


## Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 30 March 2026

 <p><b>WHAKATĀNE</b> District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	<b>WHAKATĀNE-OHOPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, TŌTARA ROOM, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE ON MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026 COMMENCING AT 5:30 PM</b>
	Present:	Chairperson L Bonne, Deputy Chairperson S Whale and Members S Cessford, C Howard, D McLean, and Councillor C Hamill <i>Via Teams: Member R Sloman</i>
	In Attendance:	V Fergusson (Manager Strategic Property) and S Duffy (Senior Governance Advisor)
	Visitors:	Mr A Galbraith (Eastern Bay Media Trust), D Rowland, W Haldane (Bay of Plenty Music School), Mr G Turner and Mr N Twaddle (EBOP Kayak Fishing Club), Ms V Spencer (Kingsley Scouts), Mr R Walker (Ōhope International Golf Club), and Mr Q Kingi
	Apologies:	

### 1 KARAKIA

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a Karakia at 5:30 pm and welcomed members of the public, and Council staff.

### 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted for Council staff I McNiven and P Davidson.

### 3 ANNOUNCEMENTS/TRIBUTES

The Chairperson acknowledged I McNiven and expressed condolences on behalf of the meeting following the recent death of a family member.

### 4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The following conflicts of interest were declared:

- Member Sloman – Discretionary fund application from the Eastern Bay Media Trust
- Member Cessford – Discretionary fund application from the Kingsley Scout Group
- Member Whale – Discretionary fund application from the BOP Music School.

### 5 PUBLIC FORUM

Refer to page 8 of the agenda.

## 5.1 Eastern Bay Media Trust

Refer to pages 8a-b of the tabled items.

The Eastern Bay of Plenty Media Trust intention was to launch a community radio station to promote diverse voices in the EBOP. The station would serve as a platform to promote underrepresented community groups, nurture young talent, and offer local musicians a space to share their craft.

Mr Galbraith reported the broadcasting software was critical and the 'engine of the operation', and that it was designed for radio however it also interacted with other communication systems. He said radio was a trustworthy platform, not using Artificial Intelligence and explained that as well as broadcasting live, each show would be recorded and hence available for 'on demand' listening also.

In response to queries Mr Galbraith reported there would be no commercials on the station, however sponsorship recognitions could be included. He confirmed the software costs were \$15k per year.

**Attendance:** Mr Galbraith left the meeting at 5:46 pm.

## 5.2 Dominic Rowland

Canoe Racing New Zealand will host the Asia Pacific Regatta from 1-3 May at Rotorua. Countries involved in the regatta include New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Japan and Pacific Islands. Dominic has been selected to compete.

Dominic explained he had been paddling since the age of 10 and had gained national titles and that he was currently in training six times per week in preparation. Dominic said he had an Instagram page and if successful in receiving funding, would acknowledge the Board on his page.

## 5.3 Bay of Plenty Music School – Warner Haldane

The BOP Music School is an annual weekend event offering an opportunity for instrumental and choral musicians to develop their musical skills and knowledge, under the guidance of experience professional conductors. Whakatāne is hosting the school between 17-19 April 2026.

Mr Haldane (Chair of the Whakatāne Host Committee) advised enrolments closed on 12 April. Enrolment numbers currently sat at 80, and they had budgeted on 100 enrolments. He said the school was founded in 1960 and had run this event annual, except during covid. They were seeking a rate to pay for the venue hire.

**Attendance:** Mr Haldane left the meeting at 5:55 pm.

## 5.4 Eastern Bay of Plenty (EBOP) Kayak Fishing Club

The EBOP Kayak Fishing Club is running their annual open competition over ANZAC weekend, with the briefing held on Saturday 25 April and fishing, weigh-in and prizegiving on Sunday, 26 April 2026. The funding applied for would assist with administration costs and enable the Club to promote the competition and to finance prizes with local sponsors.

Mr Turner (President) reported the Community Board logo had been included on the advertising poster and he acknowledged the assistance from the Senior Governance Advisor in regard to the application.

Members were advised that the boundaries for the event have been restricted and closer to Ōhope and the Eastern Bay. The Club were seeking \$1500 in funding to assist with administration and promotion costs and towards prizes. Mr Turner said the prize list totalled \$10K, of which they had received 50% in sponsorship and the club would fund the remaining 50%. He concluded noting that Whakatane and Taranaki were the only clubs running this type of competition.

**Attendance:** D Rowland, Mr Turner and Mr Twaddle left the meeting at 6:03 pm.

## 5.5 Kingsley Scout Group

The Kingsley Scout Group were seeking funding to replace their Gazebo that was damaged at a recent Scout Camp. Ms Spencer explained that gazebos created a central hub for the Group when supporting community events, and when attending camps and larger gatherings. She said the scout families were currently working hard to raise funds for 24<sup>th</sup> Scout Jamboree to be held at Mystery Creek at the end of 2026.

Ms Spencer reported the Group were currently borrowing equipment from other Scout Groups and/or were adapting their events in order to ensure shelter was available.

At the time of the application the Group had 25 Scouts, and a new Kea section was commencing at the start of the next school term.

**Attendance:** Ms Spenser left the meeting at 6:12 pm.

## 5.6 Ōhope International Golf Club

Mr Walker, the newly appointed Manager, reported many golf clubs were moving away from the traditional timber, coloured-tee blocks and distance markers. The Ōhope Club was seeking funding to replace their tee blocks and markers with corten-steel identifiers, and to include Te Reo names laser cut into the steel. It was explained the steel initially had a shiny appearance however rusted over time and that was the intended look.

**Attendance:** Mr Ryan left the meeting at 6:20 pm.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

Refer to pages 9-16 of the agenda.

*Correction:* The correct date for the Chairpersons Report was February 2026.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Cessford

**RESOLVED:**

THAT, subject to the above correction, the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **confirm** the minutes of their 2 February 2026 meeting was a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

## 7 Reports

### 7.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board – Activity Report March 2026

Refers to pages 17-35 of the agenda.

The Board acknowledged the Council Events and Tourism team for their work and the multiple events bought to the district.

Moved Councillor Hamill / Seconded Member Whale

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board - Activity Report March 2026 be **confirmed**.

**CARRIED**

## 7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026

Refer to pages 19-23 of the agenda.

Discussion for funding allocations was led by the chairperson.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member McLean

### RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Governance Services Report March 2026 be **received**.

### CARRIED

Member Sloman did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on the motion.

Members acknowledged the presentation made by Mr Galbraith and it was noted that, although the software would be an annual cost, consistent operation could enable the ability to apply further afield for major grants.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member McLean

### RESOLVED

2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$5000.00 from their discretionary funds to the Eastern Bay Media Trust to assisting funding of broadcasting software to finalise the launch of a community-led radio station; with the inclusion of sponsorship inclusion to acknowledge WOCB grant and validation of audience after 1 year.

### CARRIED

Moved Member Whale / Seconded Member Sloman

### RESOLVED:

3. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$1300.00 from their discretionary funds to Dominic Rowland for training camp costs, uniform, and travel expenses to attend the Asia Pacific Sprint Regatta in Rotorua from 1-3 May 2026.

### CARRIED

Member Whale did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on the motion.

Manager Strategic Property explained the reasoning as to Council venue hire costs and how it ensured transparency and fairness to all hall users.

**Attendance:** Mr Kingi entered the meeting at 6:48 pm.

*Governance Administration:*

*The following resolution made at the meeting is included, however on 31 March 2026 the BOP Music School advised Council they were withdrawing their application due to a venue change.*

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Whale

### RESOLVED:

4. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$2003.93 from their discretionary funds to the Bay of Plenty Music School for venue hire costs to run their annual music school between 17-19 April 2026.

### CARRIED

## 8 Public Forum continued

### 8.1 Mr Kingi

On behalf of the community of Awatapu, and as the Chairman of Otamamkaokao Kaitiaki Trust, and also the Chairman Maurimindset Charitable Trust, Mr Kingi enthusiastically spoke to the aspirations digital represented within the video for the Awatapu area. The presentation showcased many features and assets including, but not limited to, freshwater wetlands, BBQ and beach areas, manu platforms, education centre, nursery, Pou at the Awatapu roundabout, and the overall area envisioned was a vibrant space for all.

Mr Kingi explained the Pou Whenua project and said they hoped to unveil the Pou Whenua in time for the Matariki celebrations. In conclusion Mr Kingi advised that he had met with the Roding team and he had been given the 'green light'.

#### **Attendance:**

Mr Kingi and Councillor Hamill left meeting at 7:05pm.

Councillor Hamill returned to the meeting at 7:07 pm.

## 9 Governance Report continued

Members noted the EBOP Kayak Fishing Club was a regular applicant and suggested the Club could look to become self-sustainable, and potential of increasing entry fees and investigating additional/new funding opportunities.

Moved Member McLean / Seconded Member Howard

#### **RESOLVED:**

5. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$750 from their discretionary funds to the Eastern Bay of Plenty Kayak Fishing Club for costs relating to administration, advertising and prizes, for the Annual Open Competition to be held on 26 April 2026.

#### **CARRIED**

Member Cessford requested her vote against the motion be recorded.

Member Cessford did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on the motion.

Members felt the gazebo quote that included signage was the better option.

Moved Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Member Sloman

#### **RESOLVED:**

6. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$3800 from their discretionary funds to the Kingsley Scout Group to purchase a Shedline gazebo with detachable walls for use by the Scout group, on the proviso that the WOCB logo be printed onto the gazebo.

#### **CARRIED**

Moved Councillor Hamill / Seconded Member Cessford

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$3000.00 from their discretionary funds to Ōhope International Golf Club Incorporated for costs to replace the tee blocks and distance markers, with the steel versions with Te Reo names reflecting the local environment.

The motion was put and failed.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Sloman

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$2500.00 from their discretionary funds to Ōhope International Golf Club Incorporated for costs to replace the tee blocks and distance markers, with the steel versions with Te Reo names reflecting the local environment.

**CARRIED**

Members requested it be proposed to the Club if it was possible that one of the blocks or markers be dedicated to the Board as an acknowledgment of the grant.

**Seven Six Teams**

The Board passed on their support for the Club however felt at this stage, there were other funding avenues that were more suitable for assisting with costs for sports uniforms (Pub charity, Lottery Commission, Rebel Sports, and COGS (Community Organisational Grant Scheme).

**Music Month event**

During discussions, the Members had some concerns and queries regarding the application, quotes and event information. Hence, they had many questions and unfortunately as a representative was not at the meeting to answer the queries, the Board did not grant funding.

Members were advised that the meeting had been in session for over 2 hours, and a break of at least 10 minutes was required unless the meeting resolved to extend the time limit.

Moved Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Member Howard

**RESOLVED:**

THAT, due to the near completion of the business to be discussed, Standing Order 4.2 be **revoked** and the meeting **continue** until its closure without the required break.

**CARRIED**

**Attendance:** Member Cessford left the meeting at 7:40 pm and returned at 7:43 pm.

**10 Chairperson and Member Reporting**

**10.1 Chairpersons Report March 2026**

Refer to pages 24-26 of the agenda.

When speaking to the funding recommendation, Chairperson Bonne advised that the HALO Whakatāne had requested to repurpose funding received in May 2025 from the, currently stalled, Matariki Constellation Project to the Amber Grove Wetland Project.

During the discussion, it was understood that, as a new project, HALO Whakatāne would be required to submit a new application. A status on the Matariki Constellation project was requested and the impact on the unspent funds to date.

Moved Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Member Cessford

**RESOLVED:**

1. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Chairperson's report March 2026 be **received**.

**CARRIED**

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Whale

**RESOLVED:**

2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community **approve** that the Rotary Club of Whakatane repurpose the funds allocated to them for traffic management to other costs relating to the 2025 Christmas Parade; with remaining unspent funds refunded.

**CARRIED**

Prior to closing Member McLean spoke about meeting with Mr Poole, and The Hub Manager on Monday 30 March, about the potential installation of an arts structure to be built on their site. As this was private land, it is believed no action was required by WDC at this stage.

**Attendance:** Member McLean left the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Member Whale was designated as the contact for storage and use of the Board's flag and banner. The meeting closed with a Karakia led by the Chairperson at 8:09 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON