


Minutes – Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board 2 February 2026

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	WHAKATĀNE-OHOPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE ŌHOPE FIRE STATION, HARBOUR ROAD, ŌHOPE, WHAKATĀNE ON MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 5:30 PM
	Present:	Mayr N Tánczos, Chairperson L Bonne Deputy Chairperson S Whale and Members S Cessford, C Howard, R Sloman and Councillor C Hamill
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), Councillors M Whitaker and T Boynton, P Davidson (GM Finance), I McNiven (Procurement and Risk Manager), and S Duffy (Senior Governance Advisor)
	Visitors:	Angus Robson, Bridget Robson and Austin Oliver (West-End Track Walkway), Claire House (Arts Whakatāne), Peter Milton, Shona Gow and Jennifer Manning (Citizens Advice Bureau), Moira Hanna (Edgecumbe Choir), Wendy Anderson (Have a Heart Charitable Trust), Louise McConnell (Life Education Trust EBOP), Kay Montgomery, and Andrew Watson (Theatre Whakatāne)
	Apologies:	Member D McLean

1 KARAKIA

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

2 APOLOGIES

Moved Member Whale / Seconded Chairperson Bonne

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **accept** the apology from Member D McLean.

CARRIED

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS/TRIBUTES

The Board acknowledged with sadness the recent of passing Mrs Yvonne Osborne and recognised her significant contribution to community music.

A tribute was given to those who had lost their lives resulting from the recent severe weather event, both locally and in other regions.

4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The following conflicts of interest were declared:

- Member Whale – Discretionary Fund applications for Arts Whakatane and The Edgecumbe Choir
- Councillor Hamill – Discretionary Fund application Theatre Whakatane

5 PUBLIC FORUM

Refer to page 8 of the agenda.

5.1 Angus Robson and Bridget Robson (West-End Track Walkway)

Mr Robson relayed the aspirations of the volunteer group to restore access to Ōtarawairere:

- A safe design, safe construction, resulting in a safe-to-use track
- Community involvement
- Cost effective and occurs soon

Experience designers and a Health and Safety expert had prepared a repair plan. Mr Robson explained the plan included the identifying hazards and managing of risks (geotechnical, construction, PPE and equipment requirements and safe work practises) and would be signed off by Frame Group (Engineering Consultants Specialising in Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures). He added they wanted to work closely with Council.

Mr Robson said the risk to track users was 50x higher during or after heavy rainfall and proposed closing the track for a period following such events to allow it to settle and reveal any potential issues. He also noted that repairing tracks over old slips posed a lower risk than creating a new route.

Attendance: Councillor Boynton entered the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Mr Robson reported there had been an incredible response from the community to help. Project volunteers would be assessed, and assigned tasks based on their qualifications, fitness level and attitude to Health and Safety.

Donations had paid for the work carried out to date, and Mr Robson reported that donors had offered to pay for the complete project, however they would be grateful for any funds from Council that had been set aside for the track repair. He spoke of suggested enhancements such as weather station that could initiate the shutting of gates and thermal track counters.

In conclusion Mr Robson reported that once their plan had been reviewed by Tonkin and Taylor, he believed the work could commence quite quickly.

Attendance: Mr Robson, Ms Robson and Mr Oliver left the meeting at 5:48 pm.

5.2 Arts Whakatāne (Under the Rakau) – Ms House

Ms House advised that a backup date (15 March) had been set for the ‘Under the Rakau’ event in case of poor weather and that Arts Whakatāne were considering alternative venues due to cost increases. Local talent and one headline act from Tauranga would be performing. She also discussed event promotion, including targeting the Whakatāne, Ōhope and Tauranga areas, and outlined how the board would be recognised if the application were successful.

5.3 Arts Whakatāne (Jazz in the Park) – Ms House

Jazz in the Park is an established arts calendar event and will be held at Whakatāne Rose Gardens on 28 February, with an alternative date of 1 March should the weather be unfavourable. Ms House advised that attendance of over 1,000 people was anticipated from across the region to see jazz musicians and the Auckland-based headline act ‘Croque Madame’. She noted that some sponsorship had been confirmed and outlined the promotional activities, including profiling performers and the food and market vendors.

Attendance:

Ms House left the meeting, and Ms Anderson entered the meeting, at 6:03 pm.

5.4 Peter Milton (Citizen Advice Bureau)

Mr Milton explained the Citizens Advice Bureau provided free, confidential, information and advice. The Bureau was in their 45th year and he said they had a positive effect on the community. They also provided support, access and use of digital equipment and he commented that the 'digital divide was growing' and gave a statistical breakdown of age and ethnicity. Mr Milton noted that one point of difference was that the Bureau was 'face-to-face' contact with clients

Mr Milton said their current photocopier was 6 years old and the Bureau wanted to future-proof the organisation and invest in a multi-function printer. He added that other organisations were also directing their clients to CAB when they required printing done as the CAB did not charge for printing.

In response to a query about possibility of leasing a machine Mr Milton said comparison had been made and the outcome, for future proofing, it was better to purchase.

5.5 Moira Hanna (Edgecumbe Choir)

Based in Whakatāne, the Edgecumbe Choir has been operating for approximately 70 years and wishes to modernise its digital presence and launch a targeted recruitment campaign. Ms Hanna said their mission was to deliver world-class choral performances and to invest in the next generation.

To market the choir, increase concert attendance, and to keep ticket prices affordable, Ms Hanna said the choir was seeking funding to outsource the management of their social media pages. By improving their social media content, they aimed to increase concert attendance by 50% and grow membership 40% by the end of 2026.

Ms Hanna reported accumulated funds were assigned to their up-coming 70th anniversary and as part of this, they seek to commission a local composer to write an original score to mark the event. She acknowledged the Creative Communities Scheme and other funding the choir had received.

Attendance:

Mr Milton left the meeting, and Ms McConnell entered the meeting, at 6:14 pm.

5.6 Wendy Anderson (Have a Heart Charitable Trust)

In March 2026 the Have a Heart Expo and Family festival event would be held at the War Memorial hall. The event enables service providers from throughout the region to connect with the community and to build relationships. Ms Anderson advised the event had been running for 10 years and had seen an increase in attendees. The Trust was seeking funding towards venue hire and traffic management costs.

In response to a query, Ms Anderson spoke about the various services the Trust provided, the participation of the multiple volunteers, and noted there was one paid staffing position. She explained it was a free event as it enabled the providers to connect with those that needed their services.

Attendance: Ms Anderson left the meeting at 6:28 pm.

5.7 Louise McConnell (Life Education Trust EBOP)

Each year the charity organisation Life Education Trust delivers evidence-based wellbeing education, not covered in the traditional curriculum, to more than 3,500 children, helping them build life skills. Ms McConnell reported there was a small charge to the schools, but this did not cover costs, and the salary for the educator was the main outgoing. The Trust organised fundraising events (duck race and dancing for life Ed) and did receive occasional one-off grants.

Ms McConnell said the Kura required Te Reo workbooks and any funding received would contribute this, to replacing the carpet and a new puppet was required. They had approach businesses for carpet

however had not been successful. The board suggested the Trust could approach carpet manufacturers to see if they could assist with the carpet required.

Attendance: Ms McConnell left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

5.8 Kay Montgomery

Refer to pages 8a of the tabled items.

Ms Montgomery outlined the inspiration behind the project and presented the Coastlands School Bus Shelter project overview. She advised that 30–40 students utilised the current bus shelter, which was not fit for purpose. The project included installing an upgraded shelter, and funding was being sought from the Board to commission a local artist to design and paint the base board following completion of the upgrade.

Ms Montgomery reported the upgraded bush shelter would become a Council asset, with ongoing graffiti-repair responsibilities to be held by the community. She advised a graffiti-guard coating would be applied.

In conclusion, Ms Montgomery took the opportunity to note that there were many bus shelters in the region that were not enclosed, and therefore lacking in weather proofing.

5.9 Andrew Watson (Theatre Whakatāne)

Theatre Whakatāne Inc had secured the performing rights to Roald Dahl's stage show 'Matilda', to be staged at the Little Theatre in May 2026. Mr Watson said theatre brings the community together, all ages and varieties of talents, and the skills sets gained could be utilised in other aspects of life. The show itself had approximately 60 cast and a further 50 in support, and with local procurement, Mr Watson said the community reach was huge. To help keep ticket prices affordable Theatre Whakatane were seeking funding towards the venue hire.

When asked if further shows could be held to increase income, Mr Watson said they had need to apply to the rights holder if the Theatre was to perform more than the allocated 12 shows.

Attendance:

Mr Watson left the meeting at 6:49 pm. Ms Hanna, Ms Montgomery entered the meeting at 6:50 pm and Councillor Boynton returned to the meeting at 6:50 pm.

6 Reports

6.1 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board – Activity Report February 2026

Refers to pages 9-18 of the agenda.

The Procurement and Risk Manager updated the members that the Bridge Street roundabout and Flood Wall stage 2 were both now complete, and that a media release was imminent regarding the Ōhope Beach Festival. Members congratulated the council on the success of the event.

During discussions the following points were note:

- The Board expressed interest to be involved with the Maraetōtara Improvement project.
- Council staff will attend the March Board meeting to answer queries regarding Freedom camping.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Whale

RESOLVED:

THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board - Activity Report February 2026 be **received**.

CARRIED

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026

Refer to pages 19-23 of the agenda.

Mayor Tánczos suggested Community Board members be specifically notified of public briefing and noted if they were unable to attend, recordings of briefings were available.

Discussion for funding allocations was led by the chairperson.

Moved Councillor Hamill / Seconded Member Cessford

RESOLVED:

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

CARRIED

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

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED

2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$1100.00 from their discretionary funds to the Whakatāne District Community Arts Council Incorporated for costs toward their live concert event - Under the Rakau March 2026.

CARRIED

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

Moved Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Member Sloman

RESOLVED:

3. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$2500.00 from their discretionary funds to Whakatāne District Community Arts Council Incorporated for costs toward *personnel and performer costs* for their Jazz in the Park 2026 event.

CARRIED

Attendance: Mayor Tánczos and Councillor Boynton left the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Moved Member Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

4. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$5000.00 from their discretionary funds to Whakatāne Citizens Advice Bureau for the *purchase of a new photocopier*.

CARRIED

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

Moved Member Sloman / Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

5. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$2000.00 from their discretionary funds to the Edgumbe Choir Incorporated, *for digital marketing promotional costs*.

CARRIED

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED:

6. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$1500.00 from their discretionary funds to the Have a Heart Charitable Trust, *towards venue hire and traffic management* in support of the Have a Heart Expo and Family Festival March 2026.

CARRIED

Moved Member Sloman / Seconded Member Cessford

RESOLVED:

7. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$3000.00 from their discretionary funds to the Life Education Trust EBOP, *towards Te Reo workbooks and a new Harold puppet*.

CARRIED

Moved Member Whale / Seconded Member Sloman

RESOLVED:

8. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$1770.00 from their discretionary funds to Kay Montgomery, *in order to hire a local artist to beautify the Coastland School Bus Shelter*.

CARRIED

Councillor Hamill did not participate in the following discussion, nor did she vote on the motion.

Moved Member Howard / Seconded Member Whale

RESOLVED:

9. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **allocates** \$5000.00 from their discretionary funds to Theatre Whakatāne Incorporated, *to assist with cost for venue hire during the preparation and performances of the musical stage show Matilda*.

CARRIED

Attendance: The Chief Executive and GM Finance left the meeting at 7:37 pm.

7 Chairperson and Member Reporting

7.1 Chairpersons Report ~~June 2025~~ February 2026

Refer to pages 24-26 of the agenda.

The Chairperson presented the report and reiterated condolences resulting from the recent severe weather events.

Members acknowledged the efforts and planning undertaken to date by the Otarawairere Westend Track Reopening Project team. They expressed support of the concept and commended the team for effectively galvanising the community. Members also noted a potential risk that the recent weather event could potentially impact project progress.

The Chairperson proposed an additional recommendation to donate to the Ōhope Lions Club to support their 2026 Book Fair.

Moved Chairperson Bonne / Seconded Councillor Hamill

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Chairperson's report February 2026 be **received**.
2. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board **donate** \$1500 from their discretionary fund to the Whakatāne Touch Association Charitable Trust in support of their annual Touch Tournament.

CARRIED

A discussion ensued and referenced the funding criterion regarding the frequency of funding events, and it was queried if the Lions Club were looking to become more self-sustaining.

Moved Councillor Hamill/ Seconded Member Howard

RESOLVED:

3. THAT the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board make a one-off **donation** from their discretionary funds of \$750 to the Ōhope Lions Club to help cover costs of the venue hire of their 2026 Book Fair.

CARRIED

Member Sloman requested her vote against the motion be recorded.

The meeting closed with a Karakia led by the Chairperson at 7:52 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON