



Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Tuesday 22 April 2025 commencing at 9:00 am.

1. Present

Board Members: P F Walshe (Chairperson), T J Hynes (Deputy Chairperson), E J Christison, R T Wallace; and Cr E L Peeti-Webber

In Attendance

Mrs K Tani	–	Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mrs A Dunn	–	Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Public Forum

Nil

4. Presentations

4.1 Flagtrax

Chris Souness, of Nexus Australasia was in attendance via Teams and spoke to the Board about the Flagtrax system. He explained that 5,600 systems throughout New Zealand have been installed, gave a detailed account about what was involved in replacing existing banner arms on street poles. He noted that the current system used for erecting Christmas lights was only accessible via the road corridor with a bucket truck and this required traffic management to be in place. In response to a question about whether permits were required through NZTA or the power company for using the street poles, he noted that the poles being used are usually managed by the local Council or the power company. He noted the work being undertaken with Woodville where they are working in conjunction

with NZTA. He explained that it's a standard process that they go through, where whoever owns the poles likes to ensure that the system being installed would not create any additional load or problems. Once the system was installed, there was no further need for heavy equipment to put up flags. He noted the price would be approximately \$1,000 per pole to install the flag trax system, plus the costs associated with traffic management. The cost of the flags for display was additional, noting that there are seven flag companies in New Zealand licensed to provide flags for these systems. The costs were approximately \$98 per flag. He shared images showing examples of the system in place in Greytown, Porirua and Upper Hutt. He noted that it takes approximately 35 seconds to change a flag, and no need for a bucket truck or traffic management to change flags.

Questions were asked re durability and longevity of a flag. In response Mr Souness noted that the flags are heat cut. The things that would affect longevity was heat, wind and exposure to UV. If the flags were changed regularly you should would get more time out of a flag. The edge of the flag that would typically move in the wind was heat sealed, and would gradually abrade and wear away over time. The life of a flagtrax flag was slightly longer than a standard flag. He noted that Feilding was looking at getting six sets of flags, and changing these every two months. They would expect to get four cycles of usage out of those flags.

He demonstrated how the flag was installed on the system.

The track used was attached to the pole with standard strapping that was used for attaching street name blades.

In response to a question about installation, it was noted that extensive guidance was available for installation by local installers.

4.2 Ormondville Rail Preservation Group

Juliette van der Oord of the Ormondville Rail Preservation Group was in attendance and spoke to the Board about a proposal for a Viaduct lookout to install a viewing platform for the viaduct.

She spoke about the history of the viaduct, noting that when it was built, it was the biggest wooden viaduct in the southern hemisphere, and it had been built out of local totara. It was replaced in 1907 with the current structure.

She noted that the viaduct was difficult to see currently and that was the reason for their project to build a viewing platform to allow people to view the viaduct.

She circulated a copy of the proposal for the viaduct viewing platform that they hoped to build.

She spoke about how the railway station had been preserved, and how this was a fine example of a New Zealand railway station of that era. Ormondville Railway Station had been not only a railway station, but also a prime loading area for stock to travel by train to meat processing works. The station is set up as self catering accommodation, with approximately 3,000 visitors to the area to see the railway station.

She was here to inform the Board about the project, and noted that they would be seeking funding, both through the Contestable Fund and the Dannevirke Community Board towards the costs of the interpretation panel they wish to install, directional signage, a picnic table, and also the costs of pine tree removal.

It was noted that the project was intended for installation on the road corridor, and their project team had been consulting with the relevant officers in Council.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Waste Ed presentations

Wackrow Awards

Flagpole on Town Hall

6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 17 March 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Christison/Wallace

Carried

7. Tararua District Council Report

7.1 Report from Tararua District Council

That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 26 March 2025 and the extraordinary meeting held 9 April 2025 be received.

Hynes/Wallace

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Consultation on draft Annual Plan and Supporting Information

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 14 April 2025, that provided information to the Board on the draft Annual Plan and supporting information.

In response to a question about the sources of funding, with 46% being from rates and 43% from other revenues, querying where the other revenue came from, it was advising that funding from other sources included central government funding, fees and charges.

In relation to page 35, Animal Management, increase in costs, it was asked where the extra money comes from. It was advised that this information would be

provided.

It was also asked that an explanation be provided for the increase in personnel funding of 2.5% when everything else was being cut.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 14 April 2025 concerning the Consultation on draft Annual Plan and Supporting Information be received.

Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8.2

Update on Rates Rebate Direct Debit Error

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 14 April 2025, that provided an update to the Board on the Rates Rebate Direct Debit error.

In discussion it was asked whether the 68 affected properties were evenly spread across the district, and could information be provided on that. It was also asked whether Council could consider having a default position that people that do not respond to Council be automatically defaulted to postponement of rates.

In response to a request for assurance that this situation would not happen again, it was noted that there were now checks in place, and additional staff in place to work on this.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 14 April 2025 concerning the Update on Rates Rebate Direct Debit Error be received.

Hynes/Peeti-Webber

Carried

Board member Christison recorded his vote against the motion

8.3

Applications for Funding

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 14 April 2025, that presented three applications for funding for consideration and decision.

It was noted that organisations could also apply to the Council's Contestable Fund, that was currently open for applications until 30 April 2025.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 21 March 2025 concerning the Applications for Funding be received.

That the Dannevirke Community Board grant \$500 from its General Assistance Fund to the Dannevirke RSA Poppy Trust towards ANZAC Commemoration on 25 April 2025.

Christison/Wallace

Carried

That the Dannevirke Community Board grant \$500 from its General Assistance Fund to the Dannevirke Bowling Club Inc towards replacement of curtains in the dining and hall area of the Bowling Club.

Christison/Hynes

Carried

That the Dannevirke Community Board grant \$500 from its General Assistance Fund to the Alzheimers Manawatu towards costs involved with Alzheimer's Manawatu Palmerston North based staff attending weekly Marion Kennedy Centre meetings in Dannevirke and monthly Carer Support Group meetings and Memory Cafes held in Dannevirke.

Hynes/Wallace

Carried

8.4 Management Report

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 15 April 2025, that provided an update on key activities and items of interest as reported to the meetings of the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee meeting held 2 April 2025, and the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held 16 April 2025.

In discussion of sludge management of the ponds, it was noted an update was due in 2027, and it was asked whether this would impact on the proposed solar farms for this area.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 08 April 2025 concerning the Management Report be received.

Hynes/Wallace

Carried

8.5 Capital Portfolio Report

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 14 April 2025, that provided an update to the Board on the capital programme and key project statuses as reported to the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting on 16 April 2025.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 10 April 2025 concerning the Capital Portfolio Report be received.

Hynes/Wallace

Carried

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

- 9.1 **Chamber of Commerce** – it was noted that the After Fives event at Lions Den was successful. Was an interesting event and a good promotion for the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions. Next event would be a breakfast event at the Bowling Club. Steve Carle, owner of the Bush Telegraph would be the guest speaker, and this was on 30 April. It was noted the Chamber was working on promoting Dannevirke as a destination to visit.
- 9.2 **Community Vehicle Trust** – celebrating 10 years of service to the community. An event will be held at the Hub on 15 May at 3pm. They had seen a steady increase in numbers of passengers over the years. In 2016 they had 21 drivers, 650 trips for the year. In 2025 still have over 20 drivers, and completed 3310 trips around town.
- 9.3 **Brass Band** – getting ready for Anzac Day starting at dawn parade, civic parade and then Norsewood, Whetukura and Makotuku. They have 10 learners on board.
- 9.4 **Anzac Wreath laying** – Board members Wallace and Hynes were available to lay the wreath at the Dannevirke Civic Service.
- 9.5 **Dannevirke Information Centre** – no update to provide.
- 9.6 **Dannevirke Multisport Trust** – will report back to next meeting.
- 9.7 **A&P Society** - met last week and rewrote their constitution.
- 9.8 **Road Safety** – the Chairperson noted he attended the new Herbertville Inn opening and was impressed with the remedial works been done to the road since Cyclone Gabrielle.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Correspondence

That the correspondence as listed be received:

Letter of response from KiwiRail regarding condition of fencing on railway land on the corner of Gordon Street and Hall Street, Dannevirke.

Christison/Hynes

Carried

11. Discussion Items

The Board noted the update included on the agenda regarding the items raised for discussion.

12. Chairperson's Remarks

Nil

13. Items not on the Agenda

- 13.1 **Flagtrax** – the Board discussed their interest in installing the Flagtrax system in Dannevirke, noting it would be a great way for various organisations to be involved in promotions via flags throughout the year. The Board noted the cost for initial installation, however in the long term there would be savings due to not requiring traffic management for putting up and taking down the Christmas lights. It was suggested that as well as the Community Board purchasing flags, businesses in town could be approached to sponsor flags. The Board agreed that it would make an application to the contestable fund for a contribution towards costs of installing the system, and suggested getting together to work on this noting that applications closed on 30 April.
- 13.2 **Waste Ed** presentation – the Board discussed the recent Waste Ed presentations that they attended and although there was a low level of public participation despite the significant amount of publicity, it was very interesting and engaging and provided a great insight into recycling and rubbish collection. It was suggested that Waste Ed present at a Community Board meeting and have this livestreamed. One of the key messages noted was the importance of cleaning your recycling. Also noted was the information about the future of food waste collection for composting.
- 13.3 **Wackrow Awards** – the Board noted their confidence that there would be a number of nominations coming in. The Chairperson advised that the guest speaker had been arranged.
- 13.4 **Flagpole on Town Hall** – in response to a request for an update on the flagpole it was noted that the flag was currently flying at half-mast as a mark of respect on the recent passing of Pope Francis.
- 13.5 **Recruitment of Community Engagement Officer**: it was advised that Sarah Fountaine had been appointed to the role of Community Engagement Officer, starting 28 April 2025.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:35am.

Chairperson