



## 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 December 2024 commencing at 10:00am.

### 1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), L J Barclay, T M Carew (via Teams), and Cr M F Long

#### In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor (via Teams)  
Cr S Gilmore

Mrs K Tani	–	Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mrs A Dunn	–	Manager – Democracy Services
Mr E Priest	-	Senior Project Manager
Ms K Stevens	-	Community Partnerships Coordinator
Mrs B Graves	-	District Librarian (via Teams)
Ms S Ellis	–	Democracy Support Officer

### 2. Apologies

*That the apology from Board Member E E Chase be accepted, and leave of absence granted from the meeting.*

*Barclay/Long*

*Carried*

### 3. Public Forum

There were no requests for Public Forum.

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

There were no notifications of any additional items of business.

## 5. Confirmation of Minutes

*That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 14 October 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Carew/Barclay*

*Carried*

## 6. Tararua District Council Report

### 6.1 Report from Tararua District Council

*That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 30 October 2024, the extraordinary meetings held 5 November 2024, 11 November 2024 and 15 November 2024, and the meeting held 27 November 2024 be received.*

*Barclay/Long*

*Carried*

## 7. Reports

### 7.1 Draft District Plan Pre-Consultation

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Planning Manager dated 27 November 2024 that provided information regarding the pre-consultation plan for the draft district plan. The pre-consultation phase extends from 28 November to 1 March 2025, enabling the community, iwi partners and key stakeholders to contribute to the plan before the proposed plan is released to the public in May 2025 for formal consultation.

The need for promotion of public consultation for the District Plan within Eketāhuna was emphasised.

*That the report from the Planning Manager dated 27 November 2024 concerning the Draft District Plan Pre-Consultation be received.*

*Barclay/Carew*

*Carried*

### 7.2 Management Report

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 02 December 2024 which provided an update on key activities and items of interest as reported to the meeting of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held 16 October 2024, and the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee held 6 November 2024.

The Senior Project Manager was in attendance to speak to the I&I inspection work currently underway as part of the wastewater plant upgrade, noting that works would likely continue through January with no drop in service.

It was noted that the results of the NZTA tolling consultation for Te Ahu a Turanga were due for release within the next few weeks, but emphasis was given that this could be as late as next year.

Board Member Barclay noted that she attended the Funders Forum in Pahiatua. She spoke highly of the presentations given and the content available.

It was asked whether any feedback from the community had been received regarding prospective developments on the Alfredton Rd cemetery space. It was outlined that plans for the land had been considered, such as a dog reserve or an Eketāhuna museum-led remembrance park, with a combination of the two also included as an option. It was also stated that the land was awaiting policy regarding what could be permitted with the area, and that any projects were on hold for now. In response it was noted that the in-development reserves management plan would cover this area, which was noted to be out for consultation next year. It was requested that this be placed on the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting agenda for February.

The feasibility of lowering the hall hireage costs for the market was queried. It was responded that the hireage fees did not cover the complete running and maintenance costs for the hall, and that a contribution from council rates made up the difference.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 02 December 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.***

***Barclay/Long***

***Carried***

### 7.3 **Capital Portfolio Report**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 02 December 2024 that provided an update on the capital programme and key project statuses as reported to the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee on 16 October 2024, and the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee on 6 November 2024.

The Senior Project Manager was in attendance to provide further information regarding the works and tests undertaken as part of the wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 02 December 2024 concerning the Capital Portfolio Report be received.***

***Barclay/Carew***

***Carried***

### 7.4 **Eketahuna StoryWalk**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 29 October 2024 that presented correspondence

received from Libraries Tararua regarding the proposed Eketāhuna StoryWalk®.

The District Librarian was in attendance via Teams to discuss the project. She noted that works were currently stalled whilst tree works were undertaken in the area. She mentioned that the concrete and posts were sorted, and that a Pūkaha employee with fencing experience would be installing them. She spoke to the enthusiasm of Pūkaha Mt Bruce for the project, noting that plans were in the works for an opening ceremony for the walk. The existence of a mystery woodcarver along the proposed site was mentioned, though noted to be unaffiliated.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 29 October 2024 concerning the Eketahuna StoryWalk be received.***

***Barclay/Carew***

***Carried***

## 7.5 **Contestable Fund Process 2024-25**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 26 November 2024 presented for information and discussion purposes, the Council's Contestable Fund Process for the 2024-25 financial year.

The Community Partnerships Coordinator was in attendance to discuss the Contestable Fund process, and how it compares to the general assistance grants fund process.

It was asked whether Eketāhuna Our Town was notified of the change, and advised they should be made aware if they had not already. It was noted that the fund would be supported by a communications plan during launch, and that this would be either this month or next year.

It was asked whether unused funds from previous financial years carried over into subsequent years. It was noted that this was not the case for operational funds. Regarding Main St grant funding that had been available in previous years, it was noted that this had been paid out on a cycle.

It was underlined that impacted groups were contacted during the Long Term Plan development process regarding the process change, and that this included Eketāhuna Our Town. It was noted that any Main Street funds provided to the organisation were not required to be returned if unused by the end of the financial year.

It was asked whether a committee would be established for the contestable fund process and how Eketāhuna would be represented if so; it was responded that no such committee would be established. The decisions on allocation of grant funding would be made by Council at a Council meeting.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 26 November***

***2024 concerning the Contestable Fund Process 2024-25 be received.***

***Barclay/Long***

***Carried***

## **7.6 Strategy Overview and Future Planning**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 03 December 2024 that provided for information purposes a copy of the reported dated 30 October 2024 concerning Strategy Overview and Future Planning that was considered by the Strategy, Growth and Planning Committee at its meeting held 4 December 2024.

It was noted that due to a printing error, the attachments to the report were not available to view within the agenda package, however these could be viewed on Council's website.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 03 December 2024 concerning the Strategy Overview and Future Planning be received.***

***Barclay/Carew***

***Carried***

## **7.7 Community Board Satisfaction Survey Results**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 03 December 2024 which presented the results of a satisfaction survey undertaken by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and the Community Board Executive Committee (CBEC) regarding Community Board effectivity, and the opportunities and actions that could be taken to provide further support to Community Boards.

It was noted that the Community Board did not tend to receive much feedback from the community regarding their effectiveness, and it was hoped that the Community Plan development process may help bridge that gap. It was noted that five survey responses had been received to date, and the need for the Community Board to take an active role in pushing the community to get involved was underlined.

It was encouraged that the Board meet informally to discuss any changes they could make or what could be done differently.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 03 December 2024 concerning the Community Board Satisfaction Survey Results be received.***

***Barclay/Carew***

***Carried***

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

**Zone 3 Meeting:** Cr M Long reported his attendance at a recent Zone 3 meeting held in Napier, and noted that councils nationwide were struggling with lacking funding to maintain or upgrade aging infrastructure. He spoke positively of the speakers and presentations given.

**9. Correspondence**

Nil

**10. Minutes - Eketahuna Our Town Inc meeting 10 October 2024**

*That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Our Town Inc meeting held 10 October 2024 be received.*

*Carew/Barclay*

*Carried*

**11. Chairperson's Remarks**

Chairperson McGhie thanked everyone for their attendance, and wished a Merry Christmas to all.

Her Worship the Mayor provided a message, wishing everyone a good meeting and a Merry Christmas.

Cr S Gilmore was in attendance and thanked the Board for the warm welcome as part of his instatement to the Community Board, and noted that he would still provide support where needs be.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 11:22am.

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Chairperson