

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

- PRESENT:** Mr Warren Maxwell, Cr Rupert Watson, Cr Rachel Clarke, Mrs Tanja Schubert-McArthur, Mrs Anne Hynds
- APOLOGIES:** Mayor Fran Wilde
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Lina McManus (Advisor, Funding and Grants), Siv Fjaerestad (Advisor, Community Governance)
- PUBLIC FORUM:** Darrin Goulding, Jo and Jan Clarke (Road Safety and Crossings at Train Station), Emma McDougall (Brandon Street Crossing and Road Safety), Jim Stevens (Wakefield and Fox Street Pedestrian Crossings), Tim Boyd (Cross Creek), Emma Stares and Renee Renata (Hokai Tahi), Dan Millar (Bakehouse), Steffen Kreft (Featherston Mural Festival), Elaine Corlett, Rachel Cooper, James Lesslie (Paetumokai Charitable Trust), Connie Chapman (Featherston Bowling Club), Vicky Alexander and Gary Thomas (Featherston Community Patrol), Will Watterson (NZ Obstacle Sports Association), Peter Biggs and Mona Hurnen (Featherston Biz Engine), Dianne Graysen (Pūkaha Wildlife Centre), Justine Kingdon (Courage Dear Heart), Andrew Christiansen and Michael Brown (Goodtime Foundation), Stuart Tulip (Featherston Memorial RSA), Mary Gow (Featherston Mulled Wine Concerts), Amanda Cuff (Foundation of Equity and Research NZ), Hamish Lindsey (RNZSPCA).
- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:** This meeting was held in the Featherston Community Centre, 14 Wakefield Street, Featherston and via audio-visual conference. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 6.32pm to 9.30pm, except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

Chair – Mrs T Schubert-McArthur opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Mayor Fran Wilde

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/04

Moved: Mr W Maxwell

Seconded: Cr R Watson

The Featherston Community Board resolved to accept the apology from Mayor Fran Wilde.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mrs T Schubert-McArthur declared perceived conflicts of interest due to her husband being a member of Vinyl Club, Featherston Memorial RSA and Featherston Bowling Club.

Cr Clarke declared a conflict of interest as committee member and paying member of the Featherston Biz Engine.

Mrs A Hynds declared a conflict of interest as paying member of the Featherston Biz Engine.

Mr W Maxwell declared a conflict of interest as a member of Featherston Community Patrol.

Cr Watson declared a conflict of interest as a member of Featherston Memorial RSA.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

The Chair acknowledged the passing of Adrienne Staples, former Mayor of South Wairarapa and representative on Greater Wellington Regional Council, and acknowledging her various contributions to Featherston community in particular.

The Chair also acknowledged Shanin Brider, former Advisor, Community Governance for her support and her time in the role, and acknowledged Lina McManus, Acting Advisor, Community Governance, and welcomed Siv Fjaerestad, incoming Advisor, Community Governance.

Mr W Maxwell acknowledged Paora Ammunson's mother passing, Mizpah Elizabeth Mansfield, offering thoughts to the whānau and the wider Papawai community.

Mr W Maxwell also acknowledged Hirini Moko Mead (KNZM), thanking him for his contributions to Te Ao Māori, and his authoring of toi Māori arts, particular the publications of his books on tikanga Māori.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

General

- Jan and Jo Clarke spoke to their submission on Featherston train station road safety, which raised safety concerns at Featherston train station and surrounding walkways, particularly for commuters arriving in the dark winter months. Issues highlighted included unsafe pedestrian crossings, visibility constraints near the level crossing, flooding and difficulties crossing key routes. Suggested improvements included clearer, flatter pedestrian pathways and safer crossing design, supported by imagery attached to these minutes.
- Emma McDougall spoke to her submission on Brandon Street Crossing and Road Safety and included her presentation via e-mail correspondence. Represented a group of four Brandon Street residents with same concerns about the KiwiRail crossing, and thorough consultation by key stakeholders, supported by an email attached to these minutes.
- Jim Stevens spoke to his submission on a Wakefield Street and Fox Street pedestrian crossing proposal, and safer crossing for children and community. As a volunteer fire fighter Jim

shared his unique insights into this matter of concern, presenting NZ based statistics to the Board regarding accidents affecting particular age groups.

Grants

- Tim Boyd from Cross Creek spoke to his application to replace scissor lift which will support ongoing operations of the group, and is vital to the group being able to continue to deliver services to the community. Mr Boyd confirmed that they are a grass roots community group.
- Dan Millar from Bakehouse spoke to his application to create a Bakehouse Community Screening Room, supporting youth and wider community screening. Members queried who would own the equipment as they are a business. Mr Millar shared he would be open to various models supporting community use and co-ownership.
- Steffen Kreft from the Featherston Mural Festival presented on his application to do a Mural Festival in Featherston, to make art more accessible for everyone and to create a sense of unique Featherston identity. Mrs A Hynds queried how design concepts come about. Mr Kreft confirmed that this is done with the community, and with the previous project they submitted a design to the Board.
- Emma Stares and Renee Renata spoke via teams to Hokai Tahi's application for funding to cover rent of suitable consultation rooms to provide free, holistic perinatal support to women and families in South Wairarapa. 40 clients are from Featherston with demand in South Wairarapa growing.
- Elaine Corlett, Rachel Cooper, James Lesslie presented on Paetumokai Charitable Trust's application for funding towards ongoing food support for Featherston Foodbank. The Foodbank reported increased demand providing 1257 parcels last year (avg. 103/month) rising to 112 parcels/month this year and supporting 31 new households, while donations have declined, and operating costs remaining high.
- Connie Chapman spoke to Featherston Bowling Club's application for funding to upgrade its kitchen and food preparation area, a central hub used for club events, visiting teams, volunteers, and wider community functions. The project seeks to address outdated facilities and improve capacity.
- Vicky Alexander and Gary Thomas spoke to Featherston Community Patrol's application for funding for a new roller garage door with an automatic opener at the Community Centre to securely store the Community Patrol vehicle. The upgrade would protect a key community asset and improve accessibility.
- Will Watterson spoke to his application as a representative of the NZ Obstacle Sports Association. Mr Watterson has earned selection to represent New Zealand in Obstacle

Course Racing in Ireland after being identified as a strong competitor. He has largely self-funded to date and is seeking support for equipment and competition costs.

Cr Clarke Left meeting at 7.39pm.

- Peter Biggs and Mona Hurnen spoke to Featherston Biz Engine's application for funding to complete development of a unifying narrative and visual identity for Featherston (Paetūmōkai) in the form of a community-owned brand and guidelines. The project centres on Featherston as a "place of stories," bringing together heritage, Booktown, and mana whenua narratives into a shared identity. Members queried if they could see the design Mr Biggs advised it had not yet been show to their own members.

Cr Clarke returned to the meeting at 7.45pm.

- Mary Gow spoke via teams to Featherston Mulled Wine Concerts' application for funding for three Mulled Wine Concerts. The concerts feature high-quality national and international performers at Anzac Hall, with strong audience engagement across age groups. Funding is sought to cover venue hire, promotion, piano tuning, and contributions to artists.
- Dianne Graysen spoke to Pūkaha Wildlife Centre's application for funding to cover traffic management costs of including Fernside Gardens in the 2026 Wairarapa Garden Tour. The inclusion is anticipated to bring economic benefits to Featherston and support conservation and education work.
- Justine Kingdon spoke to Courage Dear Heart's application for funding to build wellbeing and resilience in the community through the provision of a safe, facilitated non-judgemental space for sharing. It draws on models such as AA and non-violent communication, with the aim of growing participants' confidence and future facilitators.
- Andrew Christiansen and Michael Brown spoke via teams to Goodtime Foundation's application to support music lessons to students in the Wairarapa. The programme provides scholarships to under-resourced but talented tamariki, ensuring financial barriers do not limit opportunity.
- Stuart Tulip spoke to Featherston Memorial RSA application for funding to upgrade outdated and unsafe toilet facilities to improve safety, accessibility, and aesthetics at the RSA, supporting a community of 300 members. The current project is a first step toward improved accessibility, with plans to seek further funding for a fully accessible toilet facility.
- Amanda Cuff spoke to Foundation of Equity and Research NZ's application to support a South Wairarapa creative connection pilot to create a safe, inclusive space, particularly for disabled community members. The initiative would use activities like Lego to build connection, confidence, and inclusion.

- Hamish Lindsey spoke via teams to RNZSPCA's application for microchipping and vaccinations for animals entering Masterton from across the wider Wairarapa, aiming to reduce pressure on community services and shorten shelter stays, and support lower income households. RNZSPCA is also applying to Martinborough and Greytown Community Boards.
- Representatives from Vinyl Club were not able to attend. Members viewed a pre-recorded video presentation from Vinyl Club.
- Ghost Stories were not able to attend in person to speak to their application.

6 ACTIONS FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

General actions

Members noted there was a clear theme around road safety in the Featherston community in relation to crossings in key areas;

- State Highway 2
- State Highway 53
- and zones with high traffic for tamariki, older persons and wider community, eg Featherston Community Centre, Paetumokai Featherston Medical, playgrounds, schools, and train station.

The speakers to this requested a copy of the minutes of this meeting.

It was noted that some of these areas are the responsibility of other agencies e.g. NZTA or KiwiRail.

Considerations around consultation and updated correspondence in relation to these concerns will be shared with appropriate council officers (Mr T Langley and Mr J O'Connor) and any outcomes or actions will be reported back to the Board to share with the wider community.

Grants actions

Moved to item 10.1 Grants Allocation Report.

Meeting adjourned at 7.50pm.

Meeting resumed at 8.05pm.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 MINUTES OF THE FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/05

Moved: Cr Clarke

Seconded: Mrs T Schubert-McArthur

The Featherston Community Board resolved that the minutes of the Featherston Community Board meeting held on 3 February 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED**9 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There were no matters arising.

10 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

Cr Clarke and Mrs A Hynds Left meeting at 9.11pm.

Cr Clarke and Mrs A Hynds returned at 9.14pm.

10.1 FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY BOARD - GRANTS ALLOCATION REPORT JUNE 2026**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/06**

Moved: Mrs T Schubert-McArthur

Seconded: Cr R Clarke

The Featherston Community Board resolved to extend the meeting to 9.30pm to allow for discussion and decision making of grants allocation.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/07**

Moved: Mrs T Schubert-McArthur

Seconded: Cr R Clarke

The Featherston Community Board resolved to:

1. Receive the Featherston Community Board Grants Allocation Report June 2026.
2. Accept in part the application from **Featherston Vinyl Club** for \$500 to fund operational costs for community events
3. Accept in part the application from **Hokai Tahi** for \$2,000 to fund operational cost for rent.
5. Accept in part the application from **Steffen Kreft** for \$3,000 to fund the Featherston Mural Festival – Accelerator Weekend, conditional on the mural design being circulated with the Community Board prior to production.
6. Accept in part the application from **Pukaha Wildlife Centre** for \$1,000 to fund the 2026 Wairarapa Garden Tour.
8. Accept in part the application from **Featherston Memorial RSA** for \$1,000 to fund the accessible toilet upgrade project.
9. Accept in part the application from **Featherston Community Patrol** for \$2,000 to fund replace the roller door at the Featherston Community Centre.

10. Accept in part the application from ***Paetūmōkai Charitable Trust*** for \$5,000 to fund the Featherston Foodbank operational costs.
11. Accept in part the application from ***Featherston Bowling Club*** for \$1,000 to fund the kitchen upgrade project.
12. Accept in part the application from ***Foundation for Equity and Research NZ*** for \$1,500 to fund the Wairarapa CAG Creative Connection & Belonging Pilot.
13. Accept in full the application from ***Cross Creek*** for \$2,595 to fund the a replacement hydraulic engine lift.
14. Accept in part the application from ***Masterton RNZSPCA (Masterton SPCA)*** for \$500 to fund the microchipping and registration costs of animals.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/08

Moved: Mrs T Schubert-McArthur

Seconded: Cr R Clarke

The Featherston Community Board resolved to:

1. Decline the application from ***Will Watterson*** for \$500 to fund the NZ Obstacle Team Training & Preparation – May and August 2026 Races
2. Decline the application from the ***Bakehouse Collective*** for \$3,800 to fund the Bakehouse Community Screening Room.
3. Decline the application from ***Justine Kingdon*** for \$1,820 to fund the Courage Dear Heart programme.
4. Decline the application from ***Denver Grenell*** for \$2,000 to fund the Ghost Stories project as part of the Featherston Heritage Festival.
5. Decline the application from the ***Goodtime Foundation*** for \$9,000 to fund their Principal's Music Scholarship
6. Decline the application from ***Mary Gow*** for \$2,000 to fund the Featherston Mulled Wine Concerts -Four Concert Series in Anzac Hall in Featherston

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/09

Moved: Mrs T Schubert-McArthur

Seconded: Mr W Maxwell

Abstained: Cr Clarke and Ms A Hynds

The Featherston Community Board resolved to decline the application from ***Featherston Biz Engine*** for \$2,000 to fund the Featherston Pāetūmokai core narrative and visual identity project.

CARRIED

11 CHAIRPERSON REPORTS**11.1 CHAIR'S UPDATE REPORT**

The report was taken as read and there was no discussion. Please refer to the agenda.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FCB2026/10

Moved: Cr R Watson

Seconded: Mr W Maxwell

The Featherston Community Board resolved to receive the Chair's Update report.

CARRIED

12 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

Mr W Maxwell closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Photo of proposed design for improved Road Safety and Crossings at Train Station.

Appendix B – Presentation notes on Brandon Street Crossing and Road Safety.

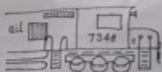
Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)



STATION
BUILDING

BUS SHELTER

BUS STOP

HARRISON STREET



JOHNSTON

STREET

WEST



[REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 1:29:27 PM

[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Featherston Community Board meeting

□

[REDACTED]
Kia ora [REDACTED]

This is a copy of what I will be presenting for your minutes.

Tēnā koutou and thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

We are Featherston residents who have formally objected to the proposed closure of the Brandon Street level crossing and associated road stopping process.

At the outset, we want to be very clear: we support safer, faster and more frequent rail services. We understand the importance of improving rail safety and reducing risks across the network.

Our concern is not with rail improvements themselves. Our concern is that the current proposal appears to transfer risk from what has been a very low-risk rail crossing onto an already challenging state highway network, without the level of independent scrutiny, coordination and assessment that such a significant change deserves.

We remain committed to engaging constructively with both KiwiRail and the South Wairarapa District Council. We are participating in the process in good faith and remain open-minded about mitigation measures and possible solutions.

However, we are becoming increasingly concerned that the outcome may already be substantially predetermined before a genuinely coordinated assessment of the wider transport network has taken place.

Our concerns centre around several key issues.

Firstly, the safety and accessibility of the Moore Street and Bethune Street intersections with SH2. Residents know these intersections well. They are already difficult to navigate at busy times, and many people experience long delays and challenges making right turns, particularly during holiday periods and major events.

Secondly, Brandon Street currently provides an important alternative route when SH2 is disrupted, particularly during closures of the Remutaka Hill Road. When serious incidents occur, traffic can back up across Featherston and movement through town becomes extremely difficult. Removing Brandon Street as a crossing point without a clear alternative solution risks making those situations significantly worse.

Thirdly, we are concerned about future growth. Featherston continues to attract new residents and visitors. Population growth, tourism growth and increased rail patronage will all place additional pressure on the road network. Decisions made today need to consider what the town will look like in ten, twenty and thirty years, not simply current traffic volumes.

Finally, we have concerns regarding emergency access, flood evacuation and overall network resilience. These are critical issues for any community and should be assessed comprehensively before permanent infrastructure changes are made.

We are also concerned about the process itself.

Council appears to have effectively supported the closure before a comprehensive safety assessment was completed. Traffic counts were undertaken after support had already been indicated, raising questions about whether the assessment informed the decision or simply supported an existing position.

The KiwiRail and Aurecon assessment is, in our view, limited in scope. It relies heavily on a single weekday traffic count and modelling assumptions while excluding many real-world conditions experienced by residents, including holiday traffic, special events, emergency scenarios and state highway disruptions.

Importantly, the concerns being raised today are not new. Residents have consistently raised these issues through submissions, council meetings and now through the formal objection process. Yet many of these concerns appear to have been dismissed rather than fully investigated.

We are also unaware of any meaningful coordination between KiwiRail, NZTA Rail Safety, NZTA State Highway teams and Council planners, despite the proposal deliberately shifting traffic movements onto intersections located on the state highway network.

Residents know these intersections are already under pressure. At the same time, we are not aware of a history of accidents at the Brandon Street crossing that would indicate an urgent safety problem requiring closure.

We also believe local awareness of the proposal was limited. While formal notification requirements may have been met, the primary notification consisted of notices attached to the crossing itself and information on the council website. Many residents remain unaware of the significance of the proposal and its long-term implications.

Our request is a simple one.

Before any further progress is made toward permanent road closure, we ask that NZTA Rail Safety, NZTA State Highway teams, KiwiRail, Council representatives and residents come together to undertake a coordinated review of the wider network impacts, risks and mitigation measures.

This is not about opposing rail improvements. It is about ensuring that decisions affecting public safety, emergency access and the future resilience of our community are based on a comprehensive and coordinated assessment of the entire transport network.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and provide additional information if helpful and seeing what the community board can do to help.

Ngā mihi

Emma