



## Eketāhuna Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board held in the Eketāhuna War Memorial Hall, corner of Jones Street and State Highway 2, Eketāhuna on Monday 12 August 2024 commencing at 10:00am.

### 1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), T M Carew (via Teams), E E Chase and Crs S M Gilmore and M F Long

#### In Attendance

Mrs K Tani	–	Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mrs A Dunn	–	Manager – Democracy Services
Mr C Yonge	–	Team Leader Economic & Community Development
Ms K Stevens	–	Economic & Community Development Advisor
Mr P Sinclair	–	Emergency Management Officer
Ms S Fountaine	–	Local Recovery Community Hub Coordinator
Ms S Ellis	–	Democracy Support Officer

### 2. Apologies

*That the apologies from Board Member Barclay and Board Member Chase be received and leave of absence granted for the meeting.*

*Gilmore/Carew*

*Carried*

### 3. Public Forum

There were no requests for Public Forum.

### 4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

That a late item of business be included to discuss Civil Defence.

*Long/Carew*

*Carried*

## **5. Confirmation of Minutes**

*That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 8 July 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Gilmore/Long*

*Carried*

## **6. Tararua District Council Report**

### **6.1 Report from Tararua District Council**

*That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 31 July 2024 be received*

*Carew/Gilmore*

*Carried*

## **7. Reports**

### **7.1 Urban Design Strategy and Public Workshops**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Team Leader Planning Services dated 18 July 2024 that advised of the running of several public drop in sessions regarding the Urban Growth Strategy, and the associated prospective enhancement of urban environments throughout the district. Several key ideas and concepts would be expected to be discussed at these sessions, including vibrancy and character, safety and usability, connectivity, buildings, and community involvement. It was emphasised that any ideas or suggestions regarding the urban development of Eketāhuna and its town centre upgrade - whether provided by the Board or echoed within the larger community - were welcomed.

*That the report from the Team Leader Planning Services dated 18 July 2024 concerning the Urban Design Strategy and Public Workshops be received.*

*Carew/Long*

*Carried*

### **7.2 Eketāhuna Community-Led Development Plan (Eketāhuna Community Plan)**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Economic and Community Development Advisor dated 05 August 2024 which provided an updated version of the Eketāhuna Community Plan to discuss progress and to determine next steps. Alternate methods of community consultation and engagement regarding the Community Plan were considered, including approaches taken by Pahiatua and Woodville. It was recommended to consider any desirable projects, events, or tourist attractions for inclusion in the Community Plan.

It was acknowledged that the input from absent Board Member Chase and Board

Member Barclay was important, and it was recommended that a resolution be passed to table this report for a later meeting. However, it was advised that the Board begin engaging the community and cataloguing suggestions in the interim.

***That the report concerning the Eketāhuna Community-Led Development Plan be left lying on the table for consideration at the next Eketāhuna Community Board meeting.***

***Carew/Gilmore***

***Carried***

### **7.3 Schedule of Meetings for 2025**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 24 July 2024 that sought discussion and feedback on a draft meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year, for meetings of the Eketāhuna Community Board.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 24 July 2024 concerning the Schedule of Meetings for 2025 be received.***

***Carew/Gilmore***

***Carried***

### **7.4 Management Report**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 05 August 2024 that provided an update to the Board on key activities and items of interest as reported to the meeting of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held 17 July 2024, and Regulatory Services items presented to the Tararua District Council meeting held 31 July 2024. It was acknowledged that reduced funding from NZTA would have implications regarding decreased maintenance of footpaths and road networks.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 05 August 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.***

***Long/Carew***

***Carried***

### **7.5 Capital Portfolio Report**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 06 August 2024 that provided an update on the capital programme and key project statuses as reported to the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee on 3 July 2024 and the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee on 17 July 2024.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 06 August 2024 concerning the Capital Portfolio Report be received.***

## **8. Reports from Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities**

- 8.1 **June Road Safety meeting:** Chairperson McGhie reported on a road safety meeting he had attended in June. He noted that new funding for pedestrian crossing upgrades would begin in July, and therefore was currently underway. He spoke to the reduction in government funding for roading budgets, and recommended Council further their contact with NZTA regarding improvement of pedestrian crossing visibility. He noted need for works at Waiwaka Bridge to widen the bridge, that police in the Tararua District were short staffed, and highlighted the high crash rate within the Mangamaire area.
- 8.2 **Emergency Management** – Chairperson McGhie reported on a recent emergency management meeting. He noted that a wellbeing survey had been distributed to residents post Cyclone Gabrielle, and that 8 groups had received recovery funding. With regards to communications outages, the use of WhatsApp as opposed to Facebook Messenger was suggested, noting a comparatively significant delay when using the latter service, and that responsive services were desirable given previous lengthy 5-8 day delays in restoring coverage. It was also recommended to keep cars fuelled. Powerco had set up generators in vulnerable areas, and alternate power sources had been supplied in both solar and diesel.

## **9. Chairperson's Remarks**

- 9.1 Chairperson McGhie acknowledged the passing of several community members, including Bud Jones, John Fisher, and Jane Goddard, and gave condolences to their families. He also noted that he had arranged a meeting with the owner of the Fred West building.

## **10. Items not on the Agenda**

- 10.1 **Eketāhuna Civil Defence** – The Emergency Management Officer was in attendance to discuss updates to the Eketāhuna civil defence plan. He outlined the history of the Eketāhuna Civil Defence Group in the past, and the need to have the Civil Defence Group running again. The proposal was that the Eketāhuna Community Board be the primary driver of the civil defence group and related plan. He identified that the most prominent changes made to the plan would most likely entail the updating of current contact information. An electronic copy would also be available.

He spoke about the funding provided by central government post Cyclone Gabrielle to improve resilience in local communities, for example provision of generators.

He noted that work had been undertaken to ensure all civil defence equipment

was supplied as needed. It had been asked what other items the community required, and requests included generators, alternate cooking appliances, and alternate water supplies.

*Board member E E Chase joined the meeting at 10:51am.*

It was noted that needs assessments would be conducted with communities, including Eketāhuna. This would need to include Police, Fire Service, St John Ambulance, Schools so everyone was on the same page. Chairperson McGhie noted he would invite them here after a Board meeting to discuss next steps. It was asked that the civil defence needs assessment be tabled as a discussion item for the next meeting.

It was noted that the Digital Spaces mobile meeting room could also be used as a civil defence hub and when ready, the trailer could be brought to a Board meeting to show to members.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:55am.

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Chairperson