

TAUMARUNUI-ŌHURA COMMUNITY BOARD
Te Poari-ā-Hapori o Taumarunui-Ōhura

MINUTES

THE MEETING OF TAUMARUNUI-ŌHURA COMMUNITY BOARD HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 59-61 HUIA STREET, TAUMARUNUI
ON THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023, AT 6:01PM

PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

Present | Tuhinga

Chairperson	Luke Pepper
Deputy Chairperson	Molly Jeffries
Board Members	Aroha Rudkin Oriwia Wanakore
Mayor	Weston Kirton

By Zoom

Board Member	Sophie Stockbridge
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In Attendance | I Tae Mai

Clive Manley	Chief Executive
Vini Dutra	Executive Manager Infrastructure
Pauline Welch	Executive Manager Community & Economic Development
Rina Hepi	Manager Community & Recreational Facilities
Tasha Paladin	Governance Manager

Absent | Ngaro

Councillor	Lyn Neeson
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1 Opening Karakia | Karakia Timatanga

Member Rudkin

Chair Pepper congratulated Member Stockbridge on the safe arrival of her new baby.

2 Apologies

The Chairperson invited notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Jeffries

Seconded: Member Rudkin

That the Apologies from Councillor Neeson be accepted.

3 Declarations of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 Notification of Additional Items

There were no additional items not on the Agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Meeting

The order of the meeting was confirmed.

6 Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders

The Community Board temporarily suspended Standing Orders to allow Members and the public to address the Board.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin

Seconded: Member Jeffries

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 Receives the Report **Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders**; and
- 2 Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, temporarily suspends the following Standing Orders to enable members of the Public to address Council, and members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner:
 - (a) 21.2 Time limits on speakers | Te tepenga wā mā ngā kaikōrero
 - (b) 21.5 Members may speak only once | Kotahi noa iho te wā e āhei ai te mema ki te korero; and
 - (c) 21.6 Limits on number of speakers | Ngā tepenga mō te maha o ngā kaikōrero.

The Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board received addresses as follows:

Note: Member Wanakore left the meeting at 6:20PM and re-entered at 6:21PM.

6.1 Members of the Taumarunui Go Kart Club

Members of the Taumarunui Go Kart Club addressed the Community Board seeking update on access to Go Kart Track; they advised they are receiving requests from across the Waikato to use the Track however, the Club is currently unable to provide any answer.

Mayor Kirton advised there had been a site visit by Councillors to understand the challenges of access. It was noted the Dairy Farm is for sale and therefore it appears there has been a lost opportunity to consider an alternative route with the landowners along Kirton Road. The Chief Executive apologised for the lack of communication as officers progressed the issue; he advised the crux of the issue is getting permission from private land owners. The Go Kart Club members advised they were looking at every opportunity possible however noted the landowner's concerns about making his land public access.

Council's Manager Community & Recreational Facilities shared that officers had undertaken an option analysis of all the sites and were still assessing the cost options of providing secured access to the site.

6.2 Karen Ngatai

Karen Ngatai addressed the Community Board regarding the Southern Entrance to Taumarunui and her disappointment at the maintenance of the verges. She expressed her disappointment that the grass around the rhododendrons along the State Highway were not being mowed. Last year nine rhododendrons were lost due to the long grass and the volunteers are reluctant to replant due to the lack of maintenance; Ms. Ngatai asked if Council could see its way to reimburse the volunteers for the loss of the plants due to long grass.

Ms. Ngatai was concerned that the Southern Entrance was unsightly and would not leave a good first "welcome to Taumarunui" impression of the town. She also felt the poor maintenance would be a disincentive for businesses invest in Visit Ruapehu if they did not see the town being looked after.

Ms. Ngatai wanted a commitment from Council that the grass around the rhododendrons would be mowed regularly, and efforts made to gain repeat tourism. Officers advised the upkeep of the area alongside the State Highway not only triggers a Traffic Management Plan, it also requires access permission from Kiwi Rail, thereby creating challenges to implement a maintenance schedule with any continuity. Officers are pursuing solutions.

6.3 Kuru Ketu

Kuru Ketu of Ngāti Hauā spoke to the Community Board on the topic of the Pungapunga River and access to the Go Kart Track. He shared with Members that he felt some context had been lost and access over the Pungapunga River falls under the definition of the Te Awa Tupua Act; there is a need to recognise and provide for the river, which is considered a legal person.

Mr. Ketu advised it had been made clear to both the Go Kart Club and Council that access to the track could not go over the Pungapunga River. Construction of another bridge is of no utility as there is constant erosion and it would not provide a long-term solution.

It was also noted that not 100% of the Go Kart Track was on Council owned land. Mr. Ketu questioned if the access warranted the investment for a comparatively small percentage of the community when set within the context of the wider needs of the rohe.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Jeffries
 Seconded: Member Rudkin

That the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, reinstates Standing Orders in their entirety for consideration of the Agenda.

7 Confirmation of Minutes of Community Board Meeting

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin
 Seconded: Member Wanakore

That the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board meeting held Thursday, 12 October 2023 as attached, a true and correct record

8 Programme of Footpath Works

Members were presented with a report on the District’s Footpath Safety Improvements, Renewals and Maintenance programme with specific regard to the Taumarunui-Ōhura ward area and sought the Community Board’s approval to undertake safety improvements and footpath renewals for the 2023/24 Financial Year.

Council’s Executive Manager Infrastructure spoke to the report and answered Members’ questions. He advised that following a condition assessment, Council was looking to bring the footpath condition up to acceptable standards within the Key Performance Indicators set by Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) within its Mandatory Non-Financial Performance Measures. It was noted that all repairs were budgeted.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Wanakore
 Seconded: Member Jeffries

That the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 Receives the Report **Programme of Footpath Works**;
- 2 **Approves** the following identified footpath safety improvements:

LOCALITY	STREET	LOCATION	LENGTH
Taumarunui	Paraone Street	From Wackrow Street to end	242m
Manunui	Miro Street	From end of existing to Tarata Place	425m

3 **Approves** the following identified footpath renewals:

LOCALITY	STREET	LOCATION	LENGTH
Golf Road	Campbell Street	From Cul De Sac to Tarrangower Avenue	25m
Taumarunui	Manu aute Street	From Huia Street to Miriama Street	115m
Taumarunui	River Road	From Miriama Street to Hakiaha Street	99m
Taumarunui	Taumarunui Street	From Marae Street to Cherry Grove Road	32m
Taumarunui	SH4 (Hakiaha Street)	From River Road to Katarina Street	75m
Taumarunui	SH4 (Hakiaha Street)	From Maata Street to Turaki Street	99m
Manunui	Miro Street	From Rata Street to SH41	235m
Matapuna	Taupo Road	From SH4 to BP road	29m

9 Civil Defence Training

Members were presented with a report providing an introduction to the Civil Defence training site Takatū for the purposes of the encouraging them to undertake the Civil Defence foundation course to help build Council's capacity in the case of a Civil Defence Emergency.

Council's Executive Manager Community & Economic Development spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. Members requested a calendar of training events for 2024.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin
 Seconded: Member Wanakore

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 Receives the Report **Civil Defence Training** for information.

10 Capital Works and Members Request for Information

Members were provided with an update on planned Capital Works in the Taumarunui–Ōhura Ward in the 2023/24 Financial Year. Relevant officers spoke to this report and answered Members' questions.

Key Items Discussed:

- 10.1 **R7 Pedestrian Crossing Taupo Road, Taumarunui:** Members acknowledged the request had been added to the Long Term Plan and asked if a further safe crossing could be installed at 110/120 Taupo Road, just beyond the Marae, where the footpath ceases on one side of the road and re-starts on the other side. Officers advised it had been included in the school crossing funding proposal to Waka Kotahi however it had not been prioritised for safety improvements due to the low level of incidents and accidents at that site. Officers advised there were other options to improve safety that could be explored in response to community feedback.
- 10.2 **E7 Ōhura Inorganic Collection:** Member Stockbridge requested the item be closed off and removed from the report.
- 10.3 **C8 Drinking Water Tap & Rubbish bin Ōhura:** Officers undertook to follow up with the contractor to remove the blue pipe.

10.4 **R4 Stop Sign at Short Street, Taumarunui:** Members requested if a mirror could be installed to aid visibility. Officers advised they were not sure it would solve the problem.

New Requests for Information

Signage at the Lower Train Bridge, Ōhura: Member Stockbridge advised two accidents have recently occurred at the bridge. She requested if more signage could be installed. Officers undertook to explore options, however advised that the height of the bridge presents a set of unique challenges. Installation of a mirror is pending subject to purchase by the community.

Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui Resealing Programme: Officers advised the works were all but finished with the water main anticipated to be commissioned before Christmas. Officers were exploring how to charge up the lines without disrupting main street businesses. Once the water main is operational, Waka Kotahi will commence the rehabilitation of the pavement. Officers advised that Waka Kotahi has indicated that budgets beyond the current funding triennium could present a challenge to the completion of the Hakiaha Street upgrade. Options are being explored to undertake the resealing in sections, from kerb to kerb including the car parks, over two financial years.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Jeffries

Seconded: Member Rudkin

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

1 Receives the Report **Capital Works and Members Request for Information.**

11 Chair, Deputy Chair, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Reports (Verbal)

Members each gave verbal updates on recent and upcoming events, and other matters of general and topical interest to the Community Board area.

- Members Wanakore and Jeffries provided an overview and key takeaways from the Young Elected Members Hui that they recently attended in the Far North. Key takeaways included the importance of iwi and hapū being around the table for decision making as well as creating the opportunity and spaces for this to happen; developing a ‘buddy system’ to help mentor young Elected Members; and surrounding themselves by successful people.
- Mayor Kirton advised the Pet Food Factory were planning to open in 2024 which would provide plentiful opportunities for the district both in terms of employment but also through the provision of raw materials to the plant.
- Member Stockbridge congratulated the roading teams for the works in Ōhura.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin

Seconded: Member Jeffries

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

1 Receives the Verbal Reports for Information.

12 Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Community Board Business

Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 gives the Community Board the right by resolution to exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on one or more of the grounds contained within that Section.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Rudkin
 Seconded: Member Jeffries

That the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board:

- 1 Receives the **Report Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Community Board Business**;
- 2 Excludes the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting;
- 3 Notes the general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
13 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of the Community Board Meeting 12 October 2023	For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Taumarunui–Ōhura Community Board Meeting 12 October 2023.	
14 Confidential Briefing	s7(2)(c) To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest	s48(1)(a) the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7.

The Public Business part of the meeting concluded at 7:38PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Community Board Meeting held this 22nd day of February 2024.



Luke Pepper
CHAIRPERSON