

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 11 February 2026, commencing at 9.03am.

Members Present: Grant Smith (The Mayor) (in the Chair) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb opened the meeting with karakia.

Declarations of Interest

Mayor Grant Smith declared a conflict of interest in Item 10 Funding and City Support Request from Squash NZ to host the 2027 New Zealand Squash Open (clause 4-26) and took no further part in discussion or debate.

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin declared a conflict of interest in Item 14 Local Water Done Well - Initiating the Shareholders Committee for the Joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water (clause 7) and took no further part in discussion or debate.

1-26 **Presentation - New Year's Honours 2026** Presentation, by Mayor Grant Smith

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council note that congratulations have been conveyed on behalf of the Council to the local recipients of the New Year's Honours 2026.

Clause 1-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

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2-26 Confirmation of Minutes 3 and 10 December

Moved Debi Marshall-Lobb, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meetings of 3 December 2025 Part I Public and 10 December 2025 Part I Public and Part II Confidential be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 2-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Abstained:

The Mayor (Grant Smith).

REPORTS

3-26 Fees and Charges Review

Report, presented by Steve Paterson, Manager - Financial Strategy.

Councillor Wood moved a motion to retain the Environmental Services fees at the current rates as the user-charged portion of the 25/26 fees is already higher than the ratio set by Council's Revenue and Financing Policy, so any further increase would be contrary to Council policy.

Councillor Johnson moved a motion to remove charging caregivers for accessing swimming pools when accompanying Under 5s (Parks and Reserves fees), as the proposal was contrary to Council policy to encourage water safety.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the report titled 'Fees and Charges Review', presented on 11 February 2026, and note the current status of fees and charges.

Trade Waste

2. That Council agree for consultation the proposal of updated fees and charges for Trade Waste services effective from 1 July 2026 as attached in Appendix 2 and authorise the Chief Executive to undertake the necessary consultative process under sections 82 and 150 of the Local Government Act 2002;

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Building

4. That Council agree the fees and charges for Building Services, as proposed in Appendix 4 for public notification to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Animal Management

6. That Council agree the fees and charges for the Impounding of Animals (in terms of section 14 of the Impounding Act 1955) and for Dog Registration and Dog Impounding (in terms of sections 37 and 68 of the Dog Control Act 1996) as proposed in Appendix 6 for public notification to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Burial & Cremation

7. That Council agree the fees and charges for Burial and Cremation, as proposed in Appendix 7 for public notification to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Service Connections

8. That Council agree the fees and charges for Service Connections, as proposed in Appendix 8 to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Resource Recovery

9. That Council agree the fees and charges for Resource Recovery, as proposed in Appendix 9, and amended to incorporate option 1 for the Ashhurst Transfer Station charges as outlined in section 3.4 of Appendix 9, to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Backflow Prevention

11. That Council agree the fees and charges for Backflow Prevention testing and maintenance as proposed in Appendix 11 to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Corridor Access Request

12. That Council agree the fees and charges for Corridor Access Requests as proposed in Appendix 12 to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Parking

13. That Council agree there be no change to fees and charges for Parking, as proposed in Appendix 13.

Clause 3-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

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Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

Planning & Miscellaneous

3. That Council agree for consultation the Statement of Proposal (and the associated summary) of updated fees and charges for Planning Services and Miscellaneous Services effective from 1 July 2026 as attached in Appendix 3, and authorise the Chief Executive to undertake the necessary consultative process under sections 83 and 150 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Clause 3-26 above was carried 11 votes to 5, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan and William Wood.

Moved William Wood, seconded Mark Arnott.

RESOLVED

Environmental Services

5. That Council agree the fees and charges for Environmental Health Services (in terms of regulation 7 of the Health (Registration of Premises) Regulations 1996) remain unchanged for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Clause 3-26 above was carried 12 votes to 4, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Brent Barrett, Lew Findlay, Orphée Mickalad and Karen Naylor.

Moved Lorna Johnson, seconded Billy Meehan.

RESOLVED

Parks and Reserves

10. That Council agree the fees and charges for Parks and Reserves (including the maximum charges for swimming pools except for the \$3

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caregiver charge for under 5s) as proposed in Appendix 10 to take effect from 1 July 2026.

Clause 3-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 11.10am

The meeting resumed at 11.30am

Mayor Grant Smith declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the chair to present item 10.

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb took the chair.

4-26 Funding and City Support Request from Squash NZ to host the 2027 New Zealand Squash Open

Report, presented by Luke McIndoe, Manager Venues + Events Partnerships, Mayor Grant Smith and Martin Dowson, Squash NZ.

A presentation on the New Zealand Squash Open was made (attached to the minutes).

Moved Debi Marshall-Lobb, seconded Bonnie Kuru.

RESOLVED

1. That Council establish an operating programme in 2026/27 of \$30,000 for one year AND direct the Chief Executive to allocate \$20,000 from the Major Events Fund in 2026/27 to partner with Squash NZ to host the NZ Squash Open 2027. (Option 2)

Clause 4-26 above was carried 14 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillor Karen Naylor.

Moved Karen Naylor, seconded Hayden Fitzgerald.

On an amendment: That Council establish an operating programme in 2026/27 of ~~\$30,000~~ \$10,000 for one year AND direct the Chief Executive to allocate ~~\$20,000~~ \$40,000 from the Major Events Fund in 2026/27 and/ or other existing budgets to partner with Squash NZ to host the NZ Squash Open 2027 (Option 2). The amendment was lost 3 votes to 12, the voting being as follows:

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For:

Councillors Hayden Fitzgerald, Billy Meehan and Karen Naylor.

Against:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

5-26 Recommendation to Exclude Public

Moved Debi Marshall-Lobb, seconded Brent Barrett.

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution
24.	Extension of Contract 4059 - Three Waters and Waste Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance and Minor Capital Works	Commercial sensitivity ensures value to Council can be maximised.	s7(2)(b)(ii)THIRD PARTY COMMERCIAL Disclosing the information could harm a company's commercial position and s7(2)(i)NEGOTIATIONS: This information needs to be kept confidential to ensure that Council can negotiate effectively, especially in business dealings

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

Clause 5-26 above was carried 16 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna

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Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

The meeting adjourned at 12.37pm

The meeting returned from Part II Confidential at 2.33pm

7-26 Local Water Done Well - Initiating the Shareholders Committee for the Joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water

Report, presented by Chris Dyhrberg - Executive Director Central Districts Water, Mike Monaghan - Manager Three Waters and Julie Keane - Transition Manager.

Moved Debi Marshall-Lobb, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

1. That, subject to confirmation by the Horowhenua District and Rangitikei District Councils, the Palmerston North City Council *initiate* the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water under clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, having regard to the terms of reference set out in the Shareholders Agreement approved by Council at its meeting on 10 December 2025.
2. That Council agree (in terms of clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002) that the Shareholder Committee will not be discharged following the triennial local elections.
3. That Council note the roles and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee, as stated in Schedule 3 of the Shareholders' Agreement and, in terms of clause 30A(2)(d) of Schedule 7 in the Local Government Act 2002, delegate to the Shareholders Committee and the members of that committee those roles and responsibilities.
4. That Council appoint with the delegated power to make decisions in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference the following persons as the Council's representatives on the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water:
 - Mayor Grant Smith
 - Councillor Kaydee Zabelin
 - Councillor Brent Barrett (alternate)
5. That, subject to confirmation of the Horowhenua District and Rangitikei District Councils, Council confirm the appointment of the following persons nominated by Ngā Tapuwāe o Hau as the Mana whenua representatives on the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water with the delegated power to make decisions in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference:

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- Kurahaupo Confederation: Danielle Harris
 - Alternate for Danielle Harris: Di Rump
 - Tainui Confederation: Hayden Turoa
 - Alternate for Hayden Turoa: Tiwana Tibble
 - Iwi of the greater Rangitīkei Region: Marj Heeney
 - Alternate for Marj Heeney: Suze Hepi
6. That, subject to confirmation of the Horowhenua District and Rangitīkei District Councils, Council *delegate* to the Council's representatives on the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water the power to confirm any replacement iwi members nominated in writing by Ngā Tapuwāe o Hau.

Clause 7-26 above was carried 12 votes to 2, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

Against:

Councillors Mark Arnott and Hayden Fitzgerald.

Abstained:

The Mayor (Grant Smith).

Note:

Councillor Kaydee Zabelin declared a conflict of interest, withdrew from the discussion and sat in the gallery.

8-26

Annual Budget (Plan) 2026/27 - Adoption of Consultation Document and Supporting Information

Memorandum, presented by Cameron McKay, Chief Financial Officer, Steve Paterson, Manager - Financial Strategy & Scott Mancer, Manager - Finance.

Councillor Billy Meehan left the meeting at 3:20pm

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

1. That Council adopt the Supporting Information for the proposed 2026/27 Annual Budget (Attachment 1), as the material relied upon to prepare the Consultation Document.
2. That Council adopt the Consultation Document for the proposed 2026/27 Annual Budget (Attachment 2).

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Clause 8-26 above was carried 13 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Hayden Fitzgerald and Karen Naylor.

9-26 **Quarterly Performance and Financial Report - period ending 31 December 2025**

Memorandum, presented by Scott Mancer, Manager – Finance and Glenn Bunny, Manager - Property and Project Management

Councillor Billy Meehan returned to the meeting at 3.40pm

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the report titled 'Quarterly Performance and Financial Report – period ending 31 December 2025', and related attachments, presented on 11 February 2026.
2. That Council approve an increase to Professional Services budget of \$1,300,000 and a corresponding increase to Operational Revenue of \$1,300,000.
3. That Council approve an increase to Programme 2345 – Property – Solar Panel Installations budget of up to \$420,000 and an increase to Capital New Revenue budget of up to \$420,000 subject to funding being confirmed.

Clause 9-26 above was carried 15 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillor Mark Arnott.

The meeting adjourned at 3.55pm

The meeting returned at 4.10pm

Councillors Billy Meehan, Orphee Mickalad and Bonnie Kuru were not present when the meeting resumed.

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- 10-26 Treasury Report - Six months ending 31 December 2025**
Memorandum, presented by Steve Paterson, Manager - Financial Strategy.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council note the performance of Council's treasury activity for the six months ending 31 December 2025.

Clause 10-26 above was carried 13 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Councillors Orphee Mickalad and Bonnie Kuru returned to the meeting at 4.12pm.

- Manawatū Regional Freight Ring Road Indicative Business Case - Update**
Memorandum, presented by James Miguel, Senior Transport Planner
Olivia Wix, Manager Communications.

This report was withdrawn.

- 11-26 Linklater Reserve - Disposal of woolshed**
Memorandum, presented by Bill Carswell Activities Manager - Property.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council approve a contract with Central House Movers to remove the woolshed and yards located at Linklater Reserve, at a cost of \$3,500 plus GST.

Clause 11-26 above was carried 15 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Councillor Leonie Hapeta left the meeting at 4:35pm

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- 12-26** **Government Reform affecting Local Government: Council Submissions**
Memorandum, presented by David Murphy, General Manager Strategic
Planning and Jono Ferguson-Pye, Manager City Planning.

Councillor Barrett moved a motion to amend Council's Simplifying Local Government submission to advocate for the retention of democratically elected regional councillors until the end of their term.

Moved Brent Barrett, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

3. That the Simplifying Local Government submission be amended to advocate that Regional Councillors continue in their role until the next Local Government elections, concurrent with establishment of a group mandated to explore new LG arrangements for the region.

Clause 12-26 above was carried 11 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillors Mark Arnott and Hayden Fitzgerald.

Note:

Councillor Karen Naylor declared a conflict of interest, withdrew from the discussion and sat in the gallery.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council approve the following submissions on Government reform processes:
 - a. Planning Bill
 - b. Building (Earthquake prone Buildings) Amendment Bill
 - c. Simplifying Local Government: A draft proposal (Discussion Document – as amended)
 - d. Supporting Growth Through a Development Levies System (Discussion Document)
2. That Council note the following submissions on Government reform processes:
 - a. Emergency Management Bill (No 2)
 - b. Rates Target Model for New Zealand

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Clause 12-26 above was carried 12 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillor Hayden Fitzgerald.

Abstained:

Councillor Karen Naylor.

13-26 Development Subsidy Fund Application: Te Ranga Maro Charitable Trust
Memorandum, presented by Jono Ferguson-Pye, Manager Planning

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council approve the allocation of \$6,273 from the Development Subsidy Fund to support consent fees and development contributions for Te Ranga Maro Charitable Trust.

Clause 13-26 above was carried 13 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillor Mark Arnott.

14-26 Wastewater Treatment Plant - Nature Calls; Quarterly Update
Memorandum, presented by Mike Monaghan - Manager 3 Waters.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the report titled 'Wastewater Treatment Plant – Nature Calls; Quarterly Update' presented on 11 February 2026

Clause 14-26 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

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15-26 Council Work Schedule

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive its Work Schedule dated 11 February 2026.

Clause 15-26 above was carried 14 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb closed the meeting with karakia

The meeting finished at 4.42pm

Confirmed 25 March 2026

Mayor