



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 8 September 2025 commencing at 10:00 am.

1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), T M Carew (via Teams), E E Chase

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Mrs T H Collis
Cr S M Gilmore

Mr M Alexander – Interim Chief Executive
Mrs A Dunn – Manager – Democracy Services
Mrs S Anthony – Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

That the apologies from Councillor M F Long and Board Member L J Barclay be accepted, and leave of absence granted from the meeting.

Chase/Carew

Carried

3. Public Forum

Warren Chase attended the meeting and conveyed apologies on behalf of Interim Manager – Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, Rhys Watkins who had hoped to attend. He distributed a handout and presented an update on the proposed Church Street Eketāhuna Restoration Plan. Warren shared his conservation background, highlighting his involvement with Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre since 2021, alongside colleagues Jim Flack and Heather Grady. Together they have been delivering a Level 4 conservation course for Pūkaha, UCOL, and the Department of Conservation.

The restoration proposal focuses on the whenua located at 9 Church Street, Eketāhuna, owned by the Anglican Church. The vision is to restore the area's native flora and fauna and implement pest management. However, support is

needed to progress the initiative.

Warren noted that enrolment numbers for the Level 4 course were low and have not met provider expectations. As part of the project, Level 3 students from the local colleges (Years 12 and 13) were tasked with developing the proposal, which envisions a restoration corridor extending from the Cliff Walk to the Campground, aligning with similar efforts in Pahiatua.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Picnic table removed from park beside Eketāhuna Memorial Hall.

Question from Board Member L J Barclay re: Water Amalgamation

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 11 August 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, with a correction of the minutes item 12.1 to note the Eketāhuna Social Services as Hamua-Ora Heartlands.

Carew/Chase

Carried

7. Tararua District Council Report

7.1 Report from Tararua District Council

That the report from the Tararua District Council extraordinary meeting held 20 August 2025 and the meeting held 27 August 2025 and be received.

Chase/Carew

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Management Report

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 19 August 2025 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period 9 July to 9 August 2025. as reported to the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held 20 August 2025 .

A concern was raised with regard to item 4.2 as the Board has raised the Priest

Road/Nireaha Road intersection safety issue on a number of occasions and is disappointed with the response noted. It was asked if suggestions could be made for options to address the safety issue and what the costs may be. It was advised that there have been near misses at the intersection and it was reminded that CRM's need to be submitted.

The Board requested that a letter be sent to Council Officers, asking that the safety concerns at the Priest Road/Nireaha Road intersection be further investigated. The Board seeks a range of safety improvement options, including associated costs, to be provided—regardless of current budget limitations—so that alternative solutions can be considered to address the issue effectively.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board send a letter to Council Officers requesting the safety concerns at the Priest Road/Nireaha Road intersection be further investigated and improved safety solutions provided with associated costs.

Chase/Carew

Carried

It was noted under item 4.3 that the Board was encouraged to contact Horizons Regional Council regarding repair work on the Mangatainoka River near 110 Mangatainoka Valley Road. A local resident had reported to the Board that, on at least three occasions in recent years, Horizons had undertaken riverbank repairs that were considered by the Board to be substandard, with the work subsequently being washed out during flood events. This has led to concerns about ongoing erosion undermining the adjacent road and the perception that ratepayers' money is being wasted on ineffective repairs.

The Board agreed that more substantial and lasting work is needed in this area and requested that a letter be sent to Horizons to formally raise these concerns and advocate for more robust solutions. The Board expressed the importance of challenging the position taken by Tararua District Council and Horizons Regional Council that the issue is outside their responsibility. It was recommended that, following a response from Horizons, the matter be flagged by the Board for Horizons consideration in the next Horizons Annual Plan to ensure it is formally addressed.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board send a letter to Horizons Regional Council requesting further investigation and action for a suitable long term solution to river repair work on Mangatainoka River near 110 Mangatainoka Valley Road.

Carew/Chase

Carried

The Board Chairperson conducted a site visit to Pori Road, Alfredton; the road is currently graded twice a year; however, he believed the grading is performed at an incorrect angle, resulting in poor water runoff management. He also believed the water table is not being properly addressed, causing water to flow across the road surface and leading to ongoing damage. Local residents have access to a custom-designed grader blade that is specifically suited to the road's needs, and

the Board recommends that roading teams liaise with the Board to arrange access to this equipment, ensuring future grading is carried out at the correct angle to effectively manage water runoff. It was noted that Customer Request Management (CRM) entries have previously been submitted in an effort to resolve this issue.

It was reminded that the Eketāhuna Community Board wish to be notified of events being held in the community such as the opening of the Eketāhuna Wetlands, and in response to a question raised it was advised that local Iwi and the Eketāhuna Golf Club were among those invited to attend the Wetlands event.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 19 August 2025 concerning the Management Report be received.

Chase/Carew

Carried

8.2 Portfolio Programme Project Report

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 19 August 2025 that provided an update on key portfolios, programmes and project statuses as reported to the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held 20 August 2025.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 19 August 2025 concerning the Portfolio Programme Project Report be received.

Carew/Chase

Carried

8.3 Discretionary Grant Fund Applications 2025

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 25 August 2025 that presented the applications for funding from the General Assistance Grants Scheme for consideration and decision.

During the discussion, it was acknowledged and agreed by the Board that the School Road Patrol should receive the full amount requested. The Eketāhuna Health Centre and Eketāhuna Early Settlers Museum were both recognised as valuable assets to the community, with their initiatives aligning closely with the purpose of community funding. In contrast, the Eketāhuna Golf Club, as a private organisation with access to alternative funding sources, was considered a lower priority in this context, and has been well supported by the Board in the past. It was agreed Eketāhuna Golf Club would not receive funding. It was therefore decided that the remaining funds would be split between the Eketāhuna Health Centre and the Eketāhuna Early Settlers Museum.

Board member E E Chase declared interest in the Eketāhuna Early Settlers Museum and took no part in the discussion and did not vote.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 25 August 2025 concerning the Discretionary Grant Fund Applications 2025 be received.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board makes the following grants from its General Assistance Grants Fund:

NZ Police, \$135.00 towards the costs of providing a treat for the school patrol volunteers.

Eketāhuna Health Centre – Te Whare Ora o Eketāhuna, \$432.50 towards the cost of maintaining the health centre grounds.

Eketāhuna Early Settlers Museum, \$432.50 towards the cost of conservation supplies for preserving museum treasures.

And

That the application for funding from Eketāhuna Golf Club for \$3400.00 towards the cost of replacing worn and damaged flooring be declined.

McGhie/Carew

Carried

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

Nil

11. Correspondence

11.1 Correspondence

The Board expressed disappointment with the response received from NZTA. It was suggested that the electronic billboard available on Te Ahu Turanga could be used to alert road users to the current speed limit. The Board recommended gathering data on existing signage—specifically, the number of signs, their locations, and the speed limits displayed—to present a more informed case to NZTA.

It was agreed by the Board that a formal letter of response would be sent to NZTA. Concerns were raised about the high number of speeding tickets being issued, despite the assumption that drivers should be aware of the speed limit. The Board felt it was unfair to penalise road users when signage is limited or unclear. It was suggested that feedback could be sought from NZ Police and Woodville residents to support the case for improved signage and fair enforcement.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board send a letter of response to NZTA to further suggest additional speed signs or utilisation of the electronic billboard

for speed signage due to the high volume of speeding tickets being issued.

And

That the correspondence as listed be received.

☐ **Letter to NZTA – Speed limit signs on Te Ahu a Turanga**

☐ **Letter from NZTA in response to Speed limit signs on Te Ahu a Turanga**

McGhie/Chase

Carried

11.2 **Minutes - Eketāhuna Radio Station 26 June 2025**

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Radio Station meeting held 26 June 2025 be received.

Carew/Chase

Carried

12. **Valedictory Address**

Board Member T M Carew expressed that he felt it was not right to stand for re-election while he is travelling overseas. He expressed appreciation for his time on the Board, noting that he had gained valuable experience and enjoyed the opportunity to contribute. He said he was looking forward to returning to New Zealand and reconnecting with the Eketāhuna Our Town Committee. He acknowledged the challenges the incoming Board will face, particularly in light of the ongoing changes related to Three Waters, and emphasised the importance of strengthening communication. He concluded by wishing all candidates well in the upcoming election.

Board Member E E Chase expressed her gratitude to the Board, acknowledging the support and learning she received during her term. She shared that although she was born into a political environment, her time on the Board offered many new learning experiences, and she was proud of the contributions she made to the community. She thanked the Councillors for the valuable learning and expressed appreciation to the Board for their patience and support throughout her term. She affirmed her ongoing commitment to being a strong and active voice within the local community.

Her Worship the Mayor and the Chair extended their sincere thanks to both Board Members for their time and contributions. They acknowledged that both individuals have consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to the best interests of the community. Board Member Carew was commended for remaining engaged with both the Board and the community while travelling overseas. Board Member Chase was recognised for her efforts in maintaining a positive and valuable connection between the Board, Pūkaha, the community, and the local campground.

13. Discussion Items

Refuse Centre Steps - Note of Thanks

Following the previous Board meeting, it was noted with appreciation that the steps providing access to the Refuse Centre bin had been secured and covered to enhance safety. The Board acknowledged local resident Russell for his excellent work in addressing the safety concern and expressed thanks for his contribution to the community.

14. Chairperson's Remarks

The Chair extended heartfelt thanks to the retiring Board members, acknowledging their valuable contributions and their ongoing strong community connections and involvement.

16. Items not on the Agenda

Question submitted by Board Member Barclay – Water Amalgamation

Board Member Barclay submitted a question regarding the financial implications for Council in light of the possibility that some residents may choose to install their own water supply systems and disconnect from the main network.

It was advised that while this is technically feasible, several factors must be considered, including compliance with health regulations and the nature of existing contractual obligations. Even if a property disconnects, the presence of network infrastructure—such as pipes running past the property—still incurs maintenance costs which remain a community responsibility. Urban residents with their own water supply will avoid variable water usage charges, however, establishing a private water supply requires significant investment in storage capacity, tanks, pumps, and associated electricity costs. Additionally, it was noted that undeveloped land within the town is subject to charges, including those related to wastewater and stormwater services.

Picnic Table Outside Eketāhuna Memorial Hall

It was noted that the picnic table located outside the Eketāhuna Memorial Hall was removed by Council approximately three months ago due to health and safety concerns. The Board expressed disappointment at not being informed during this process and requested that regular updates be provided moving forward. The table had been well used by both residents and visitors, and its absence has been noticed by the community. It was advised that a replacement is currently underway, and the Chief Executive will follow up with Council Officers regarding progress.

The Board reiterated the importance of being notified about events and changes occurring in the area so they can keep the local community informed.

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

Chairperson