Number CO/2025/88

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/200 Proceedings of the Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee 19 March 2025 and the minutes be received and noted.

CARRIED

9.3 Proceedings of the Community Funding and Recognition Committee 2 April 2025

This report presented Council the minutes of the Community Funding and Recognition Committee meeting held on 02 April 2025.

Resolution Number CO/2025/89

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Brannigan:

That Report 25/252 Proceedings of the Community Funding and Recognition Committee 2 April 2025 and the minutes be received and noted.

CARRIED

Item - 9.4 Proceedings of the Hearings and Regulatory Committee 15 April 2025 - has been moved to another part of the document.

9.5 Proceedings of the Risk and Assurance Committee 30 April 2025

This report presented Council the minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 30 April 2025.

Resolution Number CO/2025/90

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Jennings:

That Report 25/249 Proceedings of the Risk and Assurance Committee 30 April 2025 and the minutes be received and noted.

CARRIED

9.6 Proceedings of Te Awahou Foxton Community Board 5 May 2025

This report presented Council the minutes of the Te Awahou Foxton Community Board meeting held on 05 May 2025.

Resolution Number CO/2025/91

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That Report 25/257 Proceedings of Te Awahou Foxton Community Board 5 May 2025 and the minutes be received and noted.

CARRIED

10 Procedural motion to exclude the public

Resolution Number CO/2025/92

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Olsen:

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

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 follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

C1 Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant - Inlet Pipe and Bulk Main upgrade

Reason:	The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
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Interests:	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). s7(2)(j) - The withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.
Grounds:	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
Plain English Reason:	This report is deemed confidential due to discussions involving third-party contractual matters.

C2 Council Resolution and Actions Monitoring Report May 2025

Reason:	The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
Interests:	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. s7(2)(h) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.
Grounds:	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
Plain English Reason:	These actions relate to potential or actual sales of property, and contract negotiations. The public release of these actions at this time may affect sales prices or disclose negotiation points.

C3 Proceedings of Public Excluded Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting 30 April 2025

Reason:	The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 6 and 7.
Interests:	s6(a) - The making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial. s7(2)(a) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.
Grounds:	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 6 and 7.
Plain English Reason:	This report is public excluded as the attachments contain personal details that a withheld to protect their privacy and identifies potential vulnerabilities and strategies to manage these vulnerabilities. Disclosing these would negate the effectiveness of risk mitigations.

C4 Proceedings of the Public Excluded Chief Executive Employment Performance Committee 19 March 2025

Reason:	The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 6.
Interests:	s6(b) - The making available of the information would be likely to endanger the safety of a person.
Grounds:	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 6.
Plain English Reason:	This report contains personal employment information in relation to the Chief Executive. While there may be public interest in this matter, the protection of the privacy of the individual outweighs the public interest..

The text of these resolutions is made available to the public who are present at the meeting and form part of the minutes of the meeting.

CARRIED

2.20 pm The public were excluded.

Resolutions in relation to the confidential items are recorded in the confidential section of these minutes and are not publicly available.

3.26pm

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
AT A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON

DATE:

CHAIRPERSON: