

**MINUTES** for a meeting of the Ngāruawāhia Community Board held in the Committee Rooms 1 & 2, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaaruawaahia on **TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024** commencing at **6.00pm**

**Present:**

Ms K Morgan (Chairperson)  
Mr J Ayers  
Mrs D Firth  
Mrs K Hooker – *from 6.45pm*  
Cr E Patterson – *from 6.27pm*  
Ms V Rice  
Cr T Turner  
Mr G Wiechern

**Attending:**

Mr K Abbot (Executive Manager, Projects & Innovation)  
Mrs A Ramsay (Ngaruawahia RSA)  
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

Mrs C Clark (Member of the Public)

*The meeting was opened with a karakia.*

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Agenda Item 1

**Resolved: (Ms Morgan/Cr Turner)**

**THAT the Ngāruawāhia Community Board accept the apologies from:**

- a. **Mrs K Hooker and Cr Eugene Patterson for lateness.**

**CARRIED**

**NCB2402/01**

**CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS**

Agenda Item 2

**Resolved: (Ms Morgan/Mrs Firth)**

**THAT the agenda and supplementary agenda for a meeting of the Ngāruawāhia Community Board held on Tuesday, 20 February 2024 be confirmed:**

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting; and**
- b. that all reports be received; and**
- c. that the supplementary agenda item be discussed after the Discretionary Fund Report at item 6.**

**CARRIED**

**NCB2402/02**

**DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Agenda Item 3

Ms V Rice declared a non-financial interest in the application for funding from the Ngaruawahia RSA noting her membership of the Committee of the Ngaruawahia RSA.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Agenda Item 4

**Resolved: (Ms Morgan/Cr Turner)**

**THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Ngāruawāhia Community Board held on Tuesday, 5 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**NCB2402/03**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Agenda Item 5

The following matters were discussed at the public forum:

- Ms C Clark (Resident of Horotiu) addressed the Board in relation to her concerns about the traffic on Horotiu Bridge Road and the effect it is having with turning into Kernott Road.

- The new raised pedestrian & traffic lights outside Horotiu School had seen some improvement with speeding cars along the road however for cars making a right hand turn into Kernott Road the traffic remains problematic.
- There is no turning bay into Kernott Road (from Horotiu Bridge Road) for cars to turn into the road safely so drivers are forced to sit in the middle of the road whilst they are waiting to turn – this is causing the drivers who are caught behind right turning traffic to be irritable and some drivers have become abusive and are undertaking dangerous overtaking manoeuvres to get past which is an accident waiting to happen.
- It was noted by the Chair that whilst no action can be taken tonight the Board will see what steps can be taken and have discussions with Waikato District Alliance.

**ACTION:** Community Board Chair and Executive Manager, Projects & Innovation to follow up with the Waikato District Alliance team to determine what steps can be taken to address the safety concerns.

## **REPORTS**

### Discretionary Fund Report – 30 January 2024

#### Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [*NCB2402/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

- Mrs Firth to follow up with the contact for Belgravia and follow up the invoice for the end of the 2023/2024 summer swimming season.

### Discretionary Fund Application – Ngaruawahia RSA

#### Agenda Item 6.1A

The report was received [*NCB2402/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

#### Ngaruawahia RSA:

- Mrs A Ramsay spoke to the application and provided a brief history of the flags being erected in Ngaruawahia for Anzac Day.
- Concern was raised as to the cost of the flags and the weight this had on the Community Board budget (it's one quarter of the annual budget).
- Cr Patterson spoke of his support of the application noting that a majority of the costs incurred for the flags was because of the Council Traffic Management Plans that need to be applied for and are only increasing.

- The Chairperson also noted support for the application and gave an overview of some of the background research she had done around the history of the flags and what the significance is for Ngaaruawaahia.

**Resolved: (Ms Morgan/Mrs Firth)**

**THAT the Ngāruawāhia Community Board:**

- a. approves an allocation of \$3,971.70 (plus GST if any) from their Discretionary Funding account to:**
  - i. Ngaruawahia RSA**
  - ii. for the Anzac Flags**

**CARRIED**

**NCB2402/04**

Ngaaruawaahia Works & Issues Report  
Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received [*NCB2402/02 refers*] and the following discussion was held:

Street Naming:

- The Executive Manager, Projects & Innovation followed up on the questions inside the report for Ms Rice and she confirmed that she will respond via email to the questions raised.
- Cr Turner will look at the mana whenua space and provide the relevant information for any new maaori street names.

**ACTION:** Item to remain on the schedule.

Point Public Toilet:

- The Board had an out of cycle workshop last week and have decided and moved the concept plan of the structure of the toilet and have fed this back to the Project Manager.
- The concept plan for the location of the toilet was shared with the Board which was well received and the Chairperson is going to touch base with the project manager to confirm the Boards approval.

**ACTION:** Item to remain on the schedule.

Infrastructure Acceleration Fund:

- There was no further discussion.

**ACTION:** Item to remain on the schedule.

Ngaaruawaahia War Memorial Hall:

- There was no further discussion.

**ACTION:** Item to remain on the schedule.

Galbraith Street/Festival Way Development:

- The Board raised concerns with the amount of traffic on Old Taupiri Road at the moment with the construction happening on Festival Way. It would be good to see if there can be a break to the road works during peak times to allow residents easy flow in and out of their properties along with reduced speed.

**ACTION:** Executive Manager, Projects and Innovation to follow up with the project team to determine if speed can be lowered during peak times of the day. Item to remain on the schedule.

Ngaaruawaahia Aquatic Centre:

- It was noted that there is a large hole in the ground at the evacuation point at the pools by the driveway entrance and a job has been logged through Antenno (REF: AR2402116198). An update on this Antenno job is required for the next meeting.
- The construction of the new ramp at the Pools was underway and there are concerns that the works being done was not what was approved on the plans. The entrance of the new ramp was further away than what was approved and the end of the ramp does not appear to line up with the existing entrance gate as planned.
- It appears that the pathway was intruding a lot more into the grass hill and concerns have been raised about fencing the grass hill and how much room will be left for patrons. Cr Patterson advised he had spoken to the project manager and some changes had to be made once work was underway due to issues at the site.
- It was noted that whilst the works aren't quite what was expected it's not an issue across any other projects so there is not going to be a different approach moving forward.

**ACTION:** An update on Service Request logged (REF: AR2402116198) to be provided for the next meeting. Item to remain on the schedule.

Structure Plan Update:

- A brief verbal update was provided to the Board from the Executive Manager, Projects & Innovation with the notes highlighted in the report.

**ACTION:** Item to remain on the schedule.

Signage & Security Fencing – Waipa River Walkway:

- It was noted by the Board that the works undertaken on the walkway were very well done and it looks great.

**ACTION:** Works Completed - Item to be removed from the schedule.

Kelm Road Works – Council Facebook Post on Tuesday, 12 September:

- There was no further discussion.

**ACTION:** Item to remain on the schedule.

Other business/new items:

- Galbraith Street Wastewater Line just north of Jacobs Lane. Could some detail be provided to the Board as to what the works are that are being undertaken with the Wastewater line and a scheduled timeline for completion be provided?

**ACTION:** Item to be added to the Schedule.

2024-2034 Long Term Plan Update

Agenda Item 6.3

A verbal update on the 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) was provided by the Executive Manager, Projects & Innovation and the following discussion was held:

- Workshops with elected members and Community Board & Committee Chairpersons were undertaken last week on the LTP Budgets.
- A draft LTP package was being collated and would be sent to the Council meeting in March 2024 where it was scheduled to adopt the consultation document for the district.
- A few key areas out of the workshops so far are an increase in the investment for the Roding Network, Three Waters Infrastructure and Customer Responsiveness.
- Some further highlights were outlined in regards to the savings that Council would be looking to make to ensure a more efficient and cost effective service.

- The increase over the 10 year LTP period for both Capital Expenditure and Operational Expenditure was noted.
- It was further noted that communities and ratepayers could possibly be looking at a 13.1% General Rate increase in the first year of the LTP whilst targeted rates can also vary.
- Cr Patterson & Cr Turner also provided further context from the workshops that have taken place and acknowledged the hard discussions that have been had and that are still to come with communities. It was acknowledged that times are tough for many people not only in Ngaaruawaahia but across the district and the minimalist LTP document is a testament to the rising costs.
- The Councillors also acknowledged the work of staff that have worked hard to find as many savings as possible whilst still maintaining the levels of service required – it is not an easy task.
- It was noted that the conversations being had in workshops and Council meetings are very community focused and the impacts on members of the community are at the forefront of all elected members' minds.

#### Community Board Plan

##### Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [*NCB2402/02 refers*] and the Board are going to have an out of cycle workshop with the Community Led Development Advisor on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 at 6pm.

#### Chairpersons Report

##### Agenda Item 6.6

The Chairperson provided a verbal report on the following items:

- The Community Day at the Ngaaruawaahia Pools was a huge success with over 150 kids in attendance over the course of the day.
- The Chairperson noted that it would be good to have a workshop discussion about setting a date for the next Community Day ahead of time prior to everyone going on Christmas Holidays.
- The Chairperson has attended all the Long-Term Plan (LTP) workshops along with Bylaw and Policy workshops. It had been great to be at the table and be able to ask questions and gain a better understanding on behalf of Ngaaruawaahia.
- Concerns raised following a couple of incidents in recent weeks with a group of older youths seen throwing rocks at a train as it was going through town which was extremely dangerous.

- It was noted that the trains going through Ngaaruawaahia over the summer months have again encountered issues with people being on the train bridge – there have been numerous occasions that the driver of the train has blared the safety horn for long periods of time.
- Following on from the discussion around the LTP workshops it was noted by the Chairperson that the Board along with Council could do more to promote different avenues of relief or help that are available to those ratepayers who may qualify – The Rate Rebate Scheme that is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is one such avenue that needs to be promoted better in the community.
- It was acknowledged that whilst the eligibility criteria for the Rate Rebate scheme might not extend to many members of the community it's still worth advertising this and making sure people know they are more than welcome to check their eligibility with Council – it is quick and easy to find out and the Council website link is easy to follow: <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rates/rates-rebates>

### Councillors Reports

#### Agenda Item 6.7

The Councillors provided verbal reports on the following issues:

- Cr Patterson reiterated the promotion of the Rate Rebate scheme and would like the Board to get out into the Community and raise awareness.
- There have been many meetings and workshops at Council since their return in January and the new Executive Manager, Iwi Partnerships was welcomed to Council with a poowhiri on 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- The workshops around the Long-Term Plan (LTP) were discussed and it was acknowledged that there are some difficult discussions ahead with our communities and affordability issues that could arise.
- Cr Patterson also noted the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) workshops and meetings that he has attended as part of the Regional Transport Committee.
- Cr Turner noted that she had been unwell for the first three weeks of Council reopening for 2024 but acknowledged the new position of Mrs Maehe Paki (Executive Manager, Iwi Partnerships) and the pivotal role she will play in the mana whenua space.
- Concern was also raised around the costs of living and the impact that any rate increases coming from the LTP discussions are going to have on our maaori community members in particular.



## Community Board Members Reports

### Agenda Item 6.8

The Board Members provided verbal reports on the following issues:

- Mrs Firth acknowledged the multiple meetings that the Chairperson has attended at Council and also acknowledged the community day at the Pools.
- Ms Rice advised that she has been busy with the Beautification of Ngaaruawaahia project with the Community Led Development Advisor and noted that work is underway to hold a few community meeting days at the Arts Centre to get the community involved.
- Ms Rice noted that she had met with other council representatives to discuss placemaking options and the Community Led Development Advisor was collating all ideas into a report to present back to the Board on the old Waipa Tavern space.
- It was noted by Mr Wiechern that it was a great idea to have the potential new Library facing the Hakarimata Ranges with open windows however that was an idea for future conversations.
- It was noted that the fencing that is currently around the old Waipa Tavern site was there for a reason and costs of removal of the debris on the ground are big and more discussions need to be had.
- It was noted by Mr Ayers that there had been some complaints from residents about the large tree at the end of Ellery Street East (on the Esplanade) and the limbs of the big tree blocking the view of the river.
- Mr Ayers showed different picture ideas to the Board for the “Welcome to Ngaaruawaahia” signs and it was decided that the Board will discuss this out of cycle in their discussion group and look into the pictures further.
- It was noted that the Ngaaruawaahia Lions Club had sought permission to erect three bench seats in Ngaaruawaahia in remembrance of three life long Ngaaruawaahia residents who had made a great impact on the town; Mr Nom MacIntosh, Mrs Helyn Huirama and Mr Bill Hutt. The Lions are covering the cost of installation.

*The meeting concluded with the Board expressing their heartfelt condolences and sympathies to Tai Raro Takiwaa Maaori Ward Councillor Ms P Matatahi-Poutapu and the wider Poutapu whaanau with the passing of her father, Mr Pukeiahua Poutapu on Monday, 19 February 2024.*

*‘Moe mai ra e te Rangatira.....moe mai ra’.*

*The meeting ended with a karakia.*

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.03pm.

Minutes approved and confirmed this                      day of                      2024.

Ms K Morgan  
**CHAIRPERSON**

Unconfirmed