

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY BOARD
HELD AT THE FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, 14 WAKEFIELD STREET, FEATHERSTON.
ON TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

- PRESENT:** Mr Tui Rutherford (attended online), Mr Warren Maxwell, Cr Rupert Watson, Cr Rachel Clarke, Mrs Tanja Schubert-McArthur (Chair), Mrs Anne Hynds
- APOLOGIES:** Nil
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Shanin Brider (Community Governance Advisor), Mayor Fran Wilde
- PUBLIC FORUM:** Claire Bleakley
- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:** This meeting was held in the Featherston Community Centre, 14 Wakefield Street, Featherston. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 7.02pm to 7.37pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the board opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

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

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Claire Bleakley spoke to the board regarding issues relating to the Featherston wastewater treatment plant. She read a letter to the board which is attached to these minutes. Mrs Bleakley has also requested to speak with Council on the same topic at their 19 February meeting. It was also noted many of the questions raised were to be provided via Mrs Bleakley's official information request.

6 ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Miss Brider to provide an update to the board on Mrs Bleakley's questions post Council 19 February meeting.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business tabled at the meeting.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 MINUTES OF THE FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING 9 DECEMBER 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/01**Moved: Cr R Clarke****Seconded: Mr W Maxwell****And resolved**

1. That the minutes of the Featherston Community Board meeting held on 9 December 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record with the following corrections/amendments:

Public participation – correction to the spelling of Tana Klarstich to Tana Klaracich**8.1 resolution 4 – adding Ms Schubert McArthur read her declaration in both English and Te Reo****8.2 resolution 4 – adjusting Martinborough to Featherston.****CARRIED**

9 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

10.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE UPDATE

Miss Brider spoke to this report where the purpose was to update the board on current income and expenditure activities and to provide an explanation of the funding and budgets available to the board. Ms Brider advised of a correction to the amount available in the community development fund from \$15,150 to \$20,150. The recommendations in report 10.2 would be adjusted when we moved to this report.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/02**Moved: Mrs A Hynds****Seconded: Mr W Maxwell****And resolved**

That the Featherston Community Board:

- 1 Receive the Income and Expenditure update

CARRIED

10.2 2026 COMMUNITY BOARD FUNDING

Miss Brider spoke to this report where the purpose was for the board to agree funding rounds for 2026. Miss Brider advised the board the current allocation was to be increased from \$15,150 to \$20,150 as per decisions made at Council at their 11 December meeting. Board members discussed the need for robust and informative applications, and assistance for applicants to enable them to provide the required information in both applications and accountability.

Miss Brider advised the board that new application and accountability forms would be created and be made available for applicants as alternative options to make applications and reporting easier and based on feedback from community groups. Advice and assistance would also be provided to applicants if needed. The elected members lounge would be utilised so board

members could easily access information on progression of payments and accountability received.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/03

Moved: Cr R Clarke

Seconded: Cr R Watson

And resolved:

That the Featherston Community Board:

- 1 Receive the “2026 Community Board Funding” report.
- 2 Set one funding round in the 2025/2026 financial year for ~~-\$15,150~~ **\$20,150** with applications to open 30 March and close 3 May 2026.
- 3 Consider and decide upon allocation of these grants at the board’s 3 June 2026 meeting.
- 4 Set the first of two funding rounds in the 2026/2027 financial year, ~~for \$10,000,~~ with the first opening 3 August and closing 13 September 2026 **if funding is made available following the adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Plan**
- 5 Consider and decide upon allocation of these grants at the board’s 7 October 2026 meeting **if funding is made available following the adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Plan**
- 6 Agree to determine future funding rounds once the 2027 meeting schedule and been ratified **and funding is available following the adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Plan**

CARRIED

10 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

The board closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 7.37pm

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

3 February 2026

Re: Talk to Featherston Community Board.

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I would like to raise a few questions regarding the issues that affect Featherston. For the last 12 years we have been seeking an affordable solution to the Featherston Wastewater treatment plant (FWWTP) The state of the FWWTP has set Featherston growth back many years.

The recent Wellington Regional Council FWWTP resource consent did not contain any consent for I&I or sludge removal. The proposed 10 - year trial is going to cost \$20 million and still discharge to the Wairarapa moana, pollute the highly valuable farm land with effluent spray that has the potential to contaminate the bores, and aerosols drift to the surrounding houses. By 2050 the cost to have the ungraded wastewater system will reach around \$200 million dollars. The rates will be unaffordable for the already financially stretched small community'.

Please could you advise me –

1. The GWRC Oct 8th 2025 consent included discharge to land and Wetland together with 42 pages of conditions. These options are not included in the Tender Document?
2. When were the FCB consulted and told of the advertising of the tender for opening for the FWWTP development?
3. Has the advertisement for the tender for the FWWTP upgrades been put in the local papers?
If so, when?
4. Why are the Martinborough and Greytown waste water upgrades being done before Featherston?
5. Under the FWWTP Resource consent conditions (G8) There is a requirement for a Community Liaison Group (CLG) to be set up. I note that Greytown and Martinborough already have one but not Featherston, why?
 - i. As the condition specifies in G8 (h) I would like to put my name forward and Mr Garrick Ems has indicated he wishes to be appointed to the CLG.
 - ii. Please could you advise me who the FCB representatives will be and we would like to work together to inform our community and council.
6. When did the Featherston Community board consult with the community on the tender for the sale of the Featherston Golf course, as discussed in the Publically Excluded Business SWDC meeting on the 11 December 2025?
7. Will the dog pound, Te Kotare Nursery and Pae Tu Mōkai O Tauira be sectioned off or will they be part of the Golf Course sale?
8. Also, regarding the Rural coastal Advisory Group when will it be set up and how will the people be chosen?

The omission to keep the Featherston Community in the dark on these issues is of concern and we must be involved in the discussions if it will affect the rates in our small community. If this is the way the FCB is to consult with its community our democracy, accountability and transparency is being seriously undermined

Ngā mihi,

Claire Bleakley

