

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 12 November 2025, commencing at 9.04am

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

Members Present Online: Councillor Leonie Hapeta.

Grant Smith (The Mayor) was not present when the meeting went into Part II Confidential session at 3.40pm. He was not present for clauses 189 and 190.

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb opened the meeting with karakia.

Declarations of Interest

Mayor Grant Smith declared a conflict of interest in Item 22 (Pasifika Community Centre Construction Phase) (clause 189) and was absent for this item.

Councillor Leonie Hapeta declared a conflict of interest in Item 9 (Appointment of Council Representatives to the Electoral College for the Central Economic Development Agency and to Local Government New Zealand (Zone 3) (clause 181) and abstained from the vote.

Councillor Orphée Mickalad declared a conflict of interest in Item 9 (Appointment of Council Representatives to the Electoral College for the Central Economic Development Agency and to Local Government New Zealand (Zone 3) (clause 181).

Councillor Karen Naylor declared a conflict of interest in Items 16 (Atawhai Park and Walkway - Land Exchange with Massey University: Hearing of Submissions) (clause 177) and 17 (Atawhai Park and Walkway - Land Exchange with Massey University: Summary of Submissions and Deliberations) (clause 178). She took no further part in discussion or debate for these items and sat in the gallery.

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Councillor William Wood declared a conflict of interest in Item 10 (District Licensing Committee - Appointment Process) (clause 182) and took no further part in discussion or debate and sat in the gallery.

Acknowledgement of Service - Councillor Roly Fitzgerald

Elected Members acknowledged the service of former Councillor Roly Fitzgerald.

Roly Fitzgerald spoke about his time at Council and thanked the Elected Members for their kind words.

The full speeches are available on the Council's YouTube page:
[Council I 12 November 2025](#)

174-25

Public Comment

Ben Schmidt and John Hornblow made public comment relating to Item 7 (Appointment of Committees and Committee Membership) in support of the recommendation for Rangitāne o Manawatū representatives to be appointed to the Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee.

Julia Mannsen made public comment relating to Item 7 (Appointment of Committees and Committee Membership) opposing the recommendation for Rangitāne o Manawatū representatives to be appointed to the Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That the public comment be received for information.

Clause 174-25 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.

REPORTS

175-25

Appointment of Committees and Committee Membership

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

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1. That Council note the establishment of Committees made by the Mayor (Table 1), under s41A of the Local Government Act.
2. That Council note the Chairperson appointments made by the Mayor to the Committees (Table 1), under s41A of the Local Government Act.
3. That Council adopt Delegations Manual 2023 Part 4 replacement: Delegations to Committees (Attachment 1) approving the terms of reference and delegations to Committees, including the Mayor's recommendations for:
 - a. Deputy Chairpersons and Elected Members' Committee membership
4. That Council agree the following change to Delegation 3.1.6: Assignment of Commissioners:

"The Legal Counsel (in liaison with the General Manager – Development & Regulatory, General Manager – Strategic Planning, Manager – Planning Services, Team Leader – Planning Services¹ and/or the Principal Planner – Strategic Planning) with input from the Chair and/or Deputy Chair of the Hearings Committee may assign Hearings Commissioners to conduct, consider and determine any matter that requires a hearing or related decision under any of the following acts:

 - a. Resource Management Act 1991; and
 - b. Dog Control Act 1996."
5. That Council adopt Standing Orders 2023 replacement clauses 1.1 Scope and General and 1.5.3 Extension of the Right to Vote (Attachment 2).

Clause 175-25 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.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

Note:

On the recommendation:

- "3. That Council adopt Delegations Manual 2023 Part 4 replacement: Delegations to Committees (Attachment 1) approving the terms of reference and delegations to Committees, including the Mayor's recommendations for:
 - b. an independent member on the Finance, Performance & Audit Committee"

the recommendation was lost 5 votes to 11, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Debi Marshall-Lobb, Vaughan Dennison, Lorna Johnson and Bonnie Kuru.

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Against:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Brent Barrett, Rachel Bowen, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

Note:

On the recommendation:

“3. That Council adopt Delegations Manual 2023 Part 4 replacement: Delegations to Committees (Attachment 1) approving the terms of reference and delegations to Committees, including the Mayor’s recommendations for:

- c. up to two Rangitāne o Manawatū representatives on the Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee”

the recommendation was tied 8 votes to 8. The chairperson declared the motion lost, the voting being as follows:

For:

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

Against:

Councillors Mark Arnott, Lew Findlay, Hayden Fitzgerald, Leonie Hapeta, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and William Wood.

The meeting adjourned at 11.04am.

The meeting resumed at 11:26am.

176-25

Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Annual Report 2024/25

Memorandum, presented by Jacqui Middleton, Finance & Operations Manager, CEDA; Janet Reynolds, Marketing & Communications Manager, CEDA and Katie Brosnahan, Board Member, CEDA.

Their supplementary presentation is appended to these Minutes.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Annual Report 2024/25 (Attachment 1).

Clause 176-25 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 12.01pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.01pm.

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177-25 Atawhai Park and Walkway - Land Exchange with Massey University: Hearing of Submissions

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the submissions and hear submissions from presenters who indicated their wish to be heard in support of their submission.
2. That Council note the Procedure for Hearing of Submissions, as described in the procedure sheet.

Clause 177-25 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, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Note:

Councillor Karen Naylor declared a conflict of interest, took no further part in discussion or debate and sat in the gallery.

Council considered submissions on Atawhai Park and Walkway - Land Exchange with Massey University with supporting oral statements.

The following persons appeared before the Council and made oral statements in support of their submission and replied to questions from Elected Members.

Kim Bergersen (22)

Kim spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Easement 2 is used regularly as direct access between Atawhai Park and Bledisloe Park. High maintenance costs due to erosion and slips have been highlighted as a reason for its eventual closure; he cannot see a lot of work that has been completed due to erosion and slips since the original slip.
- Easement 3 track will require significant capital to develop. Under the current proposal Easement 2 will not be fully maintained and forced to close before Easement 3 is developed; Easement 3 has not yet been planned or funded.
- Area 1 which the Council gains as part of the land swap, adds little real value. The trees there are already part of Atawhai Park and Area 1 is unlikely to be used by park visitors. Area 1 is of more value to a developer.
- Proposed that Council swap with Massey only that section of Area 2 that crosses 91 Atawhai Road. This allows Massey legal access to their land, the Council retains the rest of Area 2, and any required easement to ensure the public keeps this vital walking connection. Area 2 in the

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track is continued to be maintained, which will allow funding and design of Easement 3 to be better planned.

- Traffic impacts will be significant if this area is developed for housing, which is highly likely. Encouraged Council to start that work now so that any developer understands the infrastructure upgrades required before proceeding.

Massey University (30) (Andy Allison, Executive Director – Estates and Murray Adams, Associate Director – Information Systems and Space)

Andy and Murray spoke to Massey University's submission and made no additional comments.

178-25

Atawhai Park and Walkway - Land Exchange with Massey University: Summary of Submissions and Deliberations

Memorandum, presented by Perene Green, Property Officer and Kathy Dever-Tod, Manager Parks and Reserves.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council approve the land exchange with Massey University in accordance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2002, noting that:
 - a. The land being exchanged to Massey University from Council would be approximately 564 sqm of Lot DP 48076.
 - b. The land being exchanged to Council from Massey University would be approximately 541 sqm of Part Section 208 TN of Fitzherbert.
 - c. Council would receive easements:
 - i. over Lot 11 DP 18880 (91 Atawhai Road) legalising the existing walking path access to Atawhai Park;
 - ii. over Part Section 208 TN of Fitzherbert retaining legal access of the existing walkway from Atawhai Park to Bledisloe Park; and
 - iii. a new easement over Part Section 208 TN of Fitzherbert allowing for a future walkway to be developed from Springdale Park to Bledisloe Park.

Clause 178-25 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, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

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Note:

Councillor Karen Naylor declared a conflict of interest, took no further part in discussion or debate and sat in the gallery.

179-25 Fitzherbert Park - Proposal to grant Easement to Powerco: Deliberations Report

Memorandum, presented by Perene Green, Property Officer.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council grant an easement to convey electricity at Fitzherbert Park, 272 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North, to Powerco.
2. That Council note that the land area affected by the easement for Powerco is described as Lot 2 DP 77988.

Clause 179-25 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.

180-25 Adoption of Elected Members' Remuneration 2025-26

Memorandum, presented by Sarah Claridge, Governance Advisor.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded William Wood.

RESOLVED

1. That Council agree Option 1 for Elected Members' Remuneration for 2025-2028.
2. That Council approve the information relating to the positions of additional responsibility Table 1 be sent to the Remuneration Authority.
3. That Council note that recommendation 1 will take effect from either the date the new Council came into office (17 October 2025) or the date after the positions were established (6 November and 13 November 2025).

Clause 180-25 above was carried 15 votes to 1, 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, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Against:

Councillor Karen Naylor.

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Moved Grant Smith, seconded Rachel Bowen.

4. Amendment to Table 1 to include:

Estimated 5 hours/month for Hearings Committee

Clause 180-25 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.

181-25

Appointment of Council Representatives to the Electoral College for the Central Economic Development Agency and to Local Government New Zealand (Zone 3)

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council approve the Mayor's recommendation for the appointments of Council representatives to:
 - a. the Central Economic Development Agency Electoral College:
The Mayor, Councillors Vaughan Dennison and Leonie Hapeta.
 - b. The Local Government New Zealand (Zone 3): The Mayor, Deputy Mayor (as proxy for the Mayor as necessary), Councillors Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Karen Naylor and Orphée Mickalad.

Clause 181-25 above was carried 15 votes to 0, 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, Hayden Fitzgerald, Lorna Johnson, Bonnie Kuru, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor, William Wood and Kaydee Zabelin.

Abstained:

Councillor Leonie Hapeta.

182-25

District Licensing Committee - Appointment Process

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council instruct the Chief Executive to commence a recruitment process for Palmerston North City Council's list of approved District Licensing Committee members.

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2. That the Council agree the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Legal Counsel and Susan Baty, form the selection panel to finalise selection criteria, shortlist and interview candidates and make recommendations to the Council regarding final appointments to the District Licensing Committee list.

Clause 182-25 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, Billy Meehan, Orphée Mickalad, Karen Naylor and Kaydee Zabelin.

Note:

Councillor William Wood declared a conflict of interest, took no further part in discussion or debate and sat in the gallery.

183-25

Quarterly Performance and Financial Report – period ending 30 September 2025

Memorandum, presented by Scott Mancer, Manager - Finance; John Aitken, Manager - Project Management Office; Grace Nock, Manager - Organisational Planning and Performance.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the report titled 'Quarterly Performance and Financial Report – period ending 30 September 2025', and related attachments, presented on 12 November 2025.

Clause 183-25 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.

184-25

Palmerston North Quarterly Economic Update - October 2025

Memorandum, presented by Stacey Andrews, City Economist.

A supplementary presentation is appended to these Minutes.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the Palmerston North Quarterly Economic Update – October 2025, including:

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- a. Palmerston North Economic Growth Indicators – October 2025 (Attachment 1), and
- b. Palmerston North Quarterly Economic Card Spending Report – September 2025 (Attachment 2).

Clause 184-25 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.

185-25 Annual Summary of Economic Impact and Benefits of Council Supported Events

Memorandum, presented by Luke McIndoe, Manager Venues + Events Partnerships.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the memorandum titled 'Annual Summary of Economic Impact and Benefits of Council Supported Events', presented on 12 November 2025.

Clause 185-25 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.

186-25 Treasury Report - Quarter ending 30 September 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 quarter ending 30 September 2025.

Clause 186-25 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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187-25 Palmerston North Performing Arts Trust - Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2024/25

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

RESOLVED

1. That Council receive the Palmerston North Performing Arts Trust Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 (Attachments 1-3).

Clause 187-25 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.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

188-25 Recommendation to Exclude Public

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Vaughan Dennison.

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
22.	Pasifika Community Centre Construction Phase	This report contains information about Council's commercial negotiations with contractors. If this information were made public before the contract is finalised, it could disadvantage Council in current or future negotiations, affect fairness of the tender	s7(2)(i)NEGOTIATIONS: This information needs to be kept confidential to ensure that Council can negotiate effectively, especially in business dealings

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		process or impact the contractors' commercial interests.	
23.	Sale of the Residential Property 553 Ruahine Street	Releasing report publicly before the sale is completed could disadvantage Council by affecting the final sale price. Protecting this information ensures that Council can achieve the best financial outcome for the community.	s7(2)(h)COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: This information needs to be kept confidential to allow Council to engage in commercial activities without prejudice or disadvantage

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 188-25 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 public part of the meeting finished at 3.21pm.

Confirmed 3 December 2025

Mayor