
Minutes for a meeting of the Rural Port Waikato Community Board held in the Opuatia Community Hall, 21 Otuiti Road, Opuatia on **THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2023** commencing at **6.33pm**.

Present:

Mr B Cameron (Chairperson)
Ms L Fry (Chairperson)
Ms R Costar
Cr CA Eyre

Attending:

Mr R MacCulloch (General Manager Customer Support)
Mrs L Wainwright (Democracy Advisor)

Ms N Smith (Opuatia Community Group)
7 members of the public

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Cr Eyre/Mrs Costar)

THAT the apologies from Ms F Coker-Grey and Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu be received.

CARRIED

RPWCB2309/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Fry)

THAT the agenda for the meeting of the Rural Port Waikato Community Board held on Thursday, 14 September 2023 be confirmed:

- a. and all items therein be considered in open meeting; and
- b. all reports be received.

CARRIED

RPWCB2309/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Ms Fry/Mrs Costar)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Rural Port Waikato Community Board held on Thursday, 3 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

RPWCB2309/03

PUBLIC FORUM

The following issues were discussed:

- Some road signs in the district had been graffitied along with others being cut down. It was recommended that a request be sent into Council on the matter.

ACTION: Cr Eyre to put Council's link to "Request It" on the Pukekawa facebook page to enable the community to report issues.

- A black double cab Toyota ute, with no canopy, had been seen at the Glen Murray Hall digging up the grounds. It was recommended that if further incidents occurred in the district, the number plate be taken and the incident reported to the Police.
- Community work had been carried out on the Opuatia Hall and it was noted that the hall was in good condition. Next step for the community was maintenance on the exterior of the hall and grounds. The community were encouraged to apply for funding to enable painting of the exterior of the hall.
- Improvements were required on the tennis court surface. A concept design had been completed and quotations were being sourced.
- Hampton Downs Landfill. A public meeting had been held in Pukekawa to discuss the matter. It was noted that there were problems with odour, lighting and noise from the landfill. Residents would put in a submission to Waikato Regional Council.

REPORTS

Works, Actions & Issues Report Status of Items August 2023

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*RPWCB2309/02 refers*] and discussion was held on the following items:

Te Kohanga Football Club

- No further work on the grounds had occurred. The Economic Development Advisor had given the Club guidance on how to apply for further funding.

ACTION: This item to be closed and removed from the schedule.

Discretionary Fund Guidelines

- The Board would hold a workshop to setup discretionary fund guidelines. Funding from the Board was public money and due diligence and accountability must be carried out.
- It was recommended that accountability forms would be required by the Board. When the Board grants funding to groups, it was recommended that this be noted on the Board's facebook page also advising that the funding had come out of the targeted rate. This would enable the community to see their money being used in a positive way.

ACTION: This item to remain on the schedule.

Port Waikato Stormwater Systems

- A public meeting was held at Port Waikato on Saturday, 5 August 2023. The meeting was to inform the community on decisions and implications on the managed retreat at Port Waikato. Waikato Regional Council had been asked to set up a joint management group with Waikato District Council to work through the process. Regional Council's decision was pending.

ACTION: This item to remain on the schedule.

Signage for visitors/local history

- No further updates.

ACTION: This item to be closed and removed from the schedule.

Sunset Beach Toilet Block

- Communication had been held with the Port Waikato community on the best solution for the toilet block. The community favoured refurbishing the toilets versus replacing. A holding tank for blackwater would be used and pumped out on a regular basis. Consent would be required.

Onewhero Area School Road Safety Improvements

- It was noted some inaccuracies in the consultant's report and that discussions had not been held with the principal on the Onewhero Area School Road Safety Improvements issue.
- A near miss incident had occurred recently where a student had nearly been hit by a car outside the school. The crossing was not manned due to staff shortages at the school. The NZ Police were currently training students at the school to be the next year's crossing monitors.

ACTION: Staff to hold further discussions with the school principal and Mrs Costar on this matter with a view to remedying the situation.

Discretionary Fund Report to 24 August 2023

Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [RPWCB2309/02 refers] and no discussion was held.

Discretionary Fund Applications

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [RPWCB2309/02 refers] and discussion was held on the following items:

Glen Murray Community

ACTION: This item to be considered at the Rural Port Waikato Community Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, 26 October 2023 at the Wairamarama Hall.

Naike Community Centre

ACTION: This item to be considered at the Rural Port Waikato Community Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, 26 October 2023 at the Wairamarama Hall.

Opuatia Community Group

- Opuatia Community Group to source a further quotation for the basketball hoop before reapplying to the Board for funding.

Resolved: (Ms Fry/Mrs Costar)

THAT the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:

- a. **approves an allocation of \$1,908.77 (plus GST) from their Discretionary Funding account to:**
 - i. **Opuatia Community Group,**
 - ii. **purchase 6 x trestle tables, and 1 foldup table.**

CARRIED

RPWCB2309/04

Opuatia Community Group

- Ms Smith outlined the application.

Resolved: (Mr Cameron/Mrs Costar)

THAT the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:

- a. **declines an allocation of \$309.89 (plus GST) from their Discretionary Funding account to:**
 - iii. **Opuatia Community Group,**
 - iv. **purchase food for a community fundraiser.**

CARRIED

RPWCB2309/05

Waikato District Council Executive Update

Agenda Item 6.7

Verbal reports were received on the following matters:

- A representative from Waka Kotahi had driven the Waikato district road network with Council staff and noted any defects/storm damage that had occurred. There was a backlog of work being carried out following Cyclone Gabrielle as contractors were hard to get.
- Council had been advised to prepare a business case to Waka Kotahi for funding. To date, funding applications from Councils exceeded funds held in the pool. Discussions with Waka Kotahi would be ongoing.
- Waka Kotahi advised that Waikato district roading conditions were above average compared to the rest of the country.

Chairperson's Report

Agenda Item 6.8

A verbal report was received on the following matters:

- LTP meetings would be held in October 2023.
- Reflective chevron signs on corners were too reflective and were a safety hazard when it was raining. It was noted that the signs meet national standards.

Councillor's Reports

Agenda Item 6.9

A verbal report was received on the following matters:

- The LTP process was in place to set budgets for Council. Focus was required on strategic goals that align with Council's vision of Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities. Councillors had identified infrastructure as a priority.
- Freedom camping bylaw deliberations would be held on Monday, 16 October 2023.
- Increased engagement in the rural sector. Discussions with primary industry sector groups had been held and the Rural Economic Advisory Panel had been set up. One of the topics would include "how the Waikato district could partner with the food and fibre industry".

Community Board Members' Reports

Agenda Item 6.10

Verbal reports were received on the following matters:

- EQC had not yet contacted residents of red stickered homes in Port Waikato.
- The Te Kohanga playground was fully fenced with a locked gate which meant that the community could not access the playground.

ACTION: Staff to report on how the community can access the playground.

- Drainage work was occurring on the Port Waikato Road. However, there was still a lot of surface water on the roads, even on fine days.
- Rural road drains were not being maintained in the district and were filled with agapanthus, silt, rubbish and noxious weeds. This caused flooding on some rural roads.
- A submission from the Rural Port Waikato Community Board had been made to Council on freedom camping. A community survey was held in the Onewhero area with 60% supporting, 28% not supporting and 12% having no comment on freedom camping. It was noted that the 28% of people who did not support freedom camping, always turned up to support the cleanup of rubbish that freedom campers had left behind.
- The Onewhero Rugby Club had been broken into at times and had to absorb a lot of cost when it came to removal of rubbish from freedom campers.
- Street signs and mailboxes were being trashed in the rural community and it was noted that a chainsaw was now being used to cut off posts that held mailboxes and street signs.
- Boy racers had trashed the rugby grounds at Onewhero. An important game had to be played on another field due to the damage.
- There had been concern raised on facebook about the Ponganui and Allen & Eyres Road bridge closure being carried out from Monday, 9 October to Friday, 20 October 2023. This would mean a long journey for the school bus. Significant rehabilitation work was required on the bridge and a pedestrian bridge would be put in place to ease the students' journey. There would possibly be power outages to the community. The possibility of installing a generator was being considered.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.18pm.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

B Cameron
CHAIRPERSON