

Kaunihera | Council

Mēneti Wātea | Open Minutes



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council held in the Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, TE AROHA on Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 9:00.

NGĀ MEMA | MEMBERSHIP

Tiamana | Chairperson: **Koromatua | Mayor**

Ash Tanner

Mema | Members: **Koromatua Tautoko | Deputy Mayor**

James Sainsbury

Kaunihera ā-Rohe | District Councillors

Vincent Andersen

Grace Bonnar

Bruce Dewhurst

Tyrel Glass

Dayne Horne

Greg Marshall

Andrew McGiven

James Thomas

Gary Thompson

Rewiti Vaimoso

Sue Whiting

An audio-visual recording of the open session of the meeting is available on Matamata-Piako District Council's website and YouTube channel.

Visit <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/live-stream> for the most recent meeting livestream.

Recording	Document Reference#	YouTube Link
Council – 11 February 2026	3141208	https://youtu.be/LD24Y4fR9E

Minutes prepared by:

Stephanie Hutchins

Kaitohu Mātāmua Kāwana | Senior Governance Advisor

Ngā whakapāha | Apologies

There were no apologies

Ngā mema i reira o runga te tūhono ipurangi | Members present via audio/visual link

All members were physically present

Kaimahi i reira | Staff Present

Name	Title	Item No.
Anne Gummer	Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior Policy Advisor	7.1
Larnia Rushbrooke	Pou Pūtea, Ratonga Pakihi Finance & Business Services Manager	7.1
Laura Hopkins	Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior Policy Advisor	7.2
Niall Baker	Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	7.2
Tamara Kingi	Kaiārahi Kāwana Governance Team Leader	7.3
Mark Naudé	Kaiārahi Mahere Paparēhia me ngā Taiwhanga Parks & Facilities Planning Team Leader	7.4
Jayshree Kanji	Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Paetahi Graduate RMA Policy Planner	8.1
Fiona Hill	Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Matua Team Leader RMA Policy	8.1
Ajay Kumar	Kaitiaki Whakahaere Pūtea Management Accountant	8.2
Larnia Rushbrooke	Pou Pūtea, Ratonga Pakihi Finance & Business Services Manager	8.2

I reira | In Attendance

There were no external speakers in attendance

1 Whakatūwheratanga o te hui | Meeting Opening

Mayor Ash Tanner welcome staff, members and declared the meeting open at 9.01am.

2 Ngā whakapāha/Tono whakawātea | Apologies/Leave of Absence

There were no apologies.

3 Pānui i Ngā Take Ohore Anō | Notification of Urgent Additional Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
 - (iii) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

4 Whākī pānga | Declaration of interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

5 Whakaaetanga mēneti | Confirmation of minutes

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That the minutes of the meeting of the ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council held on Wednesday, 17 December 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Resolution number CO/2026/00001

Moved by: Cr A McGiven

Seconded by: Cr S Whiting

KUA MANA | CARRIED

6 Take i puta mai | Public Forum

There were no speakers scheduled to the public forum.

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.1 Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 - Approval of Preliminary Budget and Decision on Consultation

CM No.: 3122818

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is

- to present the proposed variations to year three of the Long Term Plan 2024-34
- to seek Council's approval of the preliminary Draft Annual Plan budget 2026/27
- for Council to consider its obligations to formally consult on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council is required to produce an Annual Plan each year with the exception of the years when a Long Term Plan (LTP) is produced. The Annual Plan is Council's budget for the financial year 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. The Annual Plan 2026/27 represents year three of the LTP 2024-34.

Summary rates figures, as at the time of writing, are presented in this report. Additional detail, and any updates to these figures to be circulated separately.

The Local Government Act 2002 only requires councils to formally consult on an Annual Plan where the changes from the LTP for that year are significant or material. An assessment of significance and materiality is currently being completed and will be circulated separately.

If consultation is required a Consultation Document will be prepared. If consultation is not required an information campaign will be developed to provide transparency and accountability to ratepayers and the community.

Summary of information to be circulated separately

- Updated rates figures (if required)
- Rates impact on indicator properties
- Assessment of significance and materiality

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

- 1. The information be received.**
- 2. Council approves the preliminary Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 budget as presented.**
- 3. A) Council confirms there are no significant or material differences from year three of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and that no formal consultation on the Annual Plan 2026/27 is required. An information campaign to be developed to keep the community informed.**

OR

B) Council confirms it wishes to formally consult on the Annual Plan 2026/27 and staff prepare a Consultation Document for approval at the Council meeting on 4 March 2026. Formal Consultation to occur March-May 2026

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

- 1. The information be received.**
- 2. Council approves the preliminary Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 budget as presented.**
- 3. Council confirms there are no significant or material differences from year three of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and that no formal consultation on the Annual Plan 2026/27 is required. An information campaign to be developed to keep the community informed.**

Resolution number CO/2026/00002

Moved by: Cr A McGiven

Seconded by: Cr G Bonnar

KUA MANA | CARRIED

ATTACHMENTS

- A Annual Plan 26-27 Presentation to Council Meeting 11.02.26**
- B Assessment of significance and materiality 11 Council meeting**
- C List of capex projects 2026-27_Feb 11 Council meeting**

7.2 Draft Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw - Adoption for Public Consultation

CM No.: 3134901

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the

- Draft Policy on Dogs 2026
- Draft Dog Control Bylaw 2026
- Statement of Proposal for public consultation.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The draft Policy on Dogs and draft Dog Control Bylaw have been reviewed to meet legislative requirements and ensure they remain fit for purpose, in alignment, and responsive to community and operational needs.

As both documents are being amended rather than replaced, the statutory review timeline remains at ten years, therefore the next review will be due in 2036, note Council can review or amend earlier if desired. Investigations are currently underway for an additional dog exercise area in Morrinsville however the timing of this is outside the timeline of the current review and is subject to a separate timelines. This investigation will be referenced in communication.

Once an additional dog exercise area in Morrinsville and any subsequent changes are identified by Council these can be incorporated in a future Bylaw review and special consultative procedure when desired.

Adoption of the draft Policy, Bylaw and associated Statement of Proposal will enable Council to undertake formal public consultation. This process will invite written submissions and provide an opportunity for submitters to present their views in person to Council. Following consultation, Council will consider the feedback received and may make amendments to the documents before adopting the final versions.

Due to the timing of the Council workshop on 4 February 2026, the draft Policy and Bylaw and associated Statement of Proposal will be amended if necessary, following the workshop, and circulated to Elected Members ahead of consideration at the formal Council meeting.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Council approves the draft Policy on Dogs 2026 for public consultation as part of a statutory review of the Policy on Dogs 2010 (Amended 2016) in accordance with section 10 and 10AA of the Dog Control Act 1996.
3. Council determines that in accordance with section 155(1) of the Local Government Act 2002, a Bylaw (in the form of a Dog Control Bylaw) is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problems.
4. Council determines that the draft Dog Control Bylaw 2026 meets the requirements of section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002, in that it:
 - i. is the most appropriate form of bylaw
 - ii. does not give rise to implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act.

- 5. Council approves the draft Dog Control Bylaw 2026 for public consultation as part of a statutory review of the Dog Control Bylaw 2010 (Amended 2016) in accordance with sections 158 and 160 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- 6. Council approves the Statement of Proposal for the draft Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw 2026 for public consultation purposes.**
- 7. Council authorises staff to make any minor amendments needed to the draft Policy on Dogs, draft Dog Control Bylaw and Statement of Proposal prior to public consultation.**

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Council approves the draft Policy on Dogs 2010 (Amended 2026) for public consultation as part of a statutory review of the Policy on Dogs 2010 (Amended 2016) in accordance with section 10 and 10AA of the Dog Control Act 1996.
3. Council determines that in accordance with section 155(1) of the Local Government Act 2002, a Bylaw (in the form of a Dog Control Bylaw) is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problems, noting that the section 155 assessment is contained in this report and in the associated Statement of Proposal.
4. Council determines that the draft Dog Control Bylaw 2010 (Amended 2026) meets the requirements of section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002, as outlined in this report and in the associated Statement of Proposal in that it:
 - i. is the most appropriate form of bylaw due to streamlining and standardising.
 - ii. does not give rise to implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act.
5. Council approves the draft Dog Control Bylaw 2010 (Amended 2026) for public consultation as part of a statutory review of the Dog Control Bylaw 2010 (Amended 2016) in accordance with sections 158 and 160 of the Local Government Act 2002, subject to the amendment of requiring the Hauraki Rail Trail from Stirling Street, Te Aroha - south to be under leash control.
6. Council approves the Statement of Proposal for the draft Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw 2010 (Amended 2026) for public consultation purposes.
7. Council authorises staff to make any minor amendments needed to the draft Policy on Dogs 2010 (Amended 2026), draft Dog Control Bylaw 2010 (Amended 2026), and Statement of Proposal prior to public consultation.

Resolution number CO/2026/00003

Moved by: Cr A McGiven

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury

KUA MANA | CARRIED

ATTACHMENTS

- A Council Presentation 11 February 2026 - draft Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw
- B Draft Policy on Dogs for Council Approval for Consultation at 11 February 2026 Meeting
- C Draft Dog Control Bylaw for Council Approval for Consultation at 11 February 2026 Meeting
- D Draft Statement of Proposal - Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw for Council Approval for Consultation at 11 February 2026 Meeting
- E Issues and Options Report - Policy on Dogs and Dog Control Bylaw (Updated Following Council Workshop 26 November 2025 and presented to Council Meeting 11 February 2026)

7.3 Review of Council's Local Governance Statement

CM No.: 3121358

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the attached draft Local Governance Statement.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to prepare and make publicly available a Local Governance Statement within six months after each triennial election. This report contains the Draft Local Governance Statement for Council's consideration.

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. The report be received.
2. Council adopt and make publicly available the Local Governance Statement in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. Staff are authorised to make minor amendments, such as the inclusion of Te Reo Māori headings.

Resolution number CO/2026/00004

Moved by: Cr S Whiting

Seconded by: Cr D Horne

KUA MANA | CARRIED

7.4 Plunket requests approval to build an additional structure at Thomas Park in Morrinsville

CM No.: 3127334

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To determine whether Council, as the administering body of Thomas Park, supports Plunket's proposal in principle to install an additional relocatable building within their leased area.

The proposal requires amendments to the existing ground lease, resource consent, building consent, and landowner approval, for which the authority rests with Council.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Plunket currently leases part of Thomas Park in Morrinsville and wishes to install an additional relocatable building to use as a clinic. The proposal requires resource and building consents, as well as an amendment to the current lease. These consents can only be exercised if Council grants landowner approval. As this authority is not delegated to staff, a Council decision is required.

Staff have assessed the proposal and identified no significant impacts on the wider park or playground area. The proposal aligns with the Reserve Management Plans applying to Thomas Park. This report outlines the proposal and seeks Council direction.

The Plunket Society currently lease a portion of Thomas Park in Morrinsville.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The report is received;
2. Council provides landowner approval in principle for the Plunket Society to relocate and install an additional building on Thomas Park, subject to all relevant statutory, regulatory, and consent requirements being satisfied; or Council declines to provide landowner approval for the Plunket Society to relocate and install an additional building on Thomas Park.
3. Council approves an amendment to the existing ground lease with the Plunket Society to formally incorporate the additional building, subject to final legal terms being agreed.
4. Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive (or their delegated representative) to undertake all necessary administrative and legal actions to give effect to these resolutions.

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. The report is received;
2. Council provides landowner approval in principle for the Plunket Society to relocate and install an additional building on Thomas Park, subject to all relevant statutory, regulatory, and consent requirements being satisfied;
3. Council approves an amendment to the existing ground lease with the Plunket Society to formally incorporate the additional building, subject to final legal terms being agreed.
4. Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive (or their delegated representative) to undertake all necessary administrative and legal actions to give effect to these resolutions.

Cr Grace Bonnar declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in voting of the motion.

Resolution number CO/2026/00005

Moved by: Cr R Vaimoso

Seconded by: Cr D Horne

KUA MANA | CARRIED

ATTACHMENTS

A 11th Feb 26 Plunket Proposal for Thomas Park

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.1 District Plan & RMA Update

CM No.: 3132082

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with an update on the rolling review of the Matamata-Piako District Plan (MPDP). This also includes an update on the RMA reform including exemption applications, Private Plan Change 62 Calcutta, and the progress on the receipt of six Mana Whakahono ā Rohe invitations.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

A District Plan and Resource Management Reform summary is provided below. The update specifically refers to Plan Change Exemption Applications, Calcutta (PPC62), the proposed MPDC Growth Strategy, Resource Management Act Reform (RMA Reform), Future Proof, and the progress on the receipt of six Mana Whakahono ā Rohe invitations. Jayshree Kanji and Fiona Hill are available to deliver the update and answer any questions.

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. The report be received.

Resolution number CO/2026/00006

Moved by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury

Seconded by: Cr A McGiven

KUA MANA | CARRIED

8.2 November 2025 Financial Report

CM No.: 3136061

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To provide an overview and information on the financial performance of the Matamata-Piako District Council for the period ending 30 November 2025.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The November 2025 financial report is attached and presented for Council's information.

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. The November 2025 financial report be received.

Resolution number CO/2026/00007

Moved by: Cr J Thomas

Seconded by: Cr A McGiven

KUA MANA | CARRIED

9 Take Matatapu | Public Excluded

Motion

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. Subject to new legal advice received; Item C1 Guarantee Arrangements for Waikato Waters Debt be deferred to the next meeting of Council on Wednesday 25 February 2026

Resolution number CO/2026/00008

Moved by: Mayor A Tanner

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury

KUA MANA | CARRIED

11.16 am

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD
OF THE MEETING OF KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL
HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026.

KO TE RĀ | DATE:

TIAMANA | CHAIRPERSON: