

MINUTES for a meeting of the Rural-Port Waikato Community Board held in the Onewhero Society of Performing Arts, 14 Hall Road, Onewhero **THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 2023** commencing at **6:30pm**.

Present:

Mr B Cameron (Chairperson)
Ms L Fry (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms R Costar
Cr CA Eyre (*via audio visual conference*)

Attending:

(10) members of the public attended

Ms S O’Gorman (General Manager, Customer Support)
Ms R Leahy (Democracy Advisor)
Mr J Marconi (Economic Development Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Ms Costar/ Ms Fry)

THAT the apologies from **Cr Matatahi-Poutapu** and **Ms Coker-Grey** for non-attendance be accepted.

CARRIED

RPWCB2302/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Mr Cameron/Ms Costar)

THAT the Rural-Port Waikato Community Board:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Rural-Port Waikato Community Board held on Thursday, 30 March 2023 be confirmed, and all items therein be considered in open meeting; and
- b. all reports be received.

CARRIED

RPWCB2303/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The report was received [*RPWCB2303/02 refers*], and the following discussion was held:

- It was noted that Ms Coker-Grey was to set up the Community Facebook page.
- There was an error in Cr Eyre's report on what Bill submission was to be circulated.
- There was a spelling error in the Community Board Member's report.

Resolved: (Ms Fry/ Ms Costar)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Rural-Port Waikato Community Board held on Thursday, 23 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record with the following amendments:

- Item 6.3 – Action to reflect Ms Coker-Grey not Ms Costar to set up Community Board Facebook page;**
- Item 6.8 – Cr Eyre's report - Cr Eyre to send the Community Board submissions on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill.**
- Item 6. 9 – Ms Coker-Grey's report to read - "It was noted that Glen Murray was not badly affected by the cyclone, however, there was a power outage for 12 hours that was difficult to manage."**

CARRIED

RPWCB2303/03

PUBLIC FORUM

Jenny Hayman - Plastics

- A concern was raised about the use of plastics in consumer products and the lack of recyclable packaging.
- A discussion was held around waste minimisation of plastics, recyclables and food waste.

Trish Murray – Food Waste Bins

- A concern was raised that separate food waste bins would not be appropriate for the Rural-Port Waikato area.

Kate Reece – Rural power cuts, roading issues and tree trimming

- Ms Reece discussed rural power cuts in the area. It was noted that Counties Energy was seeking feedback from the community about this issue.
- Discussion was held about legislative changes being put in place to address trees that were causing power cuts.
- A concern was raised that there were still major roading issues in the Rural-Port Waikato area.
- General Manager, Customer Experience discussed the mobile app Antenno, which Council was considering implementing. It was noted that the app would allow users to take a photograph of council issues with GPS coordinates which would then be sent to relevant team to fix.
- A concern was raised that in springtime there was limited visibility on roads. Ms Reece expressed that it was best to use a hedge trimmer rather than a mower to trim trees.

Anne – Working with Council staff

- Commended the work from the staff at Waikato District Alliance, particularly when dealing with the slips after the cyclone.
- It was noted that service requests were being actioned and the communication skills of Council staff with the public had improved.

Slyvia – Council

- Discussed the positive interactions with Council's liquor licensing staff.

Terry – Hearing at Council Meetings

- A concern was raised about the ability of members of the public to be able to hear at Council meetings. It was noted that Council meetings should cater for those with impaired hearing.

Jason Marconi (Economic Development Advisor) – Blueprints

- The Economic Development Advisor discussed Blueprints and connecting to rural communities. He encouraged locals to connect with him when trying to get community-led projects off the ground.

Ann – Community Board projects

Does the Board have any plans for projects in the area? It was noted that the Board would like to better prepare community facilities for civil defence emergencies.

Barbara Knowles – Newsletter communications

- A discussion was held on the local newsletters. It was noted that many members of the community in the Rural-Port Waikato area still do not use Facebook.
- A discussion was held on establishing a North Waikato community website.

REPORTS

Works, Actions and Issues Report

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [RPWCB2303/02 refers], and the following discussion was held:

Lighting at Port Waikato

ACTION: Lighting at Port Waikato to be removed from Works, Actions and Issues Report.

Onewhero Area School Road Safety Plan

- It was noted that the issue was not just in relation to speed restrictions. Cr Eyre had followed up about the issue but had not yet received an update.
- Council staff were looking at creating a new budget for road safety in the Long-Term Plan.
- A concern was raised about the time it has taken to action the item. It was noted that the staff member who had been working on the plan had since left Council and the information was lost.

ACTION: Cr Eyre and General Manager, Customer Experience to follow up about the Road Safety Plan with General Manager, Service Delivery and Roading Manager.

Onewhero Drains

- A concern was raised about the time it takes to clear the drains.

ACTION: Cr Eyre to put in service request to clear the Onewhero Society of Performing Arts drain.

Community Pools Cleaning Chemicals

- It was noted that a blanket resolution for community pool cleaning chemicals was acceptable. A list of community pools and how much funding they need is required to commit the funds.

ACTION: Ms Costar to contact the Community Pool groups and ask if they require funding for pool cleaning chemicals.

Watercare Maintenance Plan

- A concern was raised about the plan and lack of timeframe for the works to be completed.

ACTION: Watercare to provide timeframes for the maintenance plan to the Community Board.

Underground Assets

- Information on this was provided in the Works, Actions and Issues report.

ACTION: Underground Assets to be removed from Works, Actions and Issues report.

Community Board Maps

- It was noted that draft maps were circulated to Councillors and amendments to the maps were being made. There was no timeframe for when the maps would be complete.

Location and venues for Board meetings

ACTION: Locations for meetings to be removed from Works, Actions and Issues report.

Roading Issues

- It was noted that the Community Board would like to engage more with Council on what roads should be prioritised for fixing and maintaining.

ACTION: General Manager, Customer Experience to advise Communications and Roothing Team to update the Community Board when considering road closures.

ACTION: General Manager, Customer Experience to find out how roads are prioritised on the work schedule and what the criteria is for fixing damaged roads caused by the Cyclone.

ACTION: General Manager, Customer Experience to find out what slips and road damage in the Community Board area were on the list to be fixed.

Community Board Facebook Page

- It was noted that a Community Board Facebook page had been created.

ACTION: Community Board Facebook Page to be removed from Works, Actions and Issues report.

Port Waikato Waikaretu Road Safety Concern

- A concern was raised about the safety of Waikaretu Road, there was currently single lane access. In an area called 'Pats Colvette' there had been two motor vehicle accidents due to mud on the road.

ACTION: Cr Eyre to follow up this matter.

Abandoned vehicle in waterway

- A concern was raised about an abandoned vehicle in a waterway. There was discussion on how long it takes for an abandoned vehicle to be removed. It was noted that there is a process that must be followed. If the vehicle is in a waterway it may be the responsibility of Regional Council.

ACTION: General Manager, Service Delivery to investigate if it is a regional or district council responsibility

Discretionary Fund Report

Agenda Item 6.5

The report received [RPWCB2303/02 refers], and the following discussion was held:

- A discussion was held on the Community Pool Cleaning Chemicals. The Board agreed to put the November 2021 commitment back into the Discretionary Fund.

Application 1: Te Kohanga Football Club

- A discussion was held about the Te Kohanga Football Club. It was noted that the Funding Representative had been unable to contact the applicant.
- A concern was raised about the quality of the products they were looking to purchase. The Board would like to support the Club; however, they would like to see the money used for higher quality equipment that would last.
- The Board agreed to defer a decision on the application until the next meeting.

Application 2: Onewhero Society of Performing Arts

- Ms Devlin attended the meeting and spoke to the Board about the application. It was noted that the Onewhero Society of Performing Arts building had become a meeting place for community engagement events and the facilities are made available to the community.
- As part of the liquor licence food was required and the fridge and freezer would be used meet this requirement.
- The Board agreed to fund the full amount to the Onewhero Society of Performing Arts.

Resolved: (Mr Cameron/ Ms Fry)

That the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:

- a. receives the Discretionary Fund Report to 14 March 2023;**
- b. agrees to move the \$2608.70 committed for pool chemicals back into the Discretionary Fund;**
- c. agrees to defer the Te Kohanga Rugby Football Club application until the next meeting on 11 May 2023;**
- d. approves a payment of \$2,500 (excluding GST) to the Onewhero Society of Performing Arts towards a replacement fridge and freezer.**

CARRIED

RPWCB2303/04

Waikato District Council Executive Update

Agenda Item 6.6

The General Manager, Customer Support provided a verbal update on Council and the following points were noted:

- A contingent of staff would be working on the post-cyclone recovery effort for the next six(6) months.
- A discussion was held around the Annual Plan. It was noted that the draft Annual Plan was going to Council on Wednesday, 5 April 2023.
- Council had met with Antenno to discuss their software and upgrading the Service Request System.
- It was noted that the Customer Portal system had been recently updated to be more user friendly.

Chairperson's Report

Agenda Item 6.7

The Chairperson provided a verbal report, and the following points were noted:

- Chairperson noted that it was a welcoming environment in Council now.
- A discussion was held on the lack of ongoing maintenance on the roading network and the Road to Zero road safety policy.

Councillors' Report

Agenda Item 6.8

Cr Eyre provided a verbal report, and the following points were noted:

- Cr Eyre encouraged the Community Board to contribute to the workshops and discussion at Council.
- A discussion was held on the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund. It was noted that a subcommittee was set up to manage the funding applications. There were currently not enough applications to spend all the money.
- A decision would need to be made about funding remaining applications.
- A discussion was held on the Rural Advisory Panel. It was noted that this panel would help inform council on the economic and social wellbeing of the district.
- It was noted that the proposed Cemetery Bylaw is out for consultation that closes on Sunday, 16 April.

Community Board Members' Report

Agenda Item 6.9

Ms Costar provided a verbal update, and the following points were noted:

- It was noted that the Community Board put in a submission on the Public Places Bylaw.
- A concern was raised about the maintenance of the Onewhero Rugby Club goal posts. The posts had been removed by Council for maintenance, but staff had failed to advise the club of this and the Club thought they had been stolen.
- A concern was raised about safety barriers on rural roads and whether they were appropriate for some areas. It was noted that Cr Eyre had requested evidence from the Roading Manager about the decision and criteria on road safety barriers on rural roads.

ACTION: Cr Eyre to update the Board at the next meeting about road safety barriers.

Ms Fry provided a verbal update, and the following points were noted:

- Ms Fry advised the Board that the community in Port Waikato was still in recovery mode. It was noted that the Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan would be updated.
- A discussion was held on the Erosion Committee. It was noted that there would be changes to the Committee in the near future.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:12pm.

Minutes approved and confirmed this 11th day of May 2023.

B Cameron
CHAIRPERSON