


Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 12 May 2025

	Details of Meeting:	WHAKATĀNE-OHOPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOMS, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE, MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025, COMMENCING AT 5:30 PM
	Present:	C Hamill (Chairperson), Members L Bonne, D McLean and C Howard <i>Via Teams:</i> Member M Inman
	In Attendance:	J Metcalf (Team Leader Transport Strategy & Assets) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams:</i> V Fergusson (Manager Strategic Property) and A Pickles (General Manager Community Experience)
	Visitors:	S Saunders, A Marie, B Dakin, C Watkinson, G Stewart, L Collombet and R Collombet, B Sheedy, M Kempton and J Kay, C Majoribanks, H Wahapango, B Palmer and K Bennett, J Camburn, B Whitworth, M Dutton, Surf Life Saving Club Representatives and Youth Council Representative S Clyde
	Apologies:	Councillor T Boynton and Member O Iseri

1 KARAKIA

The meeting was opened with a Karakia by the Chairperson at 5:30 pm.

2 APOLOGIES

Moved Chairperson Hamill / Seconded Member Bonne

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **accept** the apologies from Councillor Boynton and Member O Iseri.

CARRIED

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS/TRIBUTES

Representatives from the Surf Life Saving Club shared a video presentation in appreciation of the Boards support of their Aussies 2025 competition.

Attendance: Surf Life Saving Club Representatives left the meeting at 5:38 pm.

4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

5 PUBLIC FORUM

5.1 Scott Saunders and Anne Marie - Accessible crossings on Pohutukawa Ave

Mr Saunders introduced the work of WAI (Whakatāne Accessible and Inclusive) and raised accessibility concerns regarding pedestrian crossings on Pohutukawa Avenue. He specifically highlighted challenges for individuals with visual impairment and the need for improved crossing facilities, particularly the installation of a red crossing near the Ōhope Beach Medical Centre. Staff emphasised that proper installation would require more than just painted lines, including the addition of lighting and kerb buildouts. Staff will continue to engage with WAI and follow the consultation process with the community. The Board noted their advocacy with Council.

Attendance: S Saunders and A Marie left the meeting at 5:51 pm.

5.2 Piripai-Coastland Resident Association - Bex Dakin, Chris Watkinson and Gaye Stewart

Representatives from the Piripai-Coastlands Beach Community Collective addressed the Board regarding the shared-use pathway parallel to Keepa Road. They reported that the path becomes dangerous during heavy rain due to large puddle formation and insufficient width for safe pedestrian usage when cyclists are present. Their survey results indicated community dissatisfaction with the road's condition, and that many residents use the road to bike on instead which is not safe due to traffic speed and volume. Staff noted that previously allocated funding for upgrades and repairs had been withdrawn from the Annual Plan 2025/26 and requested the Community Board's continued advocacy with Council. They were advised that internal processes needed to be followed and that funding for this project has been affected by reductions in Central Government funding.

Attendance: G Stewart, B Dakin and C Watkinson left the meeting at 6:03 pm.

5.3 Lilly and Rachel Collombet

Ms L Collombet provided an update on her selection as one of six women under 19 in New Zealand chosen for a prestigious cycling competition taking place in July 2025. She outlined her role as a climber and noted that scouts from world tour development teams would be watching the six-race competition. Fundraising efforts had included quiz nights raising \$2,500 through raffles, a \$1,000 donation from Rotary Club, and kiwifruit sales with Zespri's permission. A social ride event was planned to further support fundraising efforts.

Attendance: L Collombet and R Collombet left the meeting at 6:10 pm.

5.4 Hospice - Bryce Sheedy, Margaret Kempton and Jane Kay

Hospice representatives reported that 14 months previously they had been given the opportunity to revitalise the service or face takeover by the District Health Board. The team had expanded significantly and nearly tripled the number of patients managed. Op shops provided 22% of profits, and volunteer time was equivalent to approximately 11,000 hours annually. They emphasised the importance of maintaining proper equipment and volunteer support, noting that volunteers would be opposed to certain grant conditions. Board Member Bonne noted that funding for a thank you lunch for volunteers might set a precedent for other community groups for similar activities.

Attendance: B Sheedy, M Kempton and J Kay left the meeting at 6:20 pm

5.5 Mataatua Sports Trust - Chris Majoribanks and Hemi Wahapango

Mr Majoribanks acknowledged the ongoing support provided by the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board to the Trust's awards programme. He highlighted the achievements of several women athletes who had gained major sports recognition and outlined the Trust's work with schools around the Bay

of Plenty. He noted the rising popularity of waka ama and the Trust's offering of High School qualifications in this area. The Trust maintained their connections with Sport New Zealand.

Attendance: C Majoribanks and H Wahapango left the meeting at 6:28 pm.

5.6 Halo Whakatāne - Bridget Palmer and Kerry Bennett

Representatives outlined Halo Whakatāne's vision and values being to live and thrive through community involvement. They reported receiving some of Bay Trust's funding for their Quay Street building project but noted that lack of funding required flexibility in project completion. The organisation administered care across a range of Council-administered land, providing pest control advice and rodent management throughout Whakatāne through volunteer deployment. Their work included weed suppression and initiatives to make nature accessible to everyone. They had supported Trident High School with \$22,000 for wheelchair access improvements and requested \$2,500 from Council for DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) signage.

Attendance: B Palmer and K Bennett left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

5.7 Heart Beats Exercise - Jo Camburn and Belinda Whitworth, Mary Dutton

The representatives reported that Heart Beats had been operating for over 35 years, providing exercise and socialisation opportunities through Monday and Friday sessions at Whakatāne Memorial Hall for the elderly. They noted that the venue lacked adequate equipment and that Ms Camburn had been running sessions for 20 years. The group sought to avoid increasing costs for participants whilst ensuring viable income for the instructor and obtaining Board support. A participant, M Dutton, highlighted her positive experience with the programme. The requested equipment included a headset with speaker system that would remain with the group.

Attendance: M Dutton, J Camburn and B Whitworth left the meeting at 6:46 pm.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Refers to page 8–13 of the agenda.

Moved Member Bonne / Seconded Chairperson Hamill

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board meeting held on Monday, 24 March 2025 be **confirmed** as true and correct record.

CARRIED

7 Reports

7.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board – Activity Report May 2025

Refers to pages 14-30 of the agenda.

The General Manager of Community Experience and Manager of Strategic Property presented the report and discussion highlighted the following points:

- A decision has now been made on the Boat Harbour project.
- Climate change funding opportunities is launching as Council is partnering up with Trust Horizon to empower the community to take action on climate change.

- LWDL (Local Waters Done Well) consultations were underway and closed on the 18 May 2025.
- Slash management was currently satisfactory and safe.
- Discussion occurred regarding the location of the red crossing in the Ōhope/Maraetotara Reserve area.
- Brainstorming sessions had been held with community groups, balancing facility needs across different communities.
- Keepa Road project timing remained challenging, with ambitions to include the project in the Long Term Plan.

Moved Chairperson Hamill / Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board - Activity Report May 2025 be **received**.

CARRIED

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm and reconvened at 7:10 pm.

7.2 Governance Administration – May 2025

Refer to pages 31-101 of the agenda.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Bonne

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Governance Administration report - May 2025 be received; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board allocate \$2,000.00 discretionary funds to Lilly Collombet for costs associated in the Road Cycling Campaign in July 2025.

CARRIED

The Board discussed volunteering recognition and appropriate appreciation methods for community members.

Action: The Chairperson to follow up with the Mayor regarding a community recognition event.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Chairperson Hamill

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board allocate \$1,500.00 from discretionary funds to Hospice to cover catering costs associated with their volunteers' lunch, with the Community Board banner to be displayed and a Board member to attend if possible.

CARRIED

Member Bonne requested their vote against the motion be recorded.

Moved Chairperson Hamill / Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board allocate \$2,300.00 from discretionary funds to the Mataatua Sports Trust to cover costs associated with the Mataatua Sports Awards 2025, with Members McLean and Inman expressing interest in attending.

CARRIED

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Bonne

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board allocate \$2,000.00 discretionary funds to Halo Whakatāne to assist in the costs associated with extending the cobblestone for the Matariki Constellation Plants.

CARRIED

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Bonne

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board allocate \$1,513.25 from discretionary funds to Heart Beats Exercise Group to assist with the purchase of a wireless headset microphone and First Aid Kit.

CARRIED

8 Chairperson Report

8.1 Chairpersons Report May 2025

Refer to pages 102-104 of the agenda.

The Chairperson reported on several matters including the current challenging period for the Memorial project and submissions regarding LWDW preferred models. The majority of members indicated support for a Council Controlled Business Unit model, with members expressing interest in making verbal submissions.

Member McLean offered his residence as an alternative venue for the morning tea acknowledgement of Annette Such in case of difficult weather conditions.

Moved Chairperson Hamill / Seconded Member McLean.

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Chairperson's report March 2025 – May 2025 be received.
2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board contribute up to \$250 from their discretionary funds for the morning tea held in acknowledgment of the efforts of Annette Such.

CARRIED

Moved Chairperson Hamill / Seconded Member Inman

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board considers allocating \$2,000.00 from their discretionary fund to Riding for the Disabled so they may purchase a defibrillator for their site.

CARRIED

The meeting closed with a karakia led by the chairperson at 7:51 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:

CHAIRPERSON
