



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 9 September 2024 commencing at 10:00am.

1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), L J Barclay, 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 E Priest	-	Project Manager
Mr C Yonge	-	Team Leader Economic & Community Development
Ms K Stevens	-	Economic and Community Development Advisor
Ms S Ellis	–	Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Public Forum

There were no requests for Public Forum.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Cr S Gilmore: Proposed toll and consultation on Te Ahu a Turanga/Manawatu-Tararua Highway

Manager – Democracy Services: Installation of a TV, internet, and meeting equipment for the Eketāhuna War Memorial Hall

5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 12 August 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Gilmore/Carew

Carried

6. Tararua District Council Report

6.1 Report from Tararua District Council

That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 28 August 2024 be received

Barclay/Chase

Carried

7. Reports

7.1 Eketāhuna Community-Led Development Plan (Eketāhuna Community Plan)

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Economic and Community Development Advisor dated 19 August 2024 which provided an updated version of the Eketāhuna Community Plan to discuss progress and to determine next steps.

The Economic and Community Development Advisor was in attendance, and presented an updated version of the Eketāhuna Community Plan to the Board.

It was resolved that the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer of Eketāhuna Our Town be contacted, and optimal meeting times requested.

That the report from the Economic and Community Development Advisor dated 19 August 2024 concerning the Eketāhuna Community-Led Development Plan (Eketāhuna Community Plan) be received.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board determines that it currently has capacity to move forward with a community plan with an aim to have adopted a final Plan within the next 3 months; and

Agrees on a date to meet and discuss the Updated Plan, assign project leads where required, reaffirm next steps and select method of community engagement moving forward.

McGhie/Chase

Carried

7.2 **Update - Progress with Review of Bylaws**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 27 August 2024 that provided an update to the Board on progress with Council's bylaw review programme. It was noted that several concerns had been cleared up surrounding the Keeping of Animals Bylaw, and that all updated Bylaws post deliberations would be up for adoption next? Council meeting. It was underlined that the public would be notified of this.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 27 August 2024 concerning the Update - Progress with Review of Bylaws be received.

Barclay/Carew

Carried

7.3 **Management Report**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 03 September 2024 provides 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 14 August 2024, and Community Development and Wellbeing Committee meeting held 4 September 2024.

The reduction in footpath funding from Waka Kotahi was noted, and that work was being done to ascertain what impact this would have going forward.

Board Member Barclay floated a concept for a repurposing and reselling facility for salvageable waste items to reduce total waste costs.

Chairperson McGhie, Board Member Barclay, and Board Member Chase expressed interest in attending the next funders forum. Likewise, Board Member Chase expressed interest in attending a future Canva course.

It was noted that the Eketāhuna radio station was interested in a revival, and that it could be discussed with Council – notably as the radio constituted a good option in an emergency and would be worth maintaining.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 03 September 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Barclay/Gilmore

Carried

7.4 **Capital Portfolio Report**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 03 September 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.

Eugene Priest, Project Manager, spoke regarding infiltration of stormwater flowing into the wastewater treatment plant, and advised the Board of work being undertaken to install flow monitors into the public owned wastewater mains, and source detection works for investigating inflow and infiltration source over the next 6-8 weeks. On completion of source detection works, a report would be provided to show where the issues were, on both the public and private networks, and what the recommended fixes would be.

The Board discussed whether tanks could be installed to capture stormwater for other uses, noting this would require funding support.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 03 September 2024 concerning the Capital Portfolio Report be received.

Barclay/Chase

Carried

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

8.1 Report from Board Member Chase

Community Board Conference Update: Board Member Chase attended the Community Board Conference, and noted that many of the Community Board attendees were in a similar situation to them. She noted that she was pleased to meet Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister and Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport, and commended their ability to speak their mind despite opposition from the audience. She stated that the primary purpose of the Board was that of community education, and that the difficulty of this was acknowledged. She underlined the importance of communication as a Board with the community. Whilst unable to attend a resilience workshop at the conference, she had obtained the notes from another attendee, and reported that the Board should consider different methods of engagement. She cited use of sausage sizzles by a Chatham Island Community Board member. She also advocated for the use of Council apps – i.e. Antenno – with the Board helping to facilitate their use, and to prompt community members to fill out CRMs for any issues they find.

Social Services: Board Member Chase noted that Rangitane o Tamaki Nui a Rua had instated a new service known as the 'Hauora Heartlands', which was connected to services from Work and Income NZ, and to other budgeting services, and would provide support to Eketāhuna every second week. She stated that St Johns hall was being used as a hub for the services, including healthcare services from MidCentral DHB, WINZ services from Dannevirke, and an IRD service as an extension from its Pahiatua service. She noted that this service would be taken to Pongaroa next.

Driver Licensing: Board Member Chase noted some issues with Eketāhuna residents with accessing driver licensing and transport services, and outlined that

a proposal had been made to the twice monthly Dannevirke service that looked at adding an Eketāhuna branch at least once monthly.

Information Board and Signage: Board Member Chase noted that an information board for Eketāhuna was in the works. It would feature several QR codes, which when scanned would provide a brief history of Maori in the area. It was also noted that the museum was in an obscure location that was not visible from the street. It was suggested that an enquiry be made with the library to suggest the inclusion of a sign with directions to the museum. Board Member Carew noted that an information board with several QR codes was being worked on to direct visitors around the area, and that pamphlets would be distributed at the library. Chairperson McGhie advocated for the inclusion of additional signage alongside the information board.

Disabled Parking: Board Member Chase requested the addition of disabled parking to the church hall. She suggested that this be included in the enquiry to the library, and taken up with roading teams.

Maori Wards: She commended Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister, and Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Transport, as well as Cr M Long, for speaking their minds regardless of the backlash.

9. Chairperson's Remarks

Nil

10. Items not on the Agenda

10.1 **Proposed toll and consultation on Te Ahu a Turanga/Manawatu-Tararua Highway:** It was announced that Te Ahu a Turanga would be one of three roads to be tolled, and that the consultation opened that day. Cr S Gilmore outlined several concerns to the Board regarding the proposed toll;

- That the toll was set to \$4.30 per light vehicle, and \$8.60 for heavier vehicles, though this was not final.
- He noted that the Saddle Road was a costly and unsafe asset, and would grievously burden ratepayers should the road be handed back to Council as agreed upon after the completion of Te Ahu a Turanga. He underlined that the current maintenance cost for the Saddle Road as a state highway was \$1 million per annum.
- He stated that NZTA would breach two parts of its Tolling Policy should it proceed with the proposed toll. This included that a toll road needs to be considered during the planning stage, prior to the start of construction. It was also emphasised that the highway was a replacement road, not a new route, and that

generally when highways were consulted upon with a toll planned, the consultation would stipulate that either the road would have a toll, or would not be constructed.

- He noted potential issues regarding consent through environmental court, and questioned whether iwi or stakeholders were consulted about this decision. This was in especial regard to those in the district highly impacted by the closing of the Manawatu Gorge, whether for business, employment or healthcare reasons.

He encouraged everyone to make an individual submission, and for the Community Board to make one in itself. He stated that a public meeting would be taking place in Woodville on the 17th of September about this.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board makes a submission on the proposed tolling of Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu Tararua Highway.

Carew/Barclay

Carried

10.2

Meeting room connectivity: The Manager – Democracy Services provided an update on the installation of internet connectivity and meeting room equipment in the Eketāhuna War Memorial Hall. The upgrade was commended by Board members as a way for Council staff to present to the Board without needing to travel, and as a means of increasing the versatility of the space for other interested community groups in need of a meeting room. Chairperson McGhie noted that he could help set up and operate the devices, and Board Member Carew suggested training library staff on its use.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 11:28am.

Chairperson