

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
MĀORI PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

- PRESENT:** Cr Andrea Rutene, Ms Karen Mikaera, Mr Mark Fenwick (Deputy Chair), Mr JD Smith, Mr Whitu Karauna, Mayor Fran Wilde, Mr Gillies Baker (Chair), Ms Denise Riwai, Ms Memory Te Whaiti (arrived at 7.17pm)
- APOLOGIES:** Ms Dorothy Whittaker, Cr Simone Baker
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Narida Hooper (Pou Māori), Shanin Brider (Community Governance Advisor)
- PUBLIC FORUM:** Nil
- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:** This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 7pm to 8.06pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

The committee opened the meeting with a karakia. The Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained health and safety procedures for the evening.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dottie Whittaker and Cr Baker prior to the meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MPC2026/01

Moved: Mr M Fenwick

Seconded: Ms K Mikaera

And resolved:

That the Māori Partnership Committee accept the apologies from Ms Whittaker and Cr Baker.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

Cr Rutene acknowledged the passing of Hine Webster, of Hurunui ō Rangi marae. Hine spent a considerable amount of her life caring for the elderly. Condolences to her whānau at this sad time.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nil

6 ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nil

7 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

8 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF**8.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

Miss Bridger Spoke to this report where the purpose was for the committee to select the voting system to use for their election, then use this system if required for the election of the chair and deputy chair.

Nominations were called for the chair position. Ms Mikaera nominated Mr Baker for the role of chair, which was seconded by Mr Karauna. Mr Gillies accepted this nomination.

Nominations were called for the deputy chair position. Mr Karauna nominated Mr Fenwick which was seconded by Mr Smith. Mr Fenwick accepted this nomination.

With there being one nomination for each position voting was not required.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MPC2026/02**Moved: Cr A Rutene****Seconded: Mr W Karauna**

That the Māori Partnership Committee resolves to:

1. Note the information in the contained report
2. Adopt ~~System A~~ or **System B** to elect its chairperson and deputy chairperson if voting is required in its elections
3. Agree that in the event of a tie, the selection will be by way of toss of coin or drawing of names from a hat (by lot)
4. Elect **Gillies Baker** to be the chairperson and **Mark Fenwick** to be the deputy chairperson of the Māori Partnership Committee.

CARRIED

Chief Executive Janice Smith vacated the seat and Chairperson Gillies Baker resumed the seat.

8.2 MĀORI PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Miss Bridger Spoke to this report where the purpose was to approve a meeting schedule for 2026.

Cr Rutene raised the differences in scheduling from the previous triennium. Informal meetings and timeframes were discussed by members. The committee advised the start time of 6pm would be more appropriate. It was discussed that meetings could be removed if there was no formal business to conduct.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MPC2026/03**Moved: Mr M Fenwick****Seconded: Ms K Mikaera**

That the Māori Partnership Committee resolve to:

1. Receive the report “Māori Partnership Committee meeting schedule 2026”
2. Agree to meetings in the Town Hall supper room at ~~7pm~~ **6pm** on the following evenings:
 - Tuesday 21 April
 - Tuesday 2 June
 - Tuesday 14 July
 - Tuesday 25 August
 - Tuesday 6 October
 - Tuesday 17 November

CARRIED**Memory Te Whaiti arrived at 7.17pm****8.3 2026 MĀORI PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE FUNDING**

Miss Bridger spoke to this report where the purpose was to confirm and agree on the 2026 grant funding rounds. Members were advised surplus funding would not roll over each financial year, and it was important allocations were in set rounds to a contestable fund to avoid a surplus occurring. Members asked about the publicising of the funding opportunities available which were explained.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MPC2026/04**Moved: Cr A Rutene****Seconded: Mr JD Smith**

That the Māori Partnership Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the “2026 Māori Partnership Committee Funding” report.
- 2 Set one funding round in the 2025/2026 financial year for \$26,517 with applications to open 30 March and close 17 May 2026
- 3 Consider and decide on allocation of these grants at the committee’s 2 June 2026 meeting.
- 4 Set the first of two funding rounds in the 2026/2027 financial year, with the first opening 17 September and closing 25 October 2026. Allocation amount to be publicised following the adoption of the Annual Plan
- 5 Consider and decide upon allocation of these grants at the board’s 17 November 2026 meeting
- 6 Agree to determine future funding rounds once the 2027 meeting schedule has been ratified.

CARRIED

8.4 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT

Miss Brider spoke to this report where the purpose was to inform the committee of their delegated budgets and provide an overview of the current financial position.

Members were advised of two funding applications which were approved without the funds being uplifted from April 2025. One of these projects was already complete and the other applicant could not be contacted. It was recommended to the committee that those funds be returned to the main allocation pool for redistribution.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MPC2026/05**Moved: Mr M Fenwick****Seconded: Ms K Mikaera**

That the Māori Partnership Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the "Income and Expenditure" report
- 2 Return the amount of \$1,500 not uplifted by Pirinoa School to the grant funding budget for allocation in line with Council's Grants Policy
- 3 Return the amount of \$1,000 not uplifted by Rangitāne o Wairarapa to the grants funding budget for allocation in line with Council's Grant Policy.

CARRIED

8.5 MĀORI POLICY REVIEW

Ms Hooper spoke to this report where the purpose was to inform the committee of the recent review of the Māori Policy.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MPC2026/06**Moved: Cr A Rutene****Seconded: Mr Baker****And resolved:**

That the Māori Partnership Committee:

1. Receive the Draft Māori Policy paper

CARRIED

The committee further discussed the need for mana whenua input, and noted the time that had passed between the Māori Standing Committee reviewing and providing recommendations in July 2025, along with the change in landscape of the election, and the retention of the Māori Ward.

Mr Karauna expressed that he didn't believe the policy identified consequences if the requirements of the policy were not complied with.

Members requested a wānanga to kōrero with wider hapū and marae about the draft Māori Policy.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MPC2026/07**Moved: Ms K Mikaera**

Seconded: Cr A Rutene

That Māori Partnership Committee resolve to:

- 2 Recommend to Council that the Draft Māori Policy be adopted at the meeting 9 April 2026.

In Favour: Nil

Against: Cr A Rutene, Ms K Mikaera, Mr M Fenwick, Mr JD Smith, Mr W Karauna, Mr Baker, Ms Riwai, Mayor Fran Wilde, and Ms Te Whaiti

LOST

The committee plans to wānanga the policy next month and consider input from mana whenua before providing recommendations to Council. It is expected this will happen at their 2 June meeting. The committee also requested that the Kaitohu Matua, Pou Māori present a draft Strategic Māori Framework that maps why we need it, the roadmap to get there, how much will it cost and how long will it take.

9 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

The committee closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)