



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 1 December 2025 commencing at 10:00am.

1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), L J Barclay (Deputy Chairperson), M A Corlett, D J Smith, and Cr C L Corlett

In Attendance

Mayor S M Gilmore

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

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Public Forum

Terry Carew attended the meeting to discuss wreaths for commemorative events such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. He advised that a local person makes wreaths and suggested the Board and Council consider engaging this individual for future occasions. Doing so would support local business, provided the person completes the required administrative processes.

4. Declarations by Members

Board members David Smith and Cr Chris Corlett made and attested their declarations pursuant to Schedule 7 Clause 14 of the Local Government Act 2002, with each declaration witnessed by Chairperson Steen McGhie.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Eketāhuna Christmas Parade - The Board wished to thank members of the Eketāhuna Our Town Committee, Okie Dokie Traffic Management, and all attendees and volunteers who assisted with the Eketāhuna Christmas Parade held on Saturday 29 November 2025.

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

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 10 November 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

McGhie/Barclay

Carried

8. Tararua District Council Report

8.1 Report from Tararua District Council

That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 12 November 2025 be received.

Corlett/McGhie

Carried

9. Reports

9.1 Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2026

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 19 November 2025 that sought confirmation of the meeting dates for Eketāhuna 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.

Members noted the agreed change in start time for formal Eketāhuna Community Board meetings to 9:30am. It was agreed that informal meetings would be held on set dates and times at a local café or public venue, following a similar schedule to the formal meetings during alternate months. The Mayor and Chief Executive indicated they are willing to attend these informal meetings if required, subject to adequate notice and their availability.

That the report from the Manager Democracy Services dated 19 November 2025

concerning the Adoption of Meeting Schedule for 2026 be received.

Barclay/Corlett

Carried

That the Eketāhuna Community Board adopts the following schedule of meetings for the 2026 calendar year, noting the meetings will be held at the War Memorial Hall Cnr Jones Street and State Highway 2 Eketāhuna, and will start at 9:30am:

2 March 2026

4 May 2026

6 July 2026

7 September 2026

2 November 2026

McGhie/Barclay

Carried

That the Eketāhuna Community Board note that informal sessions of the Board will be held on the months between their formal meetings, being February, April, June, August and October.

Smith/Barclay

Carried

9.2 Code of Conduct for Elected Members

The Eketāhuna 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 on 12 November 2025, for consideration and adoption.

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

Corlett/Corlett

Carried

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

McGhie/Barclay

Carried

10. Correspondence

Nil

11. Discussion Items

Wreaths for Anzac Day and Armistice Day – Terry Carew will provide the contact details of the local wreath maker to the Manager – Democracy Services. It was noted that Council's preference is to engage local suppliers where feasible, subject to compliance with established criteria and cost considerations.

Horizons Regional Council (HRC) – Mangatainoka River Repair Work – The Chairperson reported a constructive discussion with HRC Engineer Anthony Mason regarding river management options. While no resolution was reached, HRC is open to alternatives beyond metal removal, which has been limited by Resource Management Act restrictions. Concrete spraying was suggested, and the Engineer will consult with TDC officers to explore further. The Chairperson will maintain contact with HRC and capture photos during the next flood event to assess.

Priest Road/Nireaha Road Intersection – It was advised that additional design work, option development, or cost estimates for this intersection will not be pursued at this stage. An initial assessment confirmed a safety risk exists; however, the site ranks low compared to intersections with higher traffic volumes, more incidents, and greater risk exposure. There is also no budget allocated for this type of work, and even the highest-priority sites remain unfunded. Further investigation would divert limited engineering resources from higher-priority projects that deliver greater safety benefits. The intersection has been included for consideration in the next NZ Land Transport Programme funding round, and if NZTA Waka Kotahi's policy shifts toward safety improvements, it may qualify for co-funded investment. It was advised that if the Board wishes to advance this sooner, it can do so through Council's Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan submissions. Any locally funded investment will need to be weighed against other higher-priority intersections. Members were encouraged to report near misses or incidents via CRM submissions, as these inform future safety assessments and prioritisation.

12. Chairperson's Remarks

Nil

13. Items not on the Agenda

Eketāhuna Christmas Parade – It was acknowledged that the Eketāhuna Our Town Committee worked effectively with Traffic Management to minimise costs for the Parade. During discussion, concerns were raised about the high expense of traffic management for community events, and potential solutions were suggested, such as web-based applications that provide event organisers with guidance for managing traffic using volunteers. It was requested that a letter be

sent to the Wairarapa Member of Parliament, with input from the Mayor and Chief Executive. This matter has national interest, as several towns have cancelled long-standing parades due to escalating traffic management costs. Advocating for a risk-based approach was considered an opportunity for Government to deliver a practical solution.

The Mayor also issued an apology regarding the condition of lawns and maintenance prior to the Parade and will seek further information.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:34am.