



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 12 February 2024 commencing at 10:00am.

1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), L J Barclay, T M Carew (via Teams), E E Chase, and Crs S M Gilmore and M F Long

In Attendance

Mrs A Small	–	Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mrs A Dunn	–	Manager – Democracy Services
Ms G Nock	-	Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager
Ms F Chase	-	Facilities Manager
Mr N Brewin	-	Internal Communications and Compliance Lead

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Public Forum - Pauline Wilson

Pauline Wilson addressed the meeting on three matters.

The first matter was the responsibility for maintenance of the lime track and exercise equipment around the rugby grounds. In response it was noted that this was the responsibility of Eketāhuna Our Town Inc, and any concerns needed to be addressed with that body.

She then spoke about the absence from the community of Board Member Carew and noted that she did not believe it was physically possible to undertake the responsibilities of being an elected member while overseas and that other people in the community felt the same way that she did. In response it was noted that this matter was on the agenda for discussion at this meeting.

The final item she spoke about was the visual field available to the security

camera behind the service centre / library, noting that the recycling containers located behind the service centre / library partially obscured the view the camera had of the playground and swimming pool complex. In response the Board asked that officers provide a report to the next meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board on the possibility of having the security camera better positioned to provide coverage of the playground and swimming pool complex.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Board member Carew – Leave of Absence Request

6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 11 December 2023 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chase/Long

Carried

7. Tararua District Council Report

7.1 Tararua District Council report

That the report from the Tararua District Council meetings held 20 December 2023 and 31 January 2024 be received.

Barclay/Long

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Leave of Absence Request

Having declared a conflict of interest, Board member Carew took no part in the discussion of this item and did not vote.

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 18 December 2023 that sought a decision from the Board regarding Board member Carew's request for an extended period of leave of absence without pay.

In general, Board members noted that they were happy to have Board member Carew join the meetings remotely, and noted that while overseas Board member Carew had been keeping connected with all the groups he was active in and was

still active in managing projects in the community.

It was noted that the Board did not have the ability to approve leave without pay, nor to force a by-election, and noted the cost of a by-election to fill any extraordinary vacancy was in the vicinity of \$17,000.

Concern was expressed that during campaigning for the 2022 election information should have been made available to voters of Mr Carew's intention to be overseas during a portion of the triennium to enable voters to make their choices fully aware of that intention.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 18 December 2023 concerning the Leave of Absence Request be received.

Barclay/Long

Carried

That the Eketāhuna Community Board decline to grant leave of absence, requiring Mr Carew to either attend Board meetings via audio-visual means should Council be able to make arrangement for equipment to be available for this, or to be absent without leave. This would require an apology to be tendered to each meeting of the Board for consideration by the Board of whether or not to grant leave of absence from each meeting.

Gilmore/Long

Carried

8.2 Updated Code of Conduct for Elected Members

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of Democracy Support Officer dated 1 February 2024 that provided an updated Code of Conduct for adoption.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 01 February 2024 concerning the Updated Code of Conduct for Elected Members be received.

Chase/Long

Carried

That the Eketāhuna Community Board adopt the updated Code of Conduct for Elected Members, as amended by the Tararua District Council at its meeting held 31 January 2024.

Long/Barclay

Carried

8.3 Eketāhuna Community Board - General Assistance Grants Scheme 2024

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 10 January 2024 that sought discussion of advertising the availability of the General Assistance Grants Scheme for 2024 and inviting applications for funding.

It was noted that the Board would assist with communicating the availability of the fund within the community via their networks.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 10 January 2024 concerning the Eketāhuna Community Board - General Assistance Grants Scheme 2024 be received.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board advertises the availability of the General Assistance Grants scheme for 2024 and invites applications for funding.

That the closing date for applications be 18 March 2024.

Carew/Chase

Carried

7.4 Management Report

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of Democracy Support Officer dated 26 January 2024 that provided an update to the Board on key activities and items of interest as reported to the meeting of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held 13 December 2023.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 January 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Long/Barclay

Carried

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

Walk the New Highway event – Board member Carew thanked the organisers and volunteers for making the Walk the New Highway Event a great success.

Eketāhuna Our Town update – Board member Carew provided an update on the committee's last meeting, and noted their meetings for 2024 would start during February. It was asked that minutes from meetings of Eketāhuna Our Town be forwarded to the Manager – Democracy Services for inclusion in the Community Board agenda each month.

Waitangi Day commemoration – Board member Chase thanked Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor Gilmore and Chairperson McGhie for attending the Waitangi celebration. She noted that a small event for Matariki was being planned, and next year an event at Waka Park for Te Tiriti.

9. Correspondence

Nil

10. Discussion items

Waiwaka Bridge widening: it was noted that the request for widening of the Waiwaka Bridge, south of Eketāhuna, had been referred to the Road Safety Committee for discussion.

Upgrading pedestrian crossing in Eketāhuna: it was asked that the Council further a request from the Board to Waka Kotahi to upgrade the pedestrian crossing in Eketāhuna. The Board felt a raised crossing would improve the safety for pedestrians, but also new paint, trimming of the plantings and tidying up signs near the crossing would also help.

Safety of bridge in Bridge Street: the Board advised that the approach to the bridge in Bridge Street was unsafe due to the angle at which the road approached the bridge. There was currently no signage to warn motorists of the sharp angle or the need to reduce speed. The Board asked that improving the safety of the approach to this bridge be considered.

RSA member seeking permission to erect additional flagpole at the War Memorial Hall: permission had been sought to erect an additional flagpole to enable the Australian flag to also be flown at Anzac Day commemorations. It was noted that the cost of erecting the flagpole would be met by an RSA member, in memory of his late wife, and that a commemorative plaque would also be installed. However there was an issue with the type of paving surrounding the flagpoles which needed investigation.

That the Eketāhuna Community Board request permission from the Council for a second flagpole to be erected on the grounds at the War Memorial Hall, noting the costs would be met by a member of the RSA.

Long/Chase

Carried

ANZAC Day arrangements: Board member Carew reported on discussions held regarding arrangements for Anzac Day, noting that no hymn would be used in the service this year. The parade would be via the back road, and Chairperson McGhie was organising marshalls. Tens Transport division would lead the service, and noted that they had a new Warrant Officer who would be attending. Once finalised, the programme would be delivered to the Library prior to Anzac Day.

River Resource Use survey: Her Worship the Mayor noted a consultation exercise currently underway and encouraged Board members to submit. She also spoke about the public meeting being held in Eketāhuna on Tuesday 20 February, to provide information about the draft Urban Growth Strategy that was currently out for consultation. She noted that Council members would be attending, and encouraged Board members to also attend.

11. Chairperson's Remarks

Chairperson McGhie spoke about the Waitangi Day Commemorations held at Waka Park.

12. 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 10:59am.

Chairperson