

MINUTES of a meeting of the Ngaruawahia Community Board held in the Committee Rooms 1 & 2, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY, 9 MAY 2023** commencing at **6.00pm**

Present:

Ms K Morgan (Chairperson)
Mr J Ayers
Ms D Firth
Cr E Patterson
Ms V Rice
Cr T Turner
Mr G Wiechern

Attending:

Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church – *from 6.18pm until 6.48pm*
Mr K Abbot (Projects & Innovation Manager) – from
Sergeant H Martin (NZ Police – Ngaruawahia)

Ms E Saunders (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Greg/Dianne)

THAT an apology for:

- a. non-attendance from Ms K Hooker be accepted; and
- b. lateness from Mr K Abbot be accepted.

CARRIED

NCB2305/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Patterson/Venessa)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Ngaruawahia Community Board held on Tuesday, 9 May 2023 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting; and
- b. all reports be received.

CARRIED

NCB2305/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Greg/Jack)

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Ngaruawahia Community Board held on Tuesday, 28 March 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

NCB2305/03

PUBLIC FORUM

Agenda Item 5

The following items were discussed at the public forum:

Community Police Update:

- Sergeant Hayden Martin from NZ Police – Ngaruawahia Station attended and gave a brief update on the policing activities in Ngaruawahia.
- Burglary Statistics have risen in Ngaruawahia but it was noted that 10% of criminals will be responsible for 90% of the crime. Police are actively working to do their best to reduce this.

- A question was raised from Cr Patterson around the issues with motorbike riders around the community. Sergeant Martin advised that Police are aware this is a concern in the community and they have had a few engagement evenings with communities in Taupiri and Hopuhopu. NZ Police are hampered by safety and policy but bikes are taken from offenders if they are caught riding dangerously and they are impounding bikes when they can. It is an issue that is definitely on the Police radar and there is an active response to this.
- A question was raised around the Ngaruawahia Police Station and how often it is manned by staff. The hours that the station are manned are Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm. There are rare occasions that it is not manned during this time due to staff breaks or appointments but there is an effort to ensure this on an exception basis.

Severe Incidents in the Community – Support Available:

- A question was raised around serious and traumatic events that happen in the community – particularly those events that result in a fatality. Is there anything that the Board can do to facilitate support for affected parties in these events or a support network that they can point the community towards?
- It was noted by Police that this all depends on the privacy of those affected and what affected whaanau want in terms of support. It was acknowledged that there was room for Police to improve in this space with the aftermath of accidents and keeping community updated and informed, however first and foremost the job needed to be done.
- What support network is there for the community members and businesses that may experience trauma or need assistance when a traumatic accident occurs? Is there anything in place when businesses have to close for the day or when staff witness something that affects them? Could a support network be created for these types of events to ensure all parties affected have the support they need?
- Is there a Victim Support for Business Owners when a traumatic event occurs or something effects them? It would be great to investigate this further to see if there is something that can be done or if there is already things in place that can be accessed.
- Camera Trust: Police were grateful for the access they have to the cameras around town that could assist with any incidents that occurred. It was acknowledged though that there needed to be more thought at a higher level about cameras moving forward. Cameras should not be owned by Police to ensure transparency and that the community understand that “Big Brother is not watching”. Council owns the hardware and Police can access when required.

Bridge Jumping – Ngaruawahia Train Bridge:

- The Mayor raised a question in regards to children still jumping off the car & train bridges over the Waikato River during the summer. It was noted that this still seems to be an issue and wanted to know if there is anything that is actively being done in this space? Is this something that Council could discuss further with Kiwirail and NZ Police?
- It was noted that the Board had been looking at this issue for some years now and different options were explored including safety educational events for school age children at the Point with all different parties (Police, Roding, Fire Service, NZ Water Safety etc.) in attendance. Different schools would bring students down to the point for either a morning or afternoon session and it was extremely beneficial.
- The Board had also been subsidising the entry fee into the town pools for the last 2-3 years to try and entice the community to utilise the community pools so the Board have been very proactive in this space to look at solutions for safe swimming.
- Different solutions and possibilities were discussed at length by the Board and Sergeant Martin along with concerns around liability should any injuries occur. Kiwirail are still undertaking school visits with children and had been proactive in that area.
- A question was raised around cameras in the area and if Police could see who is jumping and if so, do they actively follow up with those whaanau to have conversations? A further question was raised around Council and whether they have the capacity or the risk appetite to look at solutions for jumping into the river for community members? As Ngaruawahia, Taupiri and Hopuhopu are going through a structure plan it might be a good time to address this issue?

REPORTS

Discretionary Fund Report Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*NCB2305/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

- The Chairperson met with Finance to go over the Discretionary Funding report and to get more clarification around the payments and commitments and how the report reads.
- Ms Rice is going to go over the camera licencing trust invoices to see what is outstanding and what has been paid to date from finance.
- The Chairperson and Ms Rice would have another meeting with Finance to go over the Discretionary Funding report to see what invoices have been paid to date and to clarify further what a commitment is vs payment made.
- The Chairperson provided the Board with an update on the Discretionary Funding training that the funding representatives from all boards attended and what the process was going to be moving forward.

ACTION: Democracy Advisor to follow up with Finance to check payments for NCB2202/03 (Anzac Flags) and NCB2206/05 (Matariki Festival – Te Whare Toi O Ngaruawahia) to confirm if payment has been made.

Discretionary Fund Applications
Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [*NCB2305/02 refers*] and discussion was held.

- There was no representative from the Graham Dingle Trust in attendance to speak further to the application.
- The Board had a few questions about the application in respect of which schools would be benefiting from this programme? Is it just one school in Ngaruawahia or all schools?
- What are the benefits of this programme? Hard to see on the application what the benefits to the community will be.
- Accountability Form from the last funding application Graham Dingle received has not yet been received by the Board or Council.
- It was determined that it was hard to make a decision on this application without the applicant being here to answer the further questions the Board have. It was decided to defer the application until the next Board workshop which is taking place at the end of the month and to invite the applicant to be present.

ACTION: Funding Representative (The Chairperson) is to contact the applicant and invite them to attend the next Community Board workshop to allow the Board to seek further information and get clarity on the benefits that this application will have to the wider community.

Resolved: (Cr Patterson/Cr Turner)

THAT the Ngāruawāhia Community Board:

Defer the application for funding from Graham Dingle Foundation until the next Community Board workshop with the applicant being invited to attend to answer further questions and provide information for the Board.

CARRIED

NCB2305/04

Ngaruawahia Works, Actions & Issues Report: Status of Items March 2023
Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [*NCB2305/02 refers*] and discussion was held. It was advised that all the projects on this report have Project Managers allocated.

Street Naming:

- A Street Naming workshop needed to be had to get more names on the list. Who should attend this workshop from the community? Is this something we could put out on social media to the community to invite everyone to attend or submit their ideas?
- It was noted that if the Board go out to the wider community it could create more work and raise more questions. The Roding team are meeting in May 2023 with the Community Board to get the process rolling and to organise a workshop to get more names on the list.

Point Public Toilet:

- No further update provided.

Infrastructure Acceleration Fund:

- Cr Patterson, the Growth & Analytics Manager & Mr Wiechern met with the Project Manager and he will re-engage with the Board once the detailed designs and initial iwi engagement are completed. The Board could look at doing a workshop with the project manager once this was done. It was noted that this would hopefully be done by the end of the month.
- A brief discussion was had around the housing on Galbraith Street – was there any further update on this? It was noted that there is no further update at this time but the Board noticed that the housing that has been built to date does not appear to be popular – a duplex has been on the market for some time now.

Ngaruawahia War Memorial Hall:

- No further update provided.

Sportsfield Lighting – Paterson Park:

- It was noted that it was good to see progress in this space.
- The field lines have been marked at Paterson Park.

Ngaruawahia Aquatic Centre:

- No further update provided.

Panthers League Ground Carpark:

- No further update provided.

Perry Bridge Lighting – Power System Replacement:

- This has been a long process and has been in our system for a few years now. Is this a Community Board issue or something that should be left with Perry's to follow up? There have been gains made in this space and Cr Patterson will give some feedback at the next Community Board workshop.

Street Lights – Service Requests raised for lights out:

- There are lights out down the main street, by the Kingitanga Reserve and outside the Delta Tavern. Accountability and Levels of Service need to be followed up on so this needs to be added to the Works & Issues Report moving forward so the Board can monitor progress.

Galbraith Kindergarten:

- Traffic calming has been done on Herschel Street in the last few months to a year. Works were undertaken but traffic issues are still ongoing. The Arts Centre across the road and the new Anexa Vets also across the road has increased the traffic volume.

Civil Defence:

- Civil Defence Staff to consider holding a workshop for Community Boards to discuss local emergency management plans and establish an emergency management template that can be utilised by all community boards across the district.

ACTION: Street Light Maintenance and outstanding Service Requests raised to be inputted into the Works & Issues Report moving forward. There have been service requests raised by members of the community but lights are still not working.

ACTION: Galbraith Kindergarten traffic issue to be added to the Works & Issues Report moving forward.

Early Engagement Feedback for the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023

Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*NCB2305/02 refers*] and discussion was held. Mr Wiechern presented a Freedom Camping Report to the Board for consideration and discussion.

Mr Wiechern Presentation/Bylaw Discussion:

- Mr Wiechern gave a brief overview of the report he submitted to the Board and in particular wanted to highlight what other Councils around the country are doing to support and promote Freedom Camping in their communities.

- Mr Wiechern outlined the benefits of supporting Freedom Camping including the costs of Camp Grounds being rather expensive at the moment along with other accommodation options. Freedom Camping is becoming a more popular option for travellers.
- It was noted that the costs of freedom camping to ratepayers is very minimal (small environmental footprint with waste/recycling) but the benefits to ratepayers by supporting Freedom Camping is having campers spend money in the local businesses (food/laundry/fuel etc.) which would be an economic plus.
- It was noted that there are over 60,000 members NZ wide of the NZ Motor Caravan Association. There are more people that are going with the Freedom Camping route and could be widely supported in Ngaruawahia.
- The Board thanked Mr Wiechern for his report and are happy for him to provide feedback on the Bylaw on behalf of the Ngaruawahia Community Board.
- Mr Abbot confirmed what the Freedom Camping Bylaw is specifically looking at. It is not looking at economic benefits or requesting support from the community but reviewing and creating restricted and prohibited areas that are in alignment with the relevant legislation in the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
- Mr Wiechern confirmed that he will provide the feedback and submission on behalf of the Ngaruawahia Community Board to Council.

Resolved: (Ms K Morgan/Cr Turner)

THAT the Ngaruawahia Community Board notes the early engagement feedback for the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023 is due on Friday, 19 May 2023.

CARRIED

NCB2305/05

Chairperson's Report

Agenda Item 6.5

The Chairperson gave a verbal report on the following items:

- The Chairperson has attended a lot of workshops and engagement meetings at Council over the last few weeks which has been informative and interesting. It has been great to be able to sit at the table and have these interactions with not only Elected Members but Council Staff.
- The Chairperson attend the Growth Projections Workshop and it was noted that the statistics provided were based on a Waikato University Report rather than the Census statistics. The Census statistics would not be available for another year at least. The growth figures for Ngaruawahia looked very good particularly over the next 10 years.

- It was noted that the growth statistics were based on land use and zoning of land in the communities and Ngaruawahia is roughly projected to have growth to 10,000 residents by 2050.
- The Chairperson attended the Strategic Priority Setting Workshops (x3) in the Council Chambers it was another good opportunity to get an understanding of what is also happening in other communities in the Waikato District.
- Council representatives attended the tangi of Pokaia Nepia last week and whilst it was good to see Council representatives in attendance to express their thanks and appreciation for all the work that Mr Nepia has undertaken for Council it was also noted that next time it would be great to extend the invitation to the Ngaruawahia Community Board if they wish to attend tangi with Council.
- It was confirmed that the next Ngaruawahia Community Board out of cycle workshop is scheduled for 30 May.

Councillor's Reports

Agenda Item 6.6

A written report from Cr T Turner was received [NCB2305/02 refers] and further discussion was held as follows:

- Cr Turner provided a written report which outlined all the meetings, workshops, community events and other hui that she has attended over the last 6 weeks.
- Now that Cr inductions are slowing down hopefully would not be so many appointments to attend.
- Cr Turner expressed her thanks to both Cr Patterson and Cr Gibb for showing guidance and support as she navigates this new role within Council.
- The mana whenua forum is still being worked on by Cr Turner and it was noted that whilst some marae seem hesitant she is still working on the engagement with marae to ensure there is trust in the process. Cr Turner and Cr Matatahi-Poutapu are working on this in tandem in their respective areas.
- The Chairperson acknowledged the awesome work that Cr Turner had done not only as a new Councillor but being a Councillor in a new Maaori ward. Cr Turner is really driving the role forward and is navigating this new space well.

Verbal Update from Cr Patterson:

- Cr Patterson advised that it has been a very busy time in Council and also acknowledged all the hard work Cr Turner is doing in her space.
- Cr Turner and Cr Patterson have been working on templates for papakainga housing and the process around that.
- It was noted that it was great to see the Waipa Tavern is finally demolished. Cr Patterson will hopefully have a better understanding as to the next steps for this space soon.
- Cr Patterson and Cr Turner have been attending meetings with the Whatawhata Community and noted that the new community hall opens at the end of the month which is a fantastic facility the community will really enjoy.
- It was noted that with all the different workshops and meetings that have been happening at Council it has been good to see the Ngaruawahia Community representatives there and having a voice in that space.
- It was confirmed that a press release went out regarding the rate increases that are rolling out in July 2023. Both Councillors have been having conversations with community members who have raised concerns or issues and have been transparent in those discussions. The engagement and communications from Council could have been much better in this space and would enable Board members to be fully equipped to deal with any queries coming from community members.

Community Board Members' Report

Agenda Item 6.7

Members provided a verbal report on the following issues:

- Mr Ayers gave the Board an update with the Daffodil planting that is coming up. Planning for planting will be underway when the weather improves. He is looking to see whether Horotiu want some more bulbs and where they will go in that Community. Mr Ayers advised that they have roughly 4,000 bulbs so they are just figuring out where they are going to go and Mr Ayers will keep the Board updated.
- Photos of the Waipa Esplanade Walking Track were circulated to the Board by Mr Ayers prior the meeting. It was noted that part of the track had subsided and was filled with rocks which looks terrible. The track is still needing to be fixed but it has been over a month now. There needs to be an update given to the Board with where things are at with the track. – Mr Abbot confirmed that it is still fenced off and is not to be accessed whilst it's being repaired. Mr Abbot will confirm with Communications that signage is still in place.

- Mr Wiechern and Ms Firth have the reference group meeting this Thursday evening. The Chairperson reminded the Board of the Councillor and Community Board Catch Up meeting upcoming up on the 17 May at 3.30pm. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are also attending the Charing effective meetings workshop on the 21 May in the Council Chambers.
- Congratulations from the Board to Cr Gibb who is now the President of Business and Professional Women NZ for the next two years – amazing effort!
- It was noted that Anzac Day went really well for the community and it was fantastic to see a large contingent of community members out in force to pay tribute.

ACTION: Waipa Esplanade Walking Track – Item to be added to the Works & Issues Report and Mr Abbot to follow up with the Communications Team to see about signage for the area that is currently fenced off.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.26PM.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

Ms K Morgan
CHAIRPERSON