
Council

OPEN MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED

Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin on Wednesday 27 May 2026 at 1:00 pm.

PRESENT

Mayor	His Worship The Mayor Bernie Wanden
Councillors	Councillor David Allan
	Councillor Mike Barker
	Councillor Nola Fox
	Councillor Morgan Gray
	Councillor Clint Grimstone
	Councillor Nina Hori Te Pa
	Councillor Sam Jennings
	Councillor Lani Te Raukura Ketu
	Councillor Jo Mason
	Councillor Katrina Mitchell - Kouttab
	Councillor Paul Olsen <i>Apology</i>
	Councillor Alan Young

IN ATTENDANCE

Reporting Officer	Monique Davidson	Chief Executive
	Daniel Haigh	Group Manager - Community Infrastructure
	Brent Harvey	Group Manager - Community Experience and Services
	David McCorkindale	Group Manager – Community Vision and Delivery
	Blair Spencer	Group Manager – Housing & Business Development
	Nicki Brady	Group Manager - Capability and Transformation
	Alison Diaz	Chief Financial Officer
	Jacinta Straker	Finance Workstream Lead, Central Districts Water
	Carolyn Dick	Strategic Planning Manager
	Cathryn Finlayson	Delivery Manager O2NL
Meeting Secretary	Alice Petersen	Democracy Support Officer

1 Apologies

Apology

Resolution number CO/2026/81

MOVED by Cr Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

That the apology from Councillor Olsen be accepted.

That the meeting note Councillor Nina Hori Te Pa will leave the meeting early.

CARRIED

2 Public Participation

The following members of the public attended the meeting and spoke on the items listed:

Name	Agenda Item
Viv Bold	6.4 Electra Trust 2026 Trustee Elections 6.5 Levin Town Centre Access and Parking Strategy
Charles Rudd	6.3 Waters Debt Transfer to Central Districts Water – Guiding Principles, Transfer Method and Guarantees 6.5 Levin Town Centre Access and Parking Strategy

3 Late Items

There were no late items.

4 Declaration of Interest

There were no declaration of interest. Members were reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest in writing they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution Number CO/2026/82

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Young:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 29 April 2026, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

That the minutes of the meeting of the Public Excluded Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 29 April 2026, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6 Reports for Decision

6.1 Adoption of Annual Plan 2026/27

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

This report presented the draft Annual Plan 2026/27 to Council for adoption.

Resolution Number CO/2026/83

MOVED by Cr Grimstone, seconded Cr Allan:

- C. That Council adopt the Annual Plan 2026/27 as presented in Attachment 1, subject to amendments to the draft financials to reflect a rates increase of 6.3% (after growth, noting that before growth is 8%) in response to anticipated increases in the cost of delivering services within the current operating environment. Further that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to incorporate required financial changes arising from Council adopting an Annual Plan with a rates increase of 6.3% (after growth) and following the setting of rates on 24 June 2026, to update the after-growth percentage rates increase, rating mechanisms and rating examples within the Annual Plan 2026/27, along with any editorial changes required as part of the publication process for the Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27 and Annual Plan 2026/27.

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

For:

Councillors: David Allan
Clint Grimstone
Nina Hori Te Pa
Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab

Against:

Councillors: Mike Barker
Nola Fox
Morgan Gray
Sam Jennings
Lani Te Raukura Ketu
Jo Mason
Bernie Wanden
Alan Young

Cr Paul Olsen was absent.

The division was declared LOST by 4 votes to 8.

Resolution Number CO/2026/84

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Gray:

- A. That Council adopt the Annual Plan 2026/27 as presented in Attachment 1, which is formed based on a 7.5% rates increase which is anticipated to be 5.8% after 1.7% growth.

CARRIED

6.2 Adoption of Fees and Charges for 2026/27

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

This report presented the proposed Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27 to Council for adoption. The fees and charges will take effect from 1 July 2027.

Resolution Number CO/2026/85

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Young:

- A. That Council/the Committee receive the report Adoption of Fees and Charges for 2026/27 (26/217).

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2026/86

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Mason:

- B. Adopt the Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2026/27 (Attachment 1).
- D. That Council agrees the charges Solid Waste gate disposal rates to landfill for Vans/Utes/Vehicles be amended to incorporate the increased levy from the Ministry for the Environment of \$5 per tonne and the passing on of the fuel increase by Midwest of \$1.98 per tonne, with updated charges as shown in the tabled Attachment 2.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2026/87

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Mitchell-Kouttab:

- C. That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to make editorial changes that arise as part of the publication process for the Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27.

CARRIED

Attachments

- 1 Attachment 2 - Transfer Station Fees and Charges with MFE Levy and Fuel Rise Added

6.3 Waters Debt Transfer to Central Districts Water – Guiding Principles, Transfer Method and Guarantees

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

This report was presented for discussion and decision the transfer of water debt from the Horowhenua District Council and the other two shareholding Councils (together the **Shareholding Councils**) to Central Districts Water Limited (**CDW**) is a key part of the transfer agreement work, within the wider establishment programme for CDW.

Resolution Number CO/2026/88

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Jennings:

- A. That Council approve the guiding principles for the water debt transfer from Council to CDW as part of the preparation of the transfer agreement:
 - A.1. Fairness and Equity
 - A.2. Transparent Documentation
 - A.3. Sustainability and flexibility
 - A.4. Clarity and simplicity
- B. That Council notes that the guiding principles for the water debt transfer were approved by the CDW Board on 29 April 2026.
- C. That Council approve the use of novation as the water debt transfer method from each Shareholding Council to CDW.
- D. That the Council notes that novation as the water debt transfer method was approved by the CDW Board on 29 April 2026 and the same approval will be requested from each other Shareholding Council by the end of June 2026.
- E. That Council approves provision of the following guarantees in support of debt facilities to be entered into by CDW:
 - E.1. a bilateral joint and several guarantee from each Shareholding Council in favour of LGFA (**LGFA Guarantee**);and
 - E.2. a separate guarantee in favour of approved financiers (other than LGFA) who participate in CDW's financing from time to time (**Global Guarantee**),
subject to:
 - E.3. the final funding structure and LGFA Guarantee and Global Guarantee (together the **Guarantees**) documentation being satisfactory to Council;
 - E.4. approval of the Guarantees by each other Shareholding Council; and
 - E.5. compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 and all other applicable legislation.

CARRIED

Cr Barker voted against

Resolution Number CO/2026/89

MOVED by Cr Jennings, seconded Cr Mitchell-Kouttab:

- F. That Council delegates agreement and final approval of the Guarantees to the Chief Executive.
- G. That Council notes that the approval for the provision of the deed of support to be provided by the Shareholding Councils in favour of CDW in order to ensure CDW can meet its obligations in relation to any pre-establishment funding (**Deed of Support**), will be included in a paper to Councils to approve on 24 June.
- H. That Council approve the execution of the LGFA Guarantee and Global Guarantee, and all such other ancillary documentation as required in relation to the implementation of the Guarantees, on behalf of Council by:
 - H.1. in the case of deeds including the Guarantees and Deed of Support, two elected members; and
 - H.2. in the case of any other documents, the Chief Executive, Mayor Bernie Wanden and/or Deputy Mayor David Allan.

CARRIED

Cr Barker voted against

6.4 Electra Trust 2026 Trustee Elections

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

This report was presented for Council to decide the two candidates that Horowhenua District Council will vote for in the upcoming the Electra Trust Election 2026.

Resolution Number CO/2026/90

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Allan:

- A. That Report 26/279 Electra Trust 2026 Trustee Elections be received and noted.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2026/91

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Grimstone:

- B. That the Horowhenua District Council proceeds with exercising its voting rights for the Electra Trust, 2026 Trustee Elections.

CARRIED

Resolution Number CO/2026/92

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Hori Te Pa:

- C. That the Horowhenua District Council votes for Brendan DUFFY and Russell LONGUET and Clint SMITH in the 2026 Electra Trust elections.

CARRIED

6.5 Levin Town Centre Access and Parking Strategy

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

This report presented to Council the Levin Town Centre Access and Parking Strategy for adoption, establishing a strategic framework to guide the future management of parking, access, movement, and kerbside space within the Levin Town Centre as the town transitions alongside the opening of Ōtaki to North of Levin (Ō2NL) and wider town centre transformation initiatives.

Resolution Number CO/2026/93

MOVED by Cr Allan, seconded Cr Mason:

- A. That Council adopt the Levin Town Centre Access and Parking Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to Report Levin Town Centre Access and Parking Strategy.
- B. That Council note that adoption of the Levin Town Centre Access and Parking Strategy does not immediately implement changes to parking controls, parking fees and charges, parking time limits, or Land Transport Bylaw provisions, and that any future changes will be subject to separate Council decisions and any required consultation or statutory processes.

CARRIED

Cr Hori Te Pa voted against

7 Elected Members Reports

7.1 Mayoral Report

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

This report is presented to inform Council and the community about events and functions and Council-related meetings that I attended from 18 April – 15 May 2026, and to provide an update on items of interest.

Resolution Number CO/2026/94

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Jennings:

- A. That Council receive and note Report 25/539 Mayoral Report.

CARRIED

8 Reports for Noting

8.1 Council Resolution and Actions Monitoring Report May 2026

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

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

Resolution Number CO/2026/95

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Gray:

- A. That Council receive and note Report 26/261 Council Resolution and Actions Monitoring Report May 2026.

CARRIED

8.2 Proceedings of the Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water

Purpose | TE PŪTAKE

1. To present to the Council the Joint Shareholders Committee – Central District Water meetings held on 13 February, 13 March and 27 March 2026.

Resolution Number CO/2026/96

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Jennings:

- A. That Report 26/283 Proceedings of the Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water be received and noted.

CARRIED

10 Procedural motion to exclude the public

Resolution Number CO/2026/97

MOVED by Mayor Wanden, seconded Cr Hori Te Pa:

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 Decision to sell the Bath Street and Salisbury Street Carpark for Proposed Redevelopment

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)(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:	This report contains commercially sensitive information on the proposed redevelopment of the Bath Street and Salisbury Street Carpark..

C2 Council Resolution and Actions Monitoring Report May 2026

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)(c)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to damage the public interest. 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 Revocation Negotiation Strategy

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)(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:	Could risk commercial negotiations pertaining to NZTA.

C4 Shannon Bulk Haulage Lease

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)(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).
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:	Releasing the information contained within this report publicly could prejudice Council's ability to negotiate effectively and could unreasonably impact the position of the current tenant and Council..
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C5 Appointment of Independent Members - Risk and Assurance Committee 2026-2029

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)(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 7.
Plain English Reason:	This report contain personal details of individuals seeking appointment as independent members of the Risk and Assurance Committee. The names of the appointees with be released at the conclusion of the meeting..

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

2.45 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.

4.00 pm

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: