
MINUTES of a meeting of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee held at St John's Ambulance Rooms, 4 Baird Avenue, Te Kauwhata on **WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2023** at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Mr J Cunningham (Chair)
Mr T Hinton
Ms A van de Munckhof
Ms C Howells
Ms J Gurnell
Ms L Tupuhi
Mr I Wrigley
Cr Marlene Raumati

Apologies:

Ms E Jonathan
Mr J Lyons
Ms Ae Theron
Ms W Totorewa

Staff attending:

Mr VI Ramduny (Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Manager, Waikato District Council)

I. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Mr J Cunningham/Mr T Hinton)

THAT the Te Kauwhata Community Committee accept apologies for:

- a. non attendance from Ms E Jonathan, Mr J Lyons, Ms A Theron and Whitney

CARRIED

TKCC2309/1

2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Mr T Hinton /Mr J Cunningham)

THAT the agenda for the meeting of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee held on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 be confirmed:

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

CARRIED

TKCC2309/2

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

- Tim Hinton (as per disclosure of interest form)
- Cr Marlene Raumati noted that her former husband, Haydn Solomon, was present at the meeting as a member of the public.
- Cr Marlene Raumati also disclosed that she is also of Mana Whenua descent.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Mr J Cunningham/Mr I Wrigley)

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee, held on Wednesday, 2 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

TKCC2309/3

5. PUBLIC FORUM

The following items were discussed under Public Forum:

- Jenny Kelly spoke about literature resources relating to the area’s local history and advocated for the Te Kauwhata Historical Museum society to hold a special general meeting to resolve issues around the museum not being opened.
- Cr Noel Smith of the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) spoke about the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the Whangamarino Wetland and clarified that it is not WRC but Fish and Game who needed to have responded to the death of fauna in the wetland. He indicated that a plan was being put together with the assistance of WRC to deal with future such events. He also indicated that WRC was establishing sub-committees to oversee waterways. In response to a question from Liz Tupuhi about mana whenua representation on these sub-committees he indicated that this matter is being pursued through Waikato-Tainui. Cr Raumati suggested that Cr Smith reach out to Jaedyn Falwasser, Waikato-Tainui’s Taiao Manager, for further guidance on this matter.
- Paul Murray spoke about the Para Kore relationship with schools to resolve the food waste into landfills issue through hot composting and involving more environmentally friendly means without contributing to carbon emissions. There is a plan to install a 4 box unit at Te Kauwhata Primary School, which will have public access. Cr Raumati suggested that Mr. Murray get in touch with Council’s Solid Waste Team Leader, Phil Ellis, to see how there could be mutual benefit from the work he is doing.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Discretionary Fund Report

Discussion:

- It was noted that the following sentence at the top of page 14 in Council’s Support Accountant’s report may be an error and would need to be removed “*Commitments from Committee Meeting Minutes and Other Information*”. It was also noted that, with the Committee now approving the minutes of the meeting of 2 August 2023, the resolution to uncommit the \$5,000 for the security cameras and re-allocate it back to the Discretionary Fund can now be actioned by Council.

- With regards to the North Waikato Development Fund Support Accountant's report, staff were requested to clarify if the income interest earned (\$40,6222.38) was included in the carry forward total from 2021/2022 and if the net funding remaining amount (\$88,894.22) was correct.

ACTION: The Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Manager to follow up on the above matters with the Council Support Accountant, Ms J Schimanski

Resolved: (Mr T Hinton/Mr I Wrigley)

THAT the Te Kauwhata Community Committee:

- a. **Receives the Discretionary Fund report on the presumption that staff will follow up with Council's Finance team on the queries as per the discussion below.**

CARRIED

TKCC2309/4

6.2. Te Kauwhata Works and Issues Report

The report was received [TKCC2309/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

Discussion:

- It was suggested that staff clarify the costs (amount spent) on the Saleyard Road walkway project, particularly the breakdown of the \$50,000 previously spent.
- It was noted that the cleanup of the walkway has been completed and that this will be paid for by Council from their operational budget.
- There was discussion about the intent of the Community Identity Strategy and whether there is a risk about creating community expectations through projects that may be identified for which there is no funding. It was suggested that the project managers (Courtney Howells and Estelle Jonathan) relook at the project narrative contained in the Works and Issues report to ascertain if this is indeed what the community wants – for example 'shaping regional strategy'.

6.3 Upper Northern Waikato Railway Station Indicative Business Case

The report was received [TKCC2309/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

Discussion:

- Vishal Ramduny presented the report and indicated that the Council, on 28 August 2023, endorsed an Indicative Business Case (IBC). The IBC recommends the provision of a railway station in Tūākau within three to five years. The IBC, put together in association with Waikato Regional Council and KiwiRail, also suggests that a railway station could be provided in Pōkeno within the same timeframe. For those a bit further south, the IBC does not rule out a station in Te Kauwhata within six or more years after a station is built in Tuakau and/or Pokeno.
- Vishal emphasized that whilst the endorsement of the IBC is welcomed, we must not get ahead of ourselves. The IBC is just a step in the process. It is not a guarantee of funding approval. The next step is for a Detailed Business Case to be carried out and this is subject to funding from both Council and Waka Kotahi (which is something that Council will be considering through the deliberations for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan process).
- The DBC would also need to analyze time-saving measures for the Hamilton-Auckland Te Huia train service.
- The DBC will go further into the case for funding and delve into the confirmation of the costs and benefits of having more than one station in the northern Waikato, as well as investigating platform layout and the staging of delivery.
- All these are subject to a decision being made on the continuation of Te Huia before the trial period ends in June 2024 as well as the development of a strategic case for inter-regional rail between Auckland and the Waikato. Any future station construction will be subject to government funding and the priorities of the government of the day.
- The Committee suggested that a commuter bus that connects TK with the train would be useful. The bus could connect to rail at Pokeno or Drury.

6.4 Councillor's report

The report was received [TKCC2309/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

Discussion:

- Cr Marlene Raumati's report was taken as read.

