



Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Monday 15 December 2025 commencing at 9:00 am.

1. Present

Board Members: N M Phillips (Chairperson), T J Hynes (Deputy Chairperson), E J Christison, R T Wallace and Cr A J Amboy

In Attendance

Mayor S M Gilmore
Deputy Mayor S M Wards

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

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Public Forum

Nil

4. Declaration by Member

Board member Cr Alison Amboy made and attested her declaration pursuant to Schedule 7 Clause 14 of the Local Government Act 2002, with the declaration witnessed by Chairperson Nicola Phillips.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Break ins at Community Gardens

Portfolio reports for this meeting

Manawatu Gorge Closure

Umutaoroa Domain

Lower Domain and Deer Park

Easton Street

Fire Hazard properties

Easton Fountain Upper Domain

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

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

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

Christison/Hynes

Carried

8. Tararua District Council Report

8.1 Report from Tararua District Council

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report from the Tararua District Council meetings held 12 November 2025 and 26 November 2025.

A question was raised about the possibility of assigning Community Board representation on the Regional Transport Committee and the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Committee. It was advised that these are statutory regional committees, which differ from internal committees. The Mayor attends by statute and is confirmed by Council, and Cr Peter Naylor has also been appointed as the Council representative to the Regional Transport Committee for the Tararua District, and Board members were encouraged to connect with Cr Naylor for further discussion.

That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 12 November

2025 and 26 November 2025 be received.

Christison/Amboy

Carried

9. Reports

9.1 Code of Conduct for Elected Members

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 21 November 2025 that presented an updated Code of Conduct, as adopted by the Tararua District Council at its meeting held on 12 November 2025, for consideration and adoption.

The Manager – Democracy Services advised members that the purpose of the Code of Conduct was to set out agreed values, understandings and expectations about the manner in which members of the Community Board conduct themselves, while acting in their capacity as Board members. She noted that the Code of Conduct sets out the agreed standards of behaviour between members, members and staff, and member of the public. It contains guidelines for dealing with media and social media, and how information, including confidential information will be handled.

She advised that under the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill, there was a proposal for the Secretary for Local Government to issue a standardise code of conduct that would be binding on all Councils and Community Board members.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 21 November 2025 concerning the Code of Conduct for Elected Members be received.

Hynes/Phillips

Carried

That the Dannevirke Community Board adopts the Code of Conduct for Elected Members, as adopted by the Tararua District Council at its meeting held 12 November 2025.

Phillips/Hynes

Carried

9.2 Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2026

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 24 November 2025 that sought confirmation of the meeting dates for Dannevirke Community Board meetings to be held during the 2026 calendar year, in accordance with Schedule 7, Clause 19(6) of the Local Government Act 2002.

It was noted that, following discussions with the Board and the Mayor, the proposed first formal meeting date for 2026 of Monday 16 March 2026 was considered too far away. The Board agreed to amend the resolution and hold an

informal meeting on Tuesday 20 January 2026 as Monday 19 January 2026 is a public holiday. Formal meetings will then be scheduled bi-monthly, starting Monday 16 February 2026, except for December, when the meeting will be held on the second Monday 14 December 2026, due to the third week falling on a non-working day as outlined in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

The Board proposed holding informal meetings in the Dannevirke Council Chamber, with the intention of inviting the public to attend. Members were reminded to avoid creating a quasi-formal meeting and to focus on process-related discussions and driving improvement for Dannevirke and surrounding areas; decision-making must occur only at formal meetings. The Mayor indicated willingness to attend informal meetings if invited and subject to availability.

That the report from the Manager Democracy Services dated 24 November 2025 concerning the Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2026 be received.

Christison/Amboy

Carried

That the Dannevirke Community Board adopts the following schedule of meetings for the 2026 calendar year, noting the meetings will be held at the Council Chambers, 156 High Street Dannevirke, and will start at 09:00am:

16 February 2026

20 April 2026

15 June 2026

17 August 2026

19 October 2026

14 December 2026

Christison/Hynes

Carried

That the Dannevirke Community Board note that informal sessions of the Board will be held on the months between their formal meetings, being January, March, May, July, September, and November 2026 at 09:00am held in the Dannevirke Council Chambers, 156 High Street Dannevirke.

Christison/Amboy

Carried

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

It was advised that Council is expected to make decisions on delegations to

Community Boards this Wednesday. The Board was encouraged to engage with community groups and, during informal meetings, discuss the allocation of portfolios among members. It was noted that representation reports are highly valuable for keeping the Mayor and Councillors informed about community concerns and achievements. Board members Hynes and Christison expressed interest in representing the Board on the Road Safety and Emergency Management Committees.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Correspondence

That the correspondence as listed be received.

☐ ***Letter of thanks to Scanpower from Dannevirke Community Board***

☐ ***Letter of thanks to Dannevirke Pharmacy from Dannevirke Community Board***

Christison/Amboy

Carried

12. Discussion Items

Date for Dannevirke Market Day – The Board agreed to move the Dannevirke Market Day from October to the first Saturday in March, which will be 7 March 2026. This change aims to encourage greater community participation and improve the likelihood of better weather conditions.

That the Dannevirke Community Board hold the next Dannevirke Market Day on Monday 7 March 2026.

Wallace/Christison

Carried

High Street Footpaths - A request was made for the maintenance schedule for High Street footpaths, where weeds are growing through areas where water blasting has removed grout, resulting in an untidy appearance. It was requested that further details be included in the next Management Report. Additionally, information on repair work required for broken railings along High Street was also requested for inclusion in the report.

Government changes to Regional Councils – - An update was requested on the timeframes for the Government's recent proposal to simplify local government. It was advised that this is currently a proposal, not legislated, and remains in the consultation phase, so specific timeframes are not yet confirmed. Government intends to implement the legislation by 2029, with an expectation that Councils begin making changes by 2027.

The Board was encouraged to make a submission. Council will also submit

feedback, with submissions closing in February 2026. Following this, Government will begin drafting legislation.

Government's proposal for Rates Capping - An update was requested and it was advised that this represents a significant change for Tararua District Council, who will need to refocus and consider how to improve efficiency, taking into account the Systems Improvement Bill. Council will be limited in what can be delivered and will need to adapt operations. Community consultation on levels of service will occur through the Long Term Plan process. Affordability for the community remains a key consideration with a focus on infrastructure.

TDC rates direct debit error - - It was noted that some members of the public had raised concerns with Board members regarding penalties on their rates, which they felt were unjust. Further context is required to determine whether these cases relate to the recent rates direct debit error. Affected community members are advised to contact Council staff directly, as individual matters cannot be debated in a public forum. It was also advised that the resolution process for the direct debit error is nearly complete, with only a small number of cases remaining.

Earthquake strengthening update - Legislative changes have not yet been passed by Government, so no update is available at this stage.

Carnegie Building - It was advised that the update on the Carnegie Building is dependent on proposed legislative changes and cannot inform until regulations and standards are finalised.

Mowing/Cleaning (Stanley Street/Cemeteries/Toilets) - A concern was raised regarding unmaintained areas. It was advised that TDC has faced recent district-wide challenges, and service levels are still being restored, with the team working hard to catch up. The expectations and standards for contractors remain consistent. Board members were encouraged to submit CRMs for any issues identified. It was requested that these concerns be included in the next management report.

Signs need repairing - Concerns were raised regarding the poor workmanship on Stanley Street signs. Three signs were recently vandalised, and the subsequent repairs were noted as substandard. The community have offered assistance with repairs. It was recommended that this issue be included in the next management report.

13. Chairperson's Remarks

The Chair noted that the Board was gaining good momentum in the short time since the election and is progressing well with developing a strategic plan for discussion at the Board's first informal meeting in January.

14. Items not on the Agenda

Break ins at Community Gardens – The Board reported there have been multiple break ins and plant theft at the Dannevirke Community Gardens. They are making changes to improve security and would benefit from CCTV.

Portfolio reports for this meeting – This topic was discussed at item 10.

Manawatu Gorge Closure – While acknowledging the Gorge as a significant feature of the Tararua District, it remains under NZTA control as a State Highway. The revocation process is still underway. There are considerable risks and costs associated with converting the old road into a recreational walkway or cycleway, and budget constraints must be considered. The Mayor expressed strong support for preserving this area as a community asset and will engage in discussions with NZTA and other local Mayors regarding future possibilities.

Umutaoroa Domain – it was requested that the health and safety concerns yet to be addressed at the Domain be included in the next management report. It was noted that requests have been submitted to TDC.

Lower Domain and Deer Park – A concern was raised regarding the untidy appearance of the lower domain, aviary, and lake, as well as questions about whether the deer will be removed from the Deer Park. Additionally, the perimeter fence requires maintenance. An update on these matters was requested for inclusion in the next management report.

Easton Street – Board member Christison advised that multiple requests have been received regarding the untidiness of the street, noting that this issue has been on the agenda for over 12 months with no improvement. The Mayor undertook to seek further information to gain insight and provide an update to the Board.

Fire Hazard properties – A query was raised regarding whether Council has a policy to identify and manage fire hazards on overgrown sections and roadsides. It was advised that concerns on private land fall under FENZ, and TDC has very limited ability to enforce these matters. The Mayor noted he would look into fire hazard concerns around waterways that cross multiple properties, as ownership needs to be clarified and any risks to the network assessed. Enforcement in these cases is challenging.

Easton Fountain Upper Domain – it was noted that the fountain has been a concern for the community for some time, however members of the community have advised that it is salvageable and are willing to look into refurbishment, while acknowledging there are technical aspects to navigate. It was agreed that the Dannevirke Community Board adopt the restoration of the Easton Fountain.

That the Dannevirke Community Board adopt the restoration of the Upper Domain Easton Fountain as a Dannevirke Community Board Project.

Hynes/Christison

Carried

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