

# Kaunihera | Council

## Ngā Tāpiritanga – Mēneti | Attachments – Minutes

Attachments – Minutes of a meeting of an ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council held in the Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, TE AROHA on 25 Jun 2025 at 09:00.

TAKE | ITEM NGĀ IHINGA | TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHĀRANGI | PAGE

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Topic: Consultation procedure on 'Local Waters Done Well' and Council's role in fast tracking of projects</b>	
	Attachment A Public Forum Summary - Peter Volker .....	2
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Topic: Item 7.4 – Matamata Community Health Shuttle – Request for Grant</b>	
	Attachment A Public Forum Summary - Gary Stanley on behalf of Matamata Community Health Shuttle .....	5
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Topic: Agenda Item 7.3 - Croquet Pavilion at Te Aroha Domain</b>	
	Attachment A Public Forum Summary - Alan Wilkie of behalf of Te Aroha Croquet Club .....	6
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Risk and Assurance Committee Report of 17 June 2025</b>	
	Attachment A MPDC - RAC - 170625 - Chair Hui Summary .....	8

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**Note:** The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.



Morena everybody.

To start I read two passages from an article in the T A News. The first one where in our Mayor Adrienne is quoted Read 1

Then there after Read 2

Just lately we were informed that the govt will take back power from local councils if their decisions are going to negatively impact economic growth, development or employment, a new clause in the Res Man Act.

Local water done well is pushed on the councils. The bare prescribed choice from 2 options discourages any creative and lateral thinking, on looking for solutions for a problem with an open minded view;

A problem that has been largely created by the govt themselves which has drawn the effects of mishaps out of proportion and allowed regulations to be drawn up by academics with seemingly little regard for practical situations.

And I notice that our council staff has obediently followed the government directions and has produced a report of some 60 pages for the 2 way choice of local water done well..

An appropriate question would have been: to what extent is it necessary to do what is asked from us and are there other ways of how it can be done. Well, that requires thinking.

When asked lots of questions by his children my father in law ~~would respond~~, thinking is being done for you *used to say*

The 2 policy documents which I mentioned :The Fast Track approvals and the Local Water done well earlier on are not exceptional.

Councils are going to be less and less independent. Many standards they have to use for public works are imposed from higher up

The Mayor was embargoed to early share information on a project with the district residents. At least she got information and I would like to know how complete that is.

What gets communicated with us residents are carefully selected, carefully dosed messages, chosen to assure us that our interests are being looked after.

Council is being manoeuvred in the position of the meat in the sandwich.

On one side its commitment by law to the locals, on the other side demands from the national government on the other side demands from the government which can only be accommodated if local interests are shoved aside.

I met some resistance in getting timely access to the consultation outcomes for local water done well. No wonder perhaps that you don't want to engage in consultation because you staff will know well that this is a façade; a show to hold up a democratic appearance.

It can be concluded that space for decision making becomes less and less for councils,

That you, Councils are led to become defenders for government policies, that you will become their mouthpiece unless you take initiative to act defensively. That will pose risks.

Government puts excessively heavy pressure on non obedient councils. Penalty of 200,K plus 10K for every day that the council does not follow their mandate to fluoridate drinkwater, for instance. But without taking on risks no relief from this push to make people more dependent on what is directed from above can be expected.

It takes than courage to take on this risk., but there is more!

By carefully reading through all existing legislation a first defense can be : to counter unreasonable demands by noting that it is against your (that is Council's) own legal responsibilities and duties.

Taking as a very clear example the mandate to dose the neurotoxin hydrofluorosilicic acid in the drinking water), Council violates the B O R in which it says that nobody must be subjected to medical or scientific experimentation. Council ends up with the de facto responsibility for the effects of fluoridation. National Govt keeps its hands clean.

By accepting the Fast Tracking regime Council gets barred from carrying out its function as defined in the LGA: Section 10 The purpose of local government is-

(a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities

Section 11 give effect, in relation to its district or region, to the purpose of local government stated in section 10; and (b) perform the duties, and exercise the rights, conferred on it by or under this Act and any other enactment. No one relieves Councils from their legal duties.

Another example is how in the Fast Track legislation Councils are being used as executors of the project. They need to ensure the compliance with the conditions that are not their own.

Local govt is continually being downgraded. This trend goes in big steps at present.

Freedom and upholding of human rights are important reasons why wars are fought. At present I would say that there is a war going on against the people, a war without physical weapons.

The role of Council as a nearby and approachable authority is important for us all.

So I am not just talking about **you**, Council people.

Like yourselves, we people, citizens are being manoeuvred in a position where we face diminishing say in local policy issues that should have been handled by our Council and of course there are the issues which Council never informs us about at all.

I ask: put your heads together and next talk with other councils on this loss of independence and of the need to work in accordance with democratic principles and take action to address these.

Don't accept a government talking to you with the words of my father in law.

Ask, stand up and state your legal position!



keep working hard and it will

Peter Volken

Public Forum 25.6.25

## Fast-track legislation alters council role and community input

Recent changes to national legislation mean that for some large-scale projects, councils no longer make the final decisions – and the community's ability to have a say can be limited depending on the process used.

The Government's new Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 is designed to speed up consenting for projects that deliver regional and national benefits.

These include infrastructure, housing and land development, renewable energy, aquaculture, mining, and farming.

Instead of going through the usual Council-led process, selected projects are assessed by an expert panel managed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Mayor Adrienne said the shift in decision-making raises important questions for local communities.

"I have fielded a number of queries about the proposed development since the announcement in May that the Ashbourne project has been referred into the Fast-track approval process. Understandably, neighbouring property owners are questioning Council's role in this process and are seeking guidance," said Mayor Adrienne.

"Some council staff and I had been briefed about the project earlier, but the Fast-track process required confidentiality until the recent announcement, which limited what we could share at the time."

While councils are still involved, their role is limited to providing technical input within short timeframes –

sometimes as little as 20 working days – and then monitoring compliance once a project is approved.

They have no power to decline, modify, or add conditions once a direction has been issued.

Council Chief Executive Manaia Te Wiata said that fast-track applications follow a different process than Council-run processes.

"Under the fast-track regime, councils are treated like submitters. We can give feedback, but we're no longer the decision makers," said Mr Te Wiata.

"Even though our role is reduced, we will still try to get the best outcome for our communities."

If a project is approved through the EPA panel and directed by the Ministers, Council is required to treat the approval in the same way as if it had approved the application itself – including monitoring compliance.

Unlike traditional plan changes or resource consents, public notification and community consultation under the fast-track process is entirely at the discretion of the expert panel.

These projects are selected by Government Ministers and assessed through a centralised process.

A full list of projects referred or accepted for fast-tracking is available at [www.fasttrack.govt.nz](http://www.fasttrack.govt.nz), which includes the Hinuera Solar Farm project and the Kaimai Wind Farm project located in Paeroa.

The site provides up-to-date information on where projects are in the process and what decisions have been made.



Gary Stanley

Good Morning Mayor and Councillors

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Matamata Community Health Shuttle Trustees, Drivers and Support personnel in regard to our request for a grant to assist funding the relocation of the Health Shuttle garage from its current site at Railside by the Green.

No doubt you and Council Officers will be almost as pleased as we are, to see this saga of over three year's duration, finally reaching a conclusion.

As you will be aware, the Heath Shuttle Trust had no desire to shift from the current site, but a change of Trustees of the Railside Trust, who lease the land from Council, resulted in a different vision for the area occupied by the Shuttle garage.

Council supported Railside's desire to have the garage relocated to another part of the site and in June 2022 resolved to approve the relocation and to assist with relocation costs.

There were objections to the proposed location, which were upheld by an Independent Commissioner and Council resolved to support the Trust to secure a long-term site for the garage.

Council Officers and Trustees considered several sites and mutually agreed to eliminate all that would require a Resource Consent. The favoured site by both parties was at Curragh Place and the proposal was to relocate the garage to that location when sub-division had been completed.

Following verbal advice prior to Christmas 2024, that Curragh Place would no longer be available and that Council had no other suitable land for the Shuttle garage, the Trust wrote to Council on 23 January 2025, formally requesting use of 400m<sup>2</sup> of the 4,500m<sup>2</sup> at 8 Curragh Place.

There was no response to that request until Manaia verbally advised of Council's decision at a function on 2 April, but the Trust was prepared in case of rejection and a few days later, was able to enter into a purchase agreement to buy a property. This was a workable outcome, but exhausted the Trusts funds to relocate the Railside garage.

While Council was unable to honour the resolution to support the MCHST to secure a suitable long-term site for the garage to house its vehicle fleet we implore Councillors to fulfil the resolution of the previous Council, to assist with relocation costs.

This will enable the Trust to meet the requirements of Railside and Council, in exiting the Railside site.



Alan Wilkie.

Mayor Adrienne and Councillors,

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to address the matter relating to the croquet club before you this morning.

TACC have submitted a comprehensive report to you prior to this meeting, and I wish to accentuate some points from it.

Croquet has been played on the Domain since 1885, and this year we celebrate 140 years of croquet on the Domain, and we are protecting that cultural heritage in the last intact Edwardian Domain in NZ

TACC has continuously maintained the lawns it leases to a pristine standard, significantly enhancing the appearance and usability of the area at no expected cost to the Council.

As you would have seen in our report, Pages 2 & 15 of our report, in the past five years we have invested over \$200,000.00 into the upkeep of the lawns and recently \$27,000.00 in repairs to the building, by engaging a certified builder to replace all rotten weatherboards and install new aluminium joinery to replace rotten windows.

This we believe demonstrates our initiative and commitment to preserving Council-owned infrastructure.

We wish to state that TACC is not seeking reimbursement for this expenditure. This contribution represents our commitment to a cooperative partnership with the Council, but we do reaffirm our belief that these costs were essential structural matters and therefore outside the scope of our responsibilities.

The Croquet lawns are used for various activities by the public—not just croquet. Page 12 of our report shows a comparison of the Council kept areas and the croquet lawns, the public prefers the croquet lawns over the Council-maintained areas, and page 21 of our report shows photos supporting what I have just said.

We believe there is now no dispute regarding the ownership of the croquet pavilion.

Whilst not in the MPDC report 7.3, you would have seen in our report, that a section of the clubhouse floor has become noticeably spongy, particularly after rainfall.

The certified builder who recently completed repairs, expressed concerns about the condition of the stormwater drain beneath the building and suspected rotten piles. Subsequent investigations by MPDC staff confirmed that the earthenware stormwater pipe had a broken outlet and was packed with mud and blocked with tree roots causing damage to the pipes.

These issues appear to have allowed water accumulation beneath the building, likely contributing to pile degradation, rot, and causing subsidence and the disappearance of the concrete footpath outside the rear door, as you would have seen in the photos in our report

In conclusion,

- (1) I wish to reiterate that all the weather boards and windows are now sound so the only remaining maintenance issue, as per agenda item 7.3, is the roof which we

believe not to be urgent. Because of the remedial work that we have had done to the pavilion, we now believe that points No. 4 & 5 of the recommendations on page 56 of the agenda item 7.3 are now irrelevant.

(2) The area of the floor located above the suspected rotten piles is in need of urgent remediation to prevent further damage

(3) that Te Aroha Croquet Club is willing and prepared to work constructively with the Council to reach an outcome that best serves the interests of both parties.

Thank you

**TE KAUNIHERA AA-ROHE O MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**KOMITI O TE MOOREAREA ME TE TUUMARU/RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE**

**17 JUNE 2025 - CHAIR SUMMARY**

#	Item	Summary	Resolution
2	Karakia - Open	Councillor Gary Thompson	
3	Apologies	None.	
6	Confirmation of minutes	25 February 2025 minutes.	The Committee confirmed the minutes.
7.1	Chair Update	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of central government funding and impact of funding changes on MPDC budgets</li> <li>▪ Lessons learned on lack of fulfilment of Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations by central government organisations</li> <li>▪ Valuable lessons learned for governors based on Audit New Zealand webinars.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
7.2	CEO Update	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fatigue</li> <li>▪ Performance metrics</li> <li>▪ Emergency management shared services</li> <li>▪ Insurance</li> <li>▪ Financial reporting</li> <li>▪ Separate reporting on Local Waters Done Well at future Committee meetings.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
7.3	Standing Orders	The Committee discussed the report and staff confirmed in response to questions that Committee meetings can be held exclusively online and chaired from online if necessary but the strong preference for meeting in person remains.	The Committee received the report and agreed for the Standing Orders to be amended in accordance with the staff recommendation on quorum, requests to speak at public forum and requests for deputation.
7.4	Review of Top Risks	The Committee discussed the report and agreed to add 2 risks to MPDC's top risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring workforce capability and capacity</li> <li>▪ Ensuring health, safety and wellbeing</li> </ul> <p>The Committee also agreed to the risk appetite for each of the Top 11 risks outlined by staff, noting that for the majority MPDC is operating outside its risk appetite but recognised the Team will undertake further actions to reduce the risk rating but sometimes the investment in mitigating risks will be cost-prohibitive. The Committee also recognised the review of risk appetite is an iterative process.</p>	The Committee received and endorsed the Top 11 risks and <b>recommends the Top Risks 2025/26 document to Council for approval.</b>
8.1	Risk Update and Quarterly Risk Report	The Committee discussed the report and improving risk maturity whilst balancing efficient resource allocation and shifting from a risk management policy to a risk management framework.	The Committee received the report.



8.2	Top Risks Deep Dive: Ineffective Strategic Partnerships with Mana Whenua, Iwi, Hapū and Māori	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of the Hauraki Settlement</li> <li>Engagement with the Te Mana Whenua Forum or impacted hapū, iwi and Māori too (staff confirmed engagement with both)</li> <li>The word 'partnership' and its meaning to different partners</li> <li>Agreement with the approach and the planned action on the Partnership Agreement and Tangata Whenua Engagement Policy.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.3	Top Risks Deep Dive: Ensuring Health, Safety and Wellbeing	The Committee discussed the report and reflected on the hierarchy of controls in eliminating and minimising risk under the HSWA, noting the number of administration controls in place.	The Committee received the report.
8.4	Top Risks Deep Dive: Ensuring Workforce Capacity and Capability	The Committee discussed the report including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remuneration</li> <li>Exit surveys</li> <li>Exiting staff returning through consultancy</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.5	Top Risks Deep Dive: Reputation/Relationships with Community Stakeholders	The Committee discussed the report including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance at community events</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Balancing the community expectation of engagement and communications and a low voter turnout versus the allocation of resources including the commendable work of Community Development Team and their visibility in the community.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.6	Policy, Planning and Reporting Stocktake	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Executive Team streamlining policies for relevance, including policy review cycles</li> <li>Provide this report on an annual basis, highlighting in a table the policies relevant to the Committee's terms of reference, and the remaining policies to be included for the Committee's information.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report and requested this report on an annual basis, with the policies relevant to the Committee's terms of reference being highlighted in the report and the remaining policies to be provided for the Committee's information.
8.7	Policy Review: Asset Capitalisation	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in capitalisation threshold</li> <li>Capitalisation of assets and impact if MPDC were to join Waikato Water Done Well</li> <li>Review by Audit NZ</li> <li>Clarity on the disposal process</li> <li>Definition of 'significant' with respect to revaluation.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.8	Policy Review: Procurement	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging with and providing opportunities to local suppliers</li> <li>Risk based approach to procurement and documentation in the policy/manual</li> <li>Tender board</li> <li>Council approval of the policy</li> <li>Alignment of procurement and risk management policies definition of risk</li> <li>Agreement with best value vision.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report and requested alignment of the policy with the risk management (RM) policy/framework. The Committee <b>recommends the Procurement policy to Council for approval, subject to alignment with the RM policy/framework.</b>

8.9	Policy Review: Managing Conflicts of Interests	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referencing definitions from official sources</li> <li>Culture focussed on keeping people safe</li> <li>Balancing public disclosure of conflicts with privacy</li> <li>Consider other relevant documents, e.g. Code of Conduct, Board Appointments and Remuneration, Delegations and Recruitment and Selection.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.10	Annual Report 24/25 Audit Plan and schedule of important dates	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting the audit timeline targets prior to October elections</li> <li>Audit fees impacted by the quality and timeliness of information provided to Audit NZ</li> <li>Resourcing</li> <li>Revaluations</li> <li>Audit NZ areas of focus as a result of central government initiatives (Local Waters Done Well, DIA Performance Metrics)</li> <li>MPDC Team comfort with materiality set</li> <li>Audit NZ assistance with wording for annual reports about Local Waters Done Well.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.11	Audit Recommendations: Progress Report	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new recommendations raised in latest Audit NZ management report</li> <li>Preference for reduction in the number of recommendations and prioritising resourcing based on risk</li> <li>Audit NZ commented that the number of recommendations create more risk to MPDC and more work for Audit NZ to review these items and also commented that MPDC is not unique in this regard.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.12	Annual Plan 25/26	The Committee discussed the report, including the status of the OVG audit of property valuations and impact on rates.	The Committee received the report, approved the legislative compliance assessment and agree with the mitigation of the risk of property revaluation delay.
8.13	Top 5 Project Risks: Matamata Wastewater Treatment Plant, Matamata Stadium and Matamata Domain Playground	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impact of project delays</li> <li>Resourcing of 3 major projects in one area</li> <li>Site visits of projects are helpful to understand scale and assist Council decision-making</li> <li>Alignment of project management and risk management framework.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.14	Project Management - Update	The Committee discussed the report, including the Water Services Delivery Plan project being at risk due to a lack of attached budget which is a low-risk academic issue.	The Committee received the report.
8.15	2025 Local Government Elections Risk Mitigation	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risks of mobile voting and voting in other locations</li> <li>No concerns on actions underway having necessary resource to complete them.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.



8.16	Safety and Wellness Report	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good response rate to the survey</li> <li>▪ Focus on critical risk audits.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
8.17	RAC Work Programme	The Committee discussed the report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adding a Local Waters Done Well Report to the work programme discussed in the CEO report item.</li> <li>▪ Annual self-assessment to be sent by the Governance Team for Committee member's completion</li> <li>▪ Triennium review of Terms of Reference at the next Committee hui.</li> </ul>	The Committee received the report.
	<b>Karakia – Close</b>	<b>Councillor Gary Thompson</b>	