

# TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Council Chambers, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Monday 5 April, 2004 commencing at 6.30pm.

### 1. Present

Mrs S A Aitken (Chairperson), Mr V J Hales (Deputy Chairperson), Mrs V M Johanson, Mr N H Ensor and Mr C P Thew.

#### In Attendance

Mr R Twentyman	-	Chief Executive
Mr R Taylor	-	Administration Officer

### 2. Apologies

2.1 An apology was noted from Cr J G Swenson for non-attendance at the meeting.

### 3. Public Forum

3.1 Mr Brian Wilson spoke on the following matters:-

- Is very annoyed about the problems he encountered in endeavouring to contact Civil Defence during the recent flooding.
- Heavy rainfall had caused the Mangatoro River to rise rapidly, and by nightfall this was close to covering the bridge.
- Attempts to obtain signs to close the road were to no avail, and the response from authorities in Dannevirke and Wellington had been most unhelpful.
- As a result of this situation Mr Wilson was out in the water to stop people going over the bridge.
- However some drivers were determined to use the bridge and did not stop.
- Mr Wilson, who is recovering from a major operation, was finding the cold and wetness rather harmful to his health. He decided to return home for a change of clothing.
- During this period Mr Wilson heard the noise of a vehicle hitting the water on the bridge, and it aquaplaned to the centre before the engine was flooded.
- The woman driver inside cried for help as she panicked. Mr Wilson ventured onto the bridge to save the woman, and eventually was able to pull her out of the vehicle and return her to safety.
- Just at this time a tree hit the car, lifting it up and almost putting it over the rails into the river.
- This frightening event was witnessed by a woman with a torch who provided the only illumination at the site. The woman was in attendance at the meeting with Mr Wilson, and is still very traumatised by what she witnessed.
- Mr Wilson almost lost his life rescuing the woman driver, yet this situation should have been prevented from ever occurring.

- Finally temporary road closure signs were sent from Dannevirke during the night after a call came into the Council office.
- Mr Wilson has been battling with the Council for many years to have permanent flood warning signs erected on this road, but his requests have failed to achieve any action.

3.2 Mr Wilson was commended for his bravery by board members.

3.3 The Chief Executive referred to the following matters in responding to Mr Wilson's comments:-

- Thankfully Mr Wilson is still here today to tell of his terrifying rescue. Through his unselfish actions a tragedy has been averted.
- The woman trapped in the car must have been in a state of panic, and as a result of travelling when it was unsafe to do so had created a situation which placed both her own life and that of Mr Wilson's at risk.
- The widespread flooding experienced in the district had placed extreme pressure on the availability of signs to warn motorists of flooding and road closures.
- The call for signs received by the Council was immediately responded to, and Tararua Roading promptly arranged to deliver them.
- Signs will be arranged for this road on a permanent basis, and Tararua Roading have reviewed their sign supplies.

3.4 Mr Ivan Johanson spoke on the following matters:-

- Mr Johanson had become aware of the problems experienced by Mr Wilson, and was attending the meeting to support him in raising concerns relating to the lack of response to this emergency.
- The Council should review its Civil Defence organisation and structure, particularly in the situation where the Civil Defence Officer is unavailable to attend an emergency.
- Systems should be set up whereby the Civil Defence Officer can track events which may cause an emergency to result, eg. heavy rainfall increasing river levels that could create flooding.
- In the event of a Civil Defence emergency each community should have contacts in place that can promptly respond and communicate with the Civil Defence Officer.

3.5 The Chief Executive referred to the following matters in responding to Mr Johanson's comments:-

- It is acknowledged that good communication lines must exist in the event of an emergency, and in such situations the Council is responsible for the support and care of its community.
- Valuable lessons were learnt from the floods, and a review is taking place of the event and what occurred.

- Processes and procedures shall be considered to identify any changes which are necessary to provide a better response in the future. This includes the number of calls to outlying areas which got no reply when contact was endeavoured to be made by the Council.
- It is disappointing that statements had been made publicly in the media which were critical of Civil Defence, based on a lack of understanding and appreciation of its role and responsibilities.

3.6 Mr David Ormandy spoke on the following matters:-

- Questioned the process to be followed in reporting skateboards and bicycles being used on footpaths.
- Suggested that consideration be given to providing a subsidised bus service for the elderly to assist them to do their shopping.

3.7 The Administration Officer referred to the following matters in responding to Mr Ormandy's comments:-

- Concerns relating to skateboards and bicycles on footpaths should be reported to the Service Centre so that follow up action can occur.
- Horizons Regional Council is responsible for providing funding towards passenger transport services. A proposal would need to be forwarded to the Regional Land Transport Committee for consideration, and perhaps Grey Power could develop this to support the request.

3.8 Mr Stephen Cooper spoke on the following matters:-

- Expressed concern about accusations made publicly regarding Civil Defence. These were groundless, and showed no understanding of what actually occurs in emergency situations such as the flooding.
- Everything was under control in relation to the flooding event, and the various support services were in place. Those not able to be present were being kept fully informed of the situation.
- The public can participate in Civil Defence, but past interest has been very disappointing.
- Members of Civil Defence and volunteers assisting them had been abused during the floods whilst doing their job. This wasn't necessary.
- On one occasion during the height of the storm a farmer had threatened to remove barricades and signs. He was reported to the Police.

3.9 Board members expressed regret that those working or helping Civil Defence during the flooding had encountered abuse. The actions of some people were totally irresponsible, and their behaviour was inexcusable and should never have happened.

#### 4. Personal Matters

4.1 Nil.

#### 5. Notification Of Any Extraordinary Business Not On The Agenda

5.1 The following matter was notified as an item of additional general business for discussion at today's meeting:-

- Traffic Flow Improvement Plan

6. Confirmation Of Minutes

6.1 ***That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 1 March, 2004 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

***Johanson/Thew***

***Carried***

7. Matters Arising From The Minutes

7.1 Possible Dannevirke Day For Flood Victims (Item 13.1)

7.1.1 The Fantasy Cave and Wai Splash have offered to open their doors free of charge as part of such a day's events.

7.1.2 Approaches have also been made to various other organisations for assistance, but as yet their response has not been received.

7.2 High Street Roadway Repairs (Item 13.2)

7.2.1 Transit New Zealand have been requested to arrange the repair of the High Street roadway at the edge of the pedestrian crossing located between Classic Clothing and Work and Income.

7.2.2 As yet this work has not been done, and the surface is a potential hazard to pedestrians safety.

7.3 Safety at Pedestrian Crossings (Item 7.1)

7.3.1 The Chairperson is to meet with Debbie Webster (Regional Road Safety Co-ordinator) and Huia Gardiner (ACC Consultant) to discuss this matter.

7.3.2 Contact is also to be made with Constable Lynda Kendrick to arrange a meeting to discuss possible educational safety initiatives in the community.

8. Tararua District Council Report

8.1 ***That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 31 March, 2004 (as tabled) be received.***

***Thew/Ensor***

***Carried***

8.2 Model Standing Orders For Meetings of Local Authorities and Community Boards.

8.2.1 The Administration Officer outlined the main changes contained within the revised Model Standing Orders for meetings of local authorities and community boards.

8.2.2 Board members were invited to request a copy of the new Standing Orders for their reference, and this could be made available to them.

8.3 Draft Community Plan

8.3.1 A copy of the Draft Community Plan was circulated to each board member.

8.3.2 The Board's public forum section of its next meeting will be used to present the Draft Community Plan, and shall provide the opportunity for community participation in this process.

9. Reports From Board Representatives Appointed To Local Community Groups

9.1 Dannevirke Friends of the Town Hall Group

9.1.1 This Group is working through a number of issues, and these include the following:-

- Procedures for the Information Centre to handle the booking of the Town Hall and the revenue received from hire charges.
- Rules and regulations for hire.
- Wish list of projects and work which needs to be undertaken.
- Gala opening of the Town Hall which Patrick Power will attend.

9.1.2 The new carpet for the Town Hall has been laid, and the appearance of the facility is looking very magnificent with the new paint work also having been finished.

9.2 Dannevirke Brass Band

9.2.1 The plans to construct the new bandroom are presently out for finalisation.

10. Reports

10.1 Draft Dog Control Policy

10.1.1 ***That the report from the Community Outcomes Manager dated 25 March, 2004 concerning the draft Dog Control Policy (as circulated) be received.***

***Johanson/Ensor***

***Carried***

10.1.2 ***That the Board supports the adoption of the Draft Dog Control Policy for the purpose of public consultation subject to the following matters being included:-***

- ***On page 5 the definition of a companion dog is needed.***
- ***In Schedule 3 Clause C the following be designated as dog exercise areas identified by signs and provided with appropriate receptacles for the disposal of dog faeces:-***
  1. ***Railway embankment Stanley Street***
  2. ***Railway reserve at Mangatera***
  3. ***Public area across the road by the reserve near to the White Bus carpark.***
- ***In Schedule 3 Clause A the following be designated as a dog prohibited area; High Street, from Miller Street to McPhee Street. This is required on the grounds of public safety and hygiene.***
- ***Greater emphasis needs to be placed on destroying dangerous and menacing dogs where conclusive evidence is produced that they are a threat to public safety.***

***Ensor/Johanson***

***Carried***

10.1.3 The Chairperson tabled some information on various products available to dog owners to assist them to remove their dogs faeces if they defecate in a public place.

11. Correspondence

11.1 ***That the correspondence as listed be received:-***

(a) ***New Zealand National Horse and Pony Show Association 11 March, 2004  
Re: Letter of appreciation***

(b) ***Mr W Dickinson – Dannevirke High School 18 March, 2004  
Re: Request for contribution towards students expenses to join the  
biennial Youth EnviroSchool 2004 at Lincoln University.***

(c) ***John Walker, Business Manager 19 March, 2004  
Re: Board’s preliminary submission on the Long Term Council  
Community Plan.***

***Ensor/Johanson***

***Carried***

11.2 Mr W Dickinson – Dannevirke High School

11.2.1 ***That the Board decline the request received from the Dannevirke High School to contribute towards the students expenses to join the Biennial Youth EnviroSchool 2004 at Lincoln University, and***

***That no funding be made available to assist them with these expenses for the following reasons:-***

- ***The General Assistance Grants Scheme provides financial support to community and charitable organisations, rather than individuals.***
- ***Schools are not eligible to be considered for assistance from this scheme.***
- ***Such applications are considered to be outside the scope and purpose of this scheme, and to grant any assistance would be an inappropriate use of these funds.***

***Hales/Ensor***

***Carried***

11.3 John Walker – Long Term Council Community Plan

11.3.1 A letter will be sent from the Chairperson to Mr Walker regarding the matters he has raised in respect of the Board’s preliminary submission on the Long Term Council Community Plan.

11.3.2 A copy of this letter will also be circulated to the Mayor and Councillors.

11.3.3 The Board will consider the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan at its next meeting, and a submission shall be prepared for presentation to the Council.

12. General Assistance Grants Scheme 2003/2004

12.1 The Board received sixteen applications seeking \$16,441.61 in funding. A maximum total of \$11,500.00 is available for disbursement.

12.2 ***That the following grants be approved for disbursement from the Dannevirke Community Board’s General Assistance Grants Scheme for the 2003/2004 annual funding allocation:-***

<u>No</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount Granted</u>
1	<i>The Akitio Recreation and Sports Club</i>	<i>Resurfacing Community Centre floor</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
2	<i>Appleton Kindergarten Parents Committee</i>	<i>Town hall hire charges for Christmas ball</i>	<i>\$105.00</i>
3	<i>Dannevirke Brass Band</i>	<i>Music stands</i>	<i>\$225.00</i>
4	<i>Dannevirke Cottage Quilters</i>	<i>Workshop to learn crazy piecing and stitching</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>
6	<i>Dannevirke Family Services</i>	<i>Carpet, vinyl and furniture for new premises</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
8	<i>Dannevirke Girl Guide Association Parent Support Committee</i>	<i>Purchase two new tents</i>	<i>\$590.00</i>
9	<i>Dannevirke Royal New Zealand Plunket Society</i>	<i>Bridal experience celebrating 30 years of Bouquet for a Bride</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>
10	<i>Kumeroa Domain Board</i>	<i>New Church roof</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>
11	<i>Pongaroa Craft Group</i>	<i>Replace vinyl flooring</i>	<i>\$860.00</i>
14	<i>Tararua Community Youth Worker Project</i>	<i>Advertising and promotion of holiday and educational programmes</i>	<i>\$560.00</i>
15	<i>Tararua District Truancy Service</i>	<i>Assistance with travel funding</i>	<i>\$250.00</i>
16	<i>Weber Community Committee</i>	<i>Paint hall exterior and install fire alarm</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,090.00</b>

*And that the following applications be declined for the reasons as stated:-*

<u>No</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Reason</u>
5	<i>Dannevirke and District Grey Power Association</i>	<i>The cost of producing a quarterly newsletter should be funded by the organisation's members, and the Board does not provide assistance to subsidise subscriptions.</i>
7	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Dannevirke Girls Brigade</i>	<i>Funding is not provided to subsidise costs incurred by an individual, and the request is for assistance with ten persons camp fees rather than a specific project which the organisation intends to undertake.</i>
12	<i>Tamaki nui a Rua Taiwhenua Trust</i>	<i>No written quotes were provided from suppliers to support the application, and some of the costs incurred are retrospective as the series of Wananga has already commenced.</i>

**13 Tararua Big Brother/Big Sister  
Tuakana/Taina Programme**

***The development and printing of letterheads is considered to be an ongoing operational cost which the organisation should fund from its administration budget rather than proposing to purchase this item as a specific project.***

***Ensor/Johanson***

***Carried***

13. Chairman's Remarks

13.1 Dannevirke Cave Dwellers

13.1.1 The Board noted that the town's leading tourist attraction may have to close temporarily or even permanently if they lose the support of their major sponsor.

This situation could result if the premises which they operate from are no longer available as a consequence of the building being sold.

13.1.2 The Board will monitor any developments regarding this matter, and invite representatives to attend a meeting if they need help.

13.2 Tributes

13.2.1 The Chairperson paid tribute to the following achievements:-

- Congratulations to Visique 2000 on winning the Dannevirke Business Service Awards, and to Destinations Motor Lodge on the second place award, and to Wards Pharmacy on the third place award. Congratulations to all other participants.
- Congratulations to Maurice Beatson on winning the Tararua Sportsperson of the Year Award. Congratulations to all other participants.

13.3 Collection of Items For Flood Victims

13.3.1 A letter has been sent to Linda Blackford expressing thanks and appreciation for her role in collecting items for people who lost belongings as a result of the flood.

13.4 Alternative Route Signage

13.4.1 This matter has been discussed with the Rooding Manager, and he is waiting on signage by Transit New Zealand for the alternative route through Dannevirke.

13.5 Upgrading of Railway Crossings

13.5.1 Nothing has happened with upgrading the railway crossings in Dannevirke. It appears that this work is being held up as a quote is still awaited from Tararua Rooding Limited.

13.5.2 It was requested that the Land Transport Safety Authority be advised of this situation.

14. Extraordinary Business Not On The Agenda

14.1 Traffic Flow Improvement Plan

14.1.1 Concern was expressed that as a result of implementing stage 1 of the Traffic Flow Improvement Plan there are now road safety issues which need to be considered.

These relate to the situation created by parked vehicles at the intersection of Barraud and Waterloo Streets.

14.1.2 It was requested that this matter be referred to the Roading Manager for his investigation and comment.

*There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.*

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*Chairperson*