



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 9 August 2021 commencing at 10.00am.

1. Present

Board Members C C Death (Chairperson), S C McGhie (Deputy Chairperson), T M Carew and D F Clifton.

In Attendance

Mrs T Collis - Her Worship the Mayor
Mr R Taylor - Manager - Democracy Services
Ms E Elliott - Contractor - Food Secure Communities Project (for item 8)
Mr K Cunningham - Eketāhuna Camping Ground Manager (for item 10)
Mrs L Cunningham - Eketāhuna Camping Ground Manager (for item 10)
Ms B Wellwood - Eketāhuna Community Radio Society (for item 9)

Two members of the public (for item 10)

2. Apologies

- 2.1 *That an apology be sustained from Board Member Cr Raylene Treder for non-attendance at the meeting.*

McGhie/Clifton

Carried

3. Personal Matters

- 3.1 The success of the following people from the district competing at the Olympic Games in Tokyo is noted and acknowledged:

- Kerri Gowler - women's rowing
- Megan Hull - women's hockey

- 3.2 Best wishes are conveyed to Mayor Tracey Collis for her birthday today.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

- 4.1 Eketāhuna Camping Ground Managers Kerry and Loreen Cunningham are attending today's meeting at 10.45am to speak to the Board.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

- 5.1 *That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 12 July 2021 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

Clifton/McGhie

Carried

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Eketāhuna Our Town Incorporated (Item 6.3)

- 6.1.1 It is intended work on the development of the fitness track will commence in September, with its anticipated completion by November this year.

6.2 Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre (Item 10)

- 6.2.1 The Board is to consider facilitating and partnering with the community to undertake the following initiatives to support fundraising for the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre Te Waananga Taio Education and Accommodation Centre project:

- Promote options to sponsor a hectare, including at the open day held on 17 October 2021
- Arrange a casino night
- Arrange a quiz night

- 6.2.2 *That the Board agree to sponsor a hectare at Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre from its discretionary funds through the Kiwi Territory option of \$200 as annual support contributing towards continued restoration efforts in the reserve.*

Carew/McGhie

Carried

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

7.1 Eketāhuna Civil Defence Response Group

- 7.1.1 Chairperson Board Member Charlie Death reported on the Eketāhuna Civil Defence Response Group annual catch-up held on 12 July 2021 in the Eketāhuna Fire Station, including reference to the following matters:

- Thirteen people attended, with six apologies received. One member has passed on.
- Training is to be provided to all members of the response group.
- Eketāhuna Chief Fire Officer Max Mayer has been given a key to the Eketāhuna Community Centre (should it be required in an emergency event as the Civil Defence Welfare Centre).

- The flooding event that occurred in late June was discussed.
- Consideration is to be given to arranging a trip away for Council and response group members to gain knowledge on emergency management arrangements and facilities outside the district.

7.2 **Nireaha Reserve Board**

7.2.1 Chairperson Board Member Charlie Death reported on the Nireaha Reserve Board Annual General Meeting held on 29 July 2021 in the Nireaha Hall, including reference to the following matters:

- Eight people attended, with there being no changes to the existing appointments on the committee.
- Four curtains were replaced in the Nireaha Hall.
- Support was made available to two organisations.
- The current lease of the reserve land expires on 31 August 2023.
- The Nireaha Hall and grounds look great.
- Funding is to be considered to upgrade the toilets.

8. **Food Secure Communities Project**

8.1 Emma Elliott in the capacity of a contractor as part of a working group spoke on the Food Secure Communities project.

8.2 This involves the Council working with community organisations in their efforts to make sure everyone in the Tararua District has access to affordable and nutritious food.

8.3 The Food Secure Communities project resulted from Council successfully securing a grant through the Ministry of Social Development, and was an action taken in light of the welfare response to Covid-19.

8.4 Emma Elliott has been contracted to research how organisations across the district currently distribute food to those who need it, both on a day to day basis and in the event of a Civil Defence Emergency Management situation.

8.5 She is a member of the Food Secure Communities working group along with Council and representatives from iwi and food distribution organisations. They aim to develop a future proofed plan for food security in the district.

8.6 One of the opportunities identified by the working group was to apply to the Food Secure Communities Implementation Fund with a focus on community gardens, an important tool to help combat food insecurity.

8.7 Supporting foodbanks and other community food organisations will not only assist with the increased demand for food from people day to day but also in emergency situations.

9. Eketāhuna Community Radio Society

- 9.1 Bridget Wellwood speaking on behalf of Eketāhuna Community Radio Society outlined intentions to progress strategic planning to ensure the ongoing viability of Radio Eketāhuna is sustainable.
- 9.2 Their current financial position needs strengthening from the current poor situation of being in deficit with outstanding debts due for payment.
- 9.3 A long-term business case and financial statement for the period from August 2020 to July 2021 are in draft form, and in the process of being finalised to guide the way forward for the future continuation of Radio Eketāhuna.
- 9.4 It is noted the lease of a Council building used by Radio Eketāhuna has expired, and the availability of these premises is to be advertised.
- 9.5 The Manager - Facilities Jessica McKenzie is to be updated regarding the approach Radio Eketāhuna is taking to implement a plan to ensure they can maintain providing their community radio station service.
- 9.6 The Board is still to make a decision on the request from Craig Carter to change the purpose of the \$767.17 grant it made available toward the cost of insurance (that has not been renewed).
- 9.7 They have asked the Board to agree that funding could be applied as part payment to help offset rent owed to the Council.

10. Eketāhuna Camping Ground

- 10.1 A copy of the Eketāhuna Camping Ground May and June 2021 reports are tabled for the Board's information.
- 10.2 Kerry and Loreen Cunningham (Eketāhuna Camping Ground Managers) informed the Board of their decision to end their contract with Council on 31 October 2021 to manage and run this facility.
- 10.3 The majority of the ten years they have been undertaking that role has been enjoyable, but in the last year a small group of locals have been very critical of how the camping ground is being managed and run.
- 10.4 That situation has become totally unacceptable and unpleasant for them, and as a consequence they have agreed to terminate their contract with Council through informing the Manager - Facilities Jessica McKenzie of this intention.
- 10.5 Over the ten years of running the camping ground high visitor numbers have been consistently achieved, with many compliments and recognition conveyed through outstanding reviews both nationally and internationally. Both Kerry and Loreen Cunningham are proud of these results, with tribute to their commitment expressed by two members of the public attending the meeting.

10.6 The meeting adjourned at 11.45am, and resumed at 12noon.

11. Chairperson's Remarks

11.1 Covid-19 Vaccination

11.1.1 More than 300 people received their first Covid-19 vaccination through arrangements for that purpose provided in the Eketāhuna Community Centre on 24 July 2021 (that was shown on national television).

11.1.2 It is intended these arrangements will again be available through a further clinic held on 21 August 2021 to provide the second dose, and for anyone that missed the first clinic.

11.2 Pahiatua Town Centre Upgrade

11.2.1 An opening event for the Pahiatua town centre project launch will be held on 13 August 2021 at 11.00am in the newly constructed community stage centre strip of the upgrade.

12. Items Not on the Agenda

12.1 Refer to item 10 of these minutes.

13. Local Government New Zealand Conference

13.1 Mayor Tracey Collis spoke on the Local Government New Zealand conference held in Blenheim from 15 to 17 July 2021.

13.2 The theme for the conference was “reimagining Aotearoa from community up”, and included various speakers and discussions regarding the Government’s three waters reform and its review on the future for local government.

13.3 Following the Annual General Meeting held on the last day severe heavy rainfall occurred in Marlborough resulting in a Civil Defence emergency event and widespread damage from flooding.

13.4 Consequently the Mayor was stranded in Blenheim along with other local authority representatives until it was safe to travel and return home.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12.07pm.

Chairperson