

TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL
Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Monday 4 May, 2009 commencing at 3.00pm.

1. Present

Board Members R P Teahan (Chairperson), C J Isaacson (Deputy Chairperson), R A Dresser and W R Macdonald.

In Attendance

Mr R Taylor - Governance Manager

2. Apologies

2.1 *That an apology be sustained from Cr C W Southgate (Council appointed community board member) for non-attendance at the meeting.*

Dresser/Macdonald

Carried

3. Public Forum

3.1 Cycleway Event Within the District

3.1.1 Mike Harold spoke on the possibility of a cycleway event being organised within the district, with these discussions including reference to the following matters.

- There is significant potential for a cycleway event being held in conjunction with other neighbouring areas.
- This could be achieved through the district being part of a wider connecting route for such an event based on the concept of the "wine trail" which presently exists.
- The project would be long term, and its success is dependent on the interest and support shown by other districts.
- It is noted that the Government's priority for establishing a national cycleway is focussed on connecting existing cycleways, and the details of its plans are still being considered.
- The safety of cyclists travelling from Matamau to Oringi is an issue which would need planning to be undertaken for the event.
- Discussions should be held with the operator of the railway network and interested parties through arranging a forum to consider the feasibility of progressing this proposal.

3.1.2 The Chairperson thanked Mike Harold for his suggestions, and agreed to undertake some background work regarding this matter and report back to the Board with the outcome.

4. Personal Matters

4.1 Nil

5. Notification of Items Not On The Agenda

5.1 Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 ***That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 6 April, 2009 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

Dresser/Isaacson

Carried

7. Matters Arising From The Minutes

7.1 ***Dannevirke Community Hospital (Item 6)***

7.1.1 The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson attended a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition and some of his colleagues to discuss the reduction of services at the Dannevirke Community Hospital.

7.1.2 It was noted that the mobile surgical services bus visits to Dannevirke will hopefully be reinstated from June.

7.2 ***Dannevirke Town Clock (Item 8.4)***

7.2.1 A date is to be arranged for an official community event to dedicate the new Town Clock, and this will be determined following the completion of the Town Centre refurbishment project.

7.3 ***Danneverk Letter Inviting Contact (Item 8.5)***

7.3.1 A feature article has been published in the Dannevirke News regarding this matter.

7.4 ***Welcome to Dannevirke Signs (Item 8.2)***

7.4.1 The Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce has held a meeting to discuss proposals for the design of the Welcome to Dannevirke signs, with thirteen people being in attendance for these discussions.

7.4.2 The outcome of this meeting was unanimous agreement being conveyed to leave the basis of these signs as is through retaining the Viking theme, with the appearance of the signs to be refurbished.

7.4.3 A further meeting is to be held on 18 May, 2009 to further progress the proposals to upgrade the signs.

7.5 ***Dannevirke Main Street Upgrade (Item 9.3)***

7.5.1 The Chairperson has requested that the Chief Executive follow up the arrangements for the contemporary sculpture in Ward Street representing the Papatuanuku (the Earth Mother).

7.5.2 This sculpture is being donated by a local Maori sculptor, and is for young children to enjoy climbing over and sitting on.

7.5.3 The Chief Executive has also been asked to ensure that the cleaning of the refurbished footpaths in High Street is arranged.

7.6 **General Assistance Grants Scheme 2008/2009**

7.6.1 The Chairperson reported that he had received several positive comments from various community groups and organisations expressing appreciation for the funding which they were granted through the Board's General Assistance Grants Scheme.

8. **Tararua District Council Report**

8.1 ***That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 8 and 15 April, 2009 (as circulated) and 29 April, 2009 (as tabled) be received.***

Macdonald/Isaacson

Carried

9. **Reports from Board Representatives Appointed to Local Community Groups and Assigned Responsibilities**

9.1 Nil

10. **Correspondence**

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

a) ***Tamaki Nui A Rua Kapa Haka Group*** **7 April, 2009**
Re: Request for financial assistance

(b) ***Tararua Learning Inc*** **9 April, 2009**
Re: Request for financial assistance

(c) ***Chrissy MacDonald, Local Government New Zealand*** **17 April 2009**
Re: Appointment as new secretary for New Zealand Community Boards Executive Committee and How to Stop Graffiti Guide

(d) ***Ministry of Justice*** **17 April, 2009**
Re: How to Stop Graffiti Guide

(e) ***Norsewood Heritage Village***
Re: National Day of Norsewood on 17 May, 2009

Macdonald/Isaacson

Carried

10.2 ***Tamaki Nui A Rua Kapa Haka Group***

10.2.1 ***That the Board grant the Tamaki Nui A Rua Kapa Haka Group the sum of up to \$275.00 from its discretionary funds as assistance towards the cost of hiring the Town Hall for their Kapa Haka festival to be held on 23 October, 2009.***

Macdonald/Isaacson

Carried

10.3 ***Tararua Learning Inc***

10.3.1 ***That the Board grant Tararua Learning Inc the sum of up to \$275.00 from its discretionary funds as assistance towards the cost of hiring the Town Hall for their 30th birthday celebration to be held on 14 May, 2009.***

Macdonald/Isaacson

Carried

11. Chairman's Remarks

11.1 Nil

12. Draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009/2019

12.1 ***That with regard to the Council's Draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009/2019, the Dannevirke Community Board makes the following submission.***

Recycling Bins

The Board supports the retention of the red recycling bins and the continuation of this valuable community service.

It is acknowledged that whilst this facility is provided at a cost to ratepayers there are environmental benefits which would be lost if the bins are removed.

The items which are recycled through these bins may otherwise be disposed of by dumping in public places or left to accumulate on residential properties, thereby creating an untidy image of such areas.

This situation would detract from the appearance of communities, and may result in the Council incurring costs to remove unauthorised rubbish dumped around the district.

Parks and Reserves Operations Team

The Board supports the proposal of hiring an in-house dedicated team to carry out the maintenance of the Council's parks and reserves, cemeteries, housing and community buildings throughout the district.

It believes that this option is able to achieve better value for money and enables the Council to have increased control over the level of service provided.

Through the employment of an in-house team there will be a greater sense of community pride which is focussed on ensuring these community facilities are maintained to a higher standard and in a timely manner.

Tendering on the open market may also result in frequent changes to the contractor who undertakes this work each time the contract is advertised, and this has the potential to create uncertainty regarding the standards achieved. It is preferable to keep such work in the district by employing residents who have local knowledge and are committed to the wellbeing of their community.

Specialist Water and Wastewater Plant Operations Team

The Board supports the proposal of hiring an in-house dedicated team to carry out the maintenance of the Council's water and wastewater supply networks within the district.

It is acknowledged that these are vital services for the health and welfare of communities, and there must be certainty and assurance of control over the risks inherent in these systems.

Compliance with resource consent conditions can be better monitored through having this expertise available in-house to undertake the critical work relating to the management of this infrastructure.

This will ensure that the necessary environmental standards are achieved through trained staff specifically skilled in the area of operating and maintaining the headworks and treatment plants. It also recognises the significant investment which ratepayers are contributing towards the cost of developing and maintaining these systems.

Rates and the Council's Financial Position

The Board acknowledges the efforts made by the Council to develop a long term plan which keeps the district moving ahead whilst recognising the uncertainty of the current economic climate.

It shares the Council's concerns at the significant rates increases being faced by the district's ratepayers over the next three years, and the hardship that this may cause to some residents and those on fixed incomes.

In considering the projects and services proposed to be undertaken it has been unable to identify any specific changes which could be made to meaningfully reduce costs and the level of rates.

As noted previously the district must continue to be managed through prudent financial policies that deliver and maintain service levels on a sustainable basis, whilst at the same time focus on future financial flexibility and affordability of rates.

Dresser/Isaacson

Carried

13. Items Not On The Agenda

13.1 Nil

14. Diverting Heavy Traffic From High Street

14.1 The Council's District Plan Review Hearing Committee will hear the Board's submission regarding this matter on Thursday 14 May, 2009 at 9.30am, with one hour being provided for this purpose.

14.2 The TRUK Group (Heavy Traffic By Pass) will also be presenting its submission on the same date directly following the Board, and they have been allocated the time of 10.30am to 12.30pm to speak on their proposals.

15. Rules to Control Activities on the Town Centre's Refurbished Footpaths

15.1 ***That the guidelines for the use of the Town Centre's refurbished footpaths in the Dannevirke Central Business District be confirmed subject to item 4 being amended to read as follows.***

"Business personnel, during their working hours, should not park in High Street or streets off High Street".

Dresser/Macdonald

Carried

15.2 Board Member Dresser will arrange for the guidelines to be printed and laminated, and a copy distributed to all businesses in the Dannevirke Central Business District area.

15.3 The guidelines will also be published in the Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

16. Dannevirke Main Street Upgrade

16.1 Board Member Dresser reported that the project was nearing completion, with work in Ward Street and the sanding and sealing of pavers at the northern end of town remaining to be undertaken.

17. Youth Community Variety Concert

17.1 Board Member Macdonald reported that the Town Hall has been booked for the youth community variety concert to be held on Saturday 17 October, 2009.

17.2 It was agreed that the proceeds received from this concert will be donated to the search and rescue emergency helicopter service.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 4.58pm.

Chairperson