

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 3 May, 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

| | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Mrs M E Reynolds | - | Her Worship the Mayor |
| Cr J E Crispin | - | Northern Ward Elected Representative |
| Cr D A Roberts | - | Northern Ward Elected Representative |
| Mr R Twentyman | - | Chief Executive |
| Mr P Wimsett | - | Manager Financial Services |
| Mr R Taylor | - | Administration Officer |

2. Apologies

2.1 Nil.

3. Public Forum

3.1 Draft Tararua District Community Plan

3.1.1 Eleven members of the public were in attendance at the meeting for this item of business.

3.1.2 The Chief Executive gave a visual presentation on the Draft Tararua District Community Plan.

3.1.3 The opportunity was then provided for general questions to be raised, with reference being made to the following matters:-

- Additional sewerage charges levied on businesses for pan tax.
- Proposed increase to pensioner housing rentals.
- Debt levels and their implications
- Pahiatua Track Upgrade and funding for other seal extension work.
- Target rates

3.1.4 The Chairperson thanked the members of the public for attending the presentation, and encouraged them to forward their submissions to the Council before the closing date of 10 May, 2004.

4. Personal Matters

4.1 The Chairperson welcomed Sue Emeny, reporter from the Manawatu Standard, to the meeting.

4.2 The Chairperson wished Judy Babe, reporter from the Evening News who leaves her position this week, all the best for the future.

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:-

- Landscaping plan to enhance the appearance of the town's northern entrance.

6. Confirmation Of Minutes

- 6.1 ***That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 5 April, 2004 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

Ensor/Johanson

Carried

7. Matters Arising From The Minutes

7.1 High Street Roadway Repairs (Item 7.2)

- 7.1.1 The Roothing Manager has further contacted Transit New Zealand requesting that they arrange to repair the High Street roadway at the edge of the pedestrian crossing located between Classic Clothing and Work and Income.

7.2 Alternative Route Signage (Item 13.4)

- 7.2.1 The Roothing Manager has further requested Transit New Zealand to proceed with the signage for the alternative route through Dannevirke.

7.3 Upgrading of Railway Crossings (Item 13.5)

- 7.3.1 Tararua Roothing Limited have commenced the work to upgrade the railway crossings in Dannevirke.

7.4 Traffic Flow Improvement Plan (Item 14.1)

- 7.4.1 The Roothing Manager advises that yellow no parking lines are to be installed around the corners at the intersection of Barraud and Waterloo Streets to improve safety in this area.

7.5 Possible Dannevirke Day For Flood Victims (Item 7.1)

- 7.5.1 Victim Support are very interested and enthusiastic about arranging a Dannevirke Day for flood victims.
- 7.5.2 The Chairperson shall meet with this group to discuss progressing the organising of this event.

7.6 Safety At Pedestrian Crossings (Item 7.3)

- 7.6.1 The Chairperson has held a meeting with Debbie Webster (Regional Road Safety Co-ordinator), and it was agreed that there be work done on helmet usage and trialling the "walking bus" concept.

8. Tararua District Council Report

- 8.1 ***That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 April, 2004 (as tabled) be received.***

Hales/Ensor

Carried

8.2 Draft Dog Control Policy

- 8.2.1 It was noted that the Board's request for dog exercise areas and to prohibit dogs in High Street has been included in the Draft Dog Control Policy.

9. Reports From Board Representatives Appointed To Local Community Groups

9.1 Dannevirke Friends of the Town Hall Group

9.1.1 Plans are progressing for the Gala opening of the Town Hall which Patrick Power is to attend.

9.2 Dannevirke Information Centre Management Committee

9.2.1 The Information Centre now provides a Ticket Direct facility, and bookings can be made through them for various national events.

10. Correspondence

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

***(a) New Zealand Community Boards Executive Committee 31 March, 2004
Re: Draft role description for Community Board members***

Thew/Johanson

Carried

10.2 New Zealand Community Boards Executive Committee

10.2.1 ***That the Board provide the following comment on the draft role description for Community Board members:-***

Governance Role – Relationships

Amend the wording of the opening sentence in the first bullet point to read “To work in a cooperative relationship with the Council”.

Thew/Johanson

Carried

10.3 Draft Dog Control Policy

10.3.1 The Deputy Chairperson advised that he had received correspondence from a resident in Windsor Street regarding this matter.

10.3.2 The Administration Officer indicated that he also received a similar letter along with the Community Outcomes Manager, and the same person had written to the local newspaper.

10.3.3 The Administration Officer has sent a reply to the letters sent to him, and encouraged the person to consider making a submission on the draft policy when it is released for public consultation.

11. Chairman's Remarks

11.1 Tributes

11.1.1 The Chairperson paid tribute to the following achievements:-

- Sincere thanks to the contractors for the huge job which they have done in the Manawatu Gorge. The extent of the damage is certainly very evident, and the repair work undertaken is a wonderful achievement.
- The work carried out to restore the appearance of the Dannevirke Railway Station looks great. Thanks to the enthusiasts who contributed to achieving this project.

11.2 Enforcement of No Parking In Designated Bus Stop Areas

11.2.1 The designated bus stop areas in town do need enforcing as a no parking area. Perhaps consideration could also be given to making them tow away areas as a deterrent to offenders.

11.3 Second Stage of the Playground Development

11.3.1 Consideration should be given to forming a community group to develop a plan for the second stage of the playground development.

A detailed proposal could then be prepared, and funding sought from the Council's Community Recreation Fund.

12. Extraordinary Business Not On The Agenda

12.1 Landscaping Plan to Enhance the Appearance of the Town's Northern Entrance

12.1.1 Ten quotes have been received to supply the plants for this project, and Board Member Thew will assess these and report back to the Board with recommendations.

12.1.2 Quotes will also be sought to undertake the spraying work required, and arrangements need to be made for volunteers to assist with the project.

12.1.3 Transit New Zealand will coordinate the traffic safety issues as part of their contribution through the Adopt a Highway Scheme.

13. Draft Tararua District Community Plan

13.1 ***That with regard to the Council's Draft Tararua District Community Plan, the Dannevirke Community Board makes the following submission:-***

The Plan

The Board congratulates the Council and its staff on the production of the Draft Tararua District Community Plan.

It welcomes this opportunity to submit its views on the future direction of the district, and in particular on matters of interest and concern to its community and area.

Additional Sewerage Charges Levied On Businesses For Pan Tax

The Board considers that the levying of additional sewerage charges on businesses for pan tax is not appropriate.

Such an imposition should not be implemented by the Council, and there are more equitable ways to raise the revenue needed to fund the cost of this service.

The option supported by the Board is that there be a uniform approach taken to setting one sewerage rate which does not differentiate between residential or commercial ratepayers.

This consistently spreads the responsibility for generating the necessary funds required from users, and recognises the public good to the community through the provision of this essential infrastructure.

Businesses contribute an important part to ensuring a successful and prosperous district, and as such they should not be unfairly penalised by expecting them to pay significantly higher sewerage charges.

The unfairness of this situation is apparent when businesses are being singled out to pay multiple charges if they have more than one connection, whereas a house with a number of toilets will only pay one charge.

If the Council proceeds with the proposal to impose a massive rates increase on the business sector through additional sewerage charges it will create a disincentive for the district's economic development.

It would also jeopardise the opportunities to attract new businesses to come to the district, and place an additional burden on those already established.

Coast Road Sealing

Concern has frequently been raised by the residents of this area that no progress is being achieved in progressing the sealing of Coast Road.

The Board believes that this issue can not continue to be ignored by the Council, and it definitely should make some commitment to include this project in the Plan.

As the period of the Plan covers ten years the Board urges the Council to identify the Coast Road for upgrading at some stage within the proposed roading programme.

Roadside Vegetation Control

There are concerns in the rural community that work on roadside vegetation control is not receiving enough emphasis, and the service level needs to be improved.

This is essential to ensuring the safety and visibility on many of the district's rural roads, and it is important that the work is carried out in a timely and effective manner.

The Board requests the Council to ensure that this occurs, and the funding being directed to carry out this work is satisfactorily achieving the control of roadside vegetation to the appropriate standard.

Target Rates

The Council's ability to fund the cost of projects requested by the community will continue to come under increasing pressure, particularly those involving significant capital expenditure.

Whilst the Board acknowledges there is a district wide rating system in place, it considers that the time has come to look at the option of introducing target rates.

This should be done over the next twelve months to enable any proposals being considered to be included in the next Annual Plan.

The advantage of applying a target rate will be to give the community discretion to do specific projects that they want, and are prepared to pay for through their rates.

Footpath Cleaning

The condition and appearance of the footpaths in the shopping area of Dannevirke is a concern to the business community and residents of the town.

Whilst the Board is very pleased to note that this area is proposed for a major upgrade in 2006, there is an urgent need to take some remedial action in the interim.

The Board requests that the Council investigate the costs of putting in place a quarterly footpath cleaning programme for the commercial business area of Dannevirke.

This work could be done through either a major hose down or appropriate machinery being used.

By introducing this service the town's image would be greatly enhanced, and shoppers could then enjoy a much more pleasant environment than the current situation.

Thew/Ensor

Carried

- 13.2 Board Member Johanson requested that it be noted she did not support the Board's submission concerning the additional sewerage charges levied on businesses for pan tax.
- 13.3 The Board requests the opportunity to present its submission to the Council at the hearing to be scheduled for this purpose.
- 13.4 It was noted that the Chairperson will not be available to attend this meeting, and a representative will need to be confirmed (with the possibility of Board Member Ensor being proposed).

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairperson