

Minutes – Combined Community Board 27 July 2023

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	COMBINED COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATANE THURSDAY, 27 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 3.12 PM
	Present:	Board Members C L Hamill (Chairperson), D S McLean, M A Marshall-Inman, D S Yalden (Chairperson), M Stensness (Deputy Chairperson), L Ruiterman, R Gardiner, C McIndoe, P Flowerday, M K McLean, K J Bannan, I M Prentice, A Silcock, L J Bonne, and Councillor N Rangiaho.
	In Attendance:	E Hatch (General Manager People and Engagement), M Trudgen (Change Manager), A Dominic (Systems Analysts), E R Allerby (Communications Advisor), F Begley (Manager Community Partnerships), Leny Woolsey (Manager Strategy and Performance), K Boreham (Principal Advisor), C Viljoen (Manager Governance Services), S French (Senior Governance Support Advisor), C Tongariro (Governance Support Advisor) and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor) Via Teams: S Perdia (GM Strategy and Transformation).
	Visitors:	
	Apologies:	His Worship the Mayor V Luca, Deputy Mayor L Immink, Councillors G Dennis, Boynton, Board Members T Bryant, N George, T L Barnett, J P Goldsmith, L Waaka and lateness for Member L J Bonne.

Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Moved Member Inman/ Seconded Member Flowerday

RESOLVED:

THAT the Combined Community board accept the apologies from His Worship the Mayor Dr V Luca, Deputy Mayor L Immink, Councillors G Dennis, Boynton, Board Members T Bryant, N George, T L Barnett, L Waaka and lateness for Member L J Bonne.

CARRIED

2 Announcement

Chairperson advised the meeting would move to the reporting on the Long Term Plan (LTP) as Mr Steven Perdia was limited on time to present. The meeting would then move to introductions following the report.

3 Reporting

3.1 Long Term Plan (LTP) Update

Refer to Tabled items 1a-b.

Steven Perdia (General Manager of Strategy and Transformation) presented an update on the LTP plan.

Following queries from members discussion included:

- Clarification of the Five Strategic Priorities.
- The importance to strengthen relationships within communities.
- A brief discussion on the Local Government reforms.

Mr Perdia extended his appreciation to the Community Board members involved in the Long-Term Plan and advised council staff would consult further on engagement in the new year.

Attendance: Steven Perdia left the meeting 3:37 pm.

3.2 Introduction

Chairperson welcomed all Community board members and attendees, which included Council staff, to introduce themselves to the meeting.

3.3 Media Training

Refer to Tabled items 1c.

Kay Boreham (Principal advisor) and Estelle Reid-Allerby (Communications Advisor) spoke to the Media and Communications presentation.

It was clarified the presentation was not to provide media training but more to introduce the Communication and Engagement team and inform members how the team operates and the levels of support that they could provide to board members.

The following areas were discussed:

- If approached by media, it was highlighted that there was no urgency to answer their enquiries. Members were encouraged to email council staff or consider adopting a policy to direct enquiries to their chairperson.
- The new approach to Media releases with elected members being notified prior to media.
- Media play a crucial role in providing important information to communities especially during emergency events.
- Members were advised there was a change of direction in the councils' social media approach which had a positive impact with gaining over 13,000 followers.
- A style guide was being developed to provide guidance with communication.

Discussion following queries from members included:

- Councils approach to commenting on social media posts was to provide clarity to a question.
- Discussion ensued on social media and some target audiences may not be reached through the current platforms. It was mentioned that while Tik Tok and Snapchat may be a preference for the younger people they were resource intensive platforms.

- A concern was raised that there was limited communication in the Murupara area. It was clarified communication in Murupara were through the council website, facebook page, and the bi-monthly Murupara newsletter.

3.4 Pecuniary Interest Forms

Refer to pages 3-13 of agenda.

Chirese Viljoen (Manager Governance Services) reminded members it was important to return their completed Pecuniary interest forms. A change in legislation required council to hold a register of interest for all Elected members and this to be made publicly available.

Members were advised that a link would be made available in meeting agenda and completed forms were required annually.

Moved Member Chairperson/ Seconded Member Bannan

RESOLVED:

THAT the Combined Community board receive the reports on the Long-Term Plan Update, Media Training and Pecuniary Interest Forms.

CARRIED

4 Community Board Executive Committee Update

Refer to page 14 of the agenda.

Chairperson Hamill provided an update to the board regarding the Community Board Executive Committee (CBEC) as Zone 2 representative.

Member Hamill advised that it was interesting to be a part of the committee, and they had so far had one in person meeting and one virtual meeting. The committee's focus was on advocacy on inclusion for all communities around the country.

Key points highlighted:

- The Kiwisaver eligibility for all Elected members was being discussed at Local Government for New Zealand conference held in Christchurch and had been ongoing for over 10 years.
- CBEC submitted on the Future for local Government Review as the review very lightly touched on Community boards.
- The CBEC conference had changed its structure to reduce costs. They were in the process of changing its format to host in a major centre, to allow more Community Board members to attend by keeping travel costs to a minimum.
- CBEC members were advised that Community board members could attend Zone 2 meetings. They were encouraged to attend and to contact the chair if they were interested.
- It was advised that CBEC can provide support with training if members were interested.

Moved Member Inman / Seconded Member Silcock

RESOLVED:

THAT the Combined Community Board receive the Community Board Executive Committee update.

CARRIED

5 Community Board Round-Ups

Refer to page 15 of the agenda.

The Chairperson or representative from each Community Board were invited to share the activities their boards were working on.

5.1 Murupara Community Board

Refer to page 15 of agenda and 1d of the tabled items.

Mere McLean (Murupara Community Board Chairperson) presented to the board.

Member McLean shared their board's vision 'To empower and actively strengthen our communities' and the five areas the board were focussed on included to engage, encourage, support, promote and advocate for the communities in their area.

She introduced the members of the board and the areas they represent and advised that Tina Barnett had resigned as a member as she had found employment in Australia, and they wished her all the best.

A summary of the 2023 allocations were provided to highlight the projects and applications the board had supported throughout the year.

5.2 Rangitāiki Community Board

Ross Gardiner (Rangitāiki Community Board Deputy Chairperson) spoke to the update.

The board, while relatively fresh, were finding their place and how they operate with the support from their chairperson Leeann Waaka.

Member Gardiner advised the board had provided targeted support to various projects throughout the community such as the netball courts, bus stop and community plan and explained that during the cyclone Gabrielle events chairperson Waaka led the charge to provide direct support to the Te Karaka community.

They had supported upgrades to the Thornton area, the establishment of a jetty within Matatā and provided feedback on the establishment of CERT teams in the Thornton, Edgumbe and Matatā areas.

As a board they were still working towards finalising their board strategy.

5.3 Tāneatua Community Board

Diane Yalden (Tāneatua Community Board Chairperson) spoke to the update.

Member Yalden advised the board had provided feedback and done a leaflet drop to Tāneatua residents for the councils CCTV Camera's meeting held at the Tāneatua Police. It was advised that following a five year wait the community welcomed the opening of the newly built Tāneatua Police station.

The board were still working on the Waimana and Nukuhou halls to be earthquake strengthened and while the discretionary funds applications had been light for the board, they were expecting more in the coming months.

It was requested the timing for the Combined Community board meeting be later in the day to accommodate working members, and if staff could follow up on the location of the Tāneatua Community boards banner to allow recipients of funds and members to promote the board.

5.4 Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board

Chairperson Carolyn Hamil provided an overview of the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board activities.

It was advised their meetings were going well but were full of funding applications from individuals and Community groups.

The board were involved in the LTP community panel, Community safety cameras project, members were involved in the climate change panel, and they were working with Awatapu Otamakaokao trust on projects they want to achieve, and how the board could support them.

Members were having regular informal catchups to build relationships and brainstorm on their projects, such as picnic tables at Maraetōtara reserve, legacy projects for the community, as well as a submission to the districts speed management plan.

Moved Chairperson Hamill / Seconded Member Stensness

RESOLVED:

THAT the Combined Community Board receive the Community Board Round Ups.

CARRIED

6 Other items

Chairperson Hamill allowed members to raise any items they wanted to share.

6.1 Re-opening of Council building

Member Alison Silcock (Murupara Community Board member) expressed her disappointment that Community board members were excluded in the invite to the re-opening of the Whakatāne District Council building.

Council staff acknowledged her disappointment and emphasised there was no intention to exclude Community board members, the reawakening of the building was limited due to the number of staff and Elected members that needed to be inducted into the building on the day.

6.2 Council Staff response times

Member Peter Flowerday (Rangitāiki Community Board) raised concerns with council staff response times.

Discussion ensued on council staff response times and how they respond.

Members were encouraged to use the 'Request for Service' function on the council website or contact the council's customer service team.

Council staff reminded members that some queries can be answered faster than others, and at times a subject matter expert may be required such as a consultant to verify the information prior to it being disclosed which may take time.

Members could approach their chairperson or other known council staff for guidance if required.

6.3 Next meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting would be toward the end of the year and would be moved to another ward of the district. Staff would aim to accommodate a 4pm start time.

THE MEETING CLOSED WITH A KARAKIA FROM CHAIRPERSON HAMILL AT 4:33 PM.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:

CHAIRPERSON