



Community Connections Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Connections Committee held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 18 February 2026 commencing at 9:30am.

1. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Cr E L Peeti-Webber (Chairperson), Mayor S M Gilmore, Crs E F Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson), A J Amboy, and C L Corlett.

In Attendance

Mr C Johnstone	- Sport Manawatu
Mrs R Treder	- Sport Tararua Community Connector
Ms B Brown	- Facilities Manager Bush Multisport
Ms S Jones	- Healthy Active Learning Advisor
Mr M Alexander	- Interim Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Operations
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Engagement
Ms K Payne	- Facilities Property Officer
Mrs S Fountaine	- Community Engagement Officer
Mr K Van der Oord	- Communications Manager
Mrs D Burnett	- Customer Engagement Manager
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

That the apologies from Cr K E R Te Waaka be approved and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Peeti-Webber/Gilmore

Carried

3. Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

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

Nil

6. Reports

6.1 Sport Tararua Quarterly Reports to December 2025

The Community Connections Committee considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 28 January 2026 that presented the Sport Tararua Quarterly Reports for the period ending 30 September 2025 and the period ending 31 December 2025, as required by the Sport Tararua and Tararua District Council contract.

The Sport Tararua team gave a presentation, outlining the role of Sport Tararua and providing information on key highlights for the reporting period. They spoke about their social media expansion with a new Instagram account to connect with rangatahi and outlined the promotions they had undertaken via social media.

They noted that the Active Recreation and Sports Database was now live on the Tararua District Council's website.

With regards to funding, they advised that the Rural Travel Fund would be opening in March and applications would close in April. The fund distributed \$9,500 to sports teams in 2025 to assist with travel costs.

They outlined the work they had been undertaking with their district relationships and spoke about their work in primary schools assisting with sports events.

They noted the results of the 2024-25 Active New Zealand survey that showed that approximately 75% of adults are physically active, with walking being the most common activity. Participation was showing as dropping with age.

They outlined the activities planned for next six months and noted that the Bush Multisport Trust's update to Council was due in October 2026.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 28 January 2026 concerning the Sport Tararua Quarterly Reports to December 2025 be received.

That the Quarterly Reports from Sport Tararua for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 and the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025 be received.

Corlett/Amboy

Carried

6.2 **Complaints Policy Review**

The Community Connections Committee considered the report of the Customer Engagement Manager dated 27 January 2026 that sought feedback and endorsement from the Committee on the updated Complaints Policy, prior to it being presented to Council for adoption.

With regard to the requirement in the draft policy for complaints to be made in writing, feedback was provided that this could disadvantage some members of the community. In response officers undertook to incorporate the ability for verbal complaints to be documented by staff and reviewed by the customer for accuracy prior to submission.

It was asked that a high level report from the complaints register be provided to the Community Connections Committee on a regular basis, for example number of complaints received, categories, and reporting on trends.

That the report from the Customer Engagement Manager dated 27 January 2026 concerning the Complaints Policy Review be received.

Kennedy/Amboy

Carried

6.3 **Management Report**

The Community Connections Committee considered the report of the Group Manager - Strategy and Information that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period since the last report to the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee.

Facilities – in response to a question regarding the standard of mowing since the change in contractor, an update was provided that the contractors had split their teams so there was now a dedicated team for each town. Although the contractors had been in a reactive mode over the Christmas period, they were now moving into a more proactive mode.

It was asked that due to the public interest in the grass maintenance contract, that a high level report on contract audit outcomes be provided to the next few meetings of the committee.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Information dated 10 February 2026 concerning the Management Report be received.

Corlett/Amboy

Carried

7. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

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