

# **Tararua District Council**

## **Eketahuna Community Board**

Minutes of a meeting of the Eketahuna Community Board held in the Eketahuna Service Centre Meeting Room, 31 Main Street, Eketahuna on Friday 7 August 2009 commencing at 10.07am.

### **1. Present**

Board Members J M Harman (Chairperson), C C Death (Deputy Chairperson), K A M Dimock, Elizabeth Fraser-Davies and Cr W H Davidson (Council appointed community board member).

### **In Attendance**

Mr R Taylor - Governance Manager

### **2. Apologies**

2.1 Nil

### **3. Bush District Education Plan Proposals For Consultation**

3.1 The Chairperson granted a request from Jenny Spring to address the Board regarding this matter.

3.2 Jenny Spring urged board members to express their opposition to the Bush Education Plan Working Group's proposals to close seven schools. This will have devastating consequences for these areas, and there is a need to vigorously resist the changes being imposed on these communities.

3.3 Board members indicated that they did not support the closure of schools as the means to achieving an acceptable outcome for the provision of education in the Bush District.

3.4 It was noted that the recommendations set out in the Working Group's proposals will significantly impact on the community. They fail to acknowledge the demographics particularly with regard to rural communities, and the wider issues concerning the wellbeing of families and young children residing in these areas.

3.5 The Chairperson thanked Jenny Spring for her attendance at the meeting, and it was agreed that the Board would consider this matter as the final item of business for discussion.

### **4. Personal Matters**

4.1 The Board's congratulations are to be conveyed to acknowledge the following achievements:

- Eketahuna Rugby Club – The Women's Rugby Team was second in its grade of the Wellington finals and the Senior Reserves also made the finals of this competition.
- Nicola Death – On winning the Tararua College senior speech competition and being the runner-up in the Wairarapa speech competition.

## **5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

5.1 The following matter was notified as an item of general business not on the agenda for discussion at today's meeting.

- Eketahuna Public Toilets

## **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

6.1 ***That the minutes of the Eketahuna Community Board meeting held on 3 July 2009 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

***Davidson/Fraser-Davies***

***Carried***

## **7. Matters Arising From The Minutes**

7.1 ***Dumping on Cullen Street (Item 6.2)***

7.1.1 It was noted that a board member had witnessed Infracon dumping spoil in the area of Cullen Street/Parkville Road corner.

7.1.2 The Engineering Services Manager is to be requested to advise if the Council had contracted Infracon to undertake work on Ballance Street (as it is believed that this is where the dumped spoil originated from).

7.2 ***Car Park Lighting at Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre (Item 6.4)***

7.2.1 The lights that illuminate the car park area of the Wildlife Centre do not appear to be causing a hazard to road safety in this vicinity, and the situation will continue to be monitored in respect of this matter.

7.3 ***Function to Welcome New Residents to Eketahuna (Item 6.5)***

7.3.1 The attendance at the function to welcome new residents to Eketahuna was down on the previous event, with about sixty people being present.

7.3.2 It was disappointing to note that fifty one invitations had been sent out, but only twelve new residents attended this function.

7.4 ***Horizons Regional Council***

7.4.1 The Chief Executive will be discussing with the Horizons Regional Council's Chief Executive the meeting arrangements to consider the Board's issues regarding the Eketahuna Water Supply.

## **8. Tararua District Council Report**

8.1 ***That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 8 and 22 July, 2009 (as circulated) be received.***

***Davidson/Death***

***Carried***

## 8.2 ***Rally Wairarapa Road Closures***

8.2.1 Cr Davidson advised that concern had been expressed regarding the length of time which Mangaone Central Road was closed for the Rally Wairarapa club event.

8.2.2 The period of closure was 8.35am to 3.50pm and this had caused inconvenience to the residents of properties in the vicinity.

8.2.3 It was also noted that Central East Road is still to be graded after the rally, and Cr Davidson will submit a service request regarding this matter.

## 8.3 ***Eketahuna Money Exchange***

8.3.1 The information provided in the Chief Executive's report regarding the annual review of the Eketahuna Money Exchange's operational performance was noted.

## 8.4 ***Pahiatua Marae***

8.4.1 It was agreed that some Totara be offered to the Pahiatua Marae for the development of their facilities.

8.4.2 Cr Davidson will contact representatives of the Marae to ascertain any requirements which they may have in respect of this matter.

## 9. **Reports From Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities**

### 9.1 ***Nireaha Reserve Board***

9.1.1 Board Member Death reported that the Nireaha Reserve Board had recently held its Annual General Meeting, with there being no change to the membership of the committee.

### 9.2 ***Tararua District Road Safety Group***

9.2.1 Board Member Death presented a verbal report on the recent meeting of the Tararua District Road Safety Group, and this included reference to the following matters:

- The design work on the safety improvements to the southern entrance of Eketahuna is being followed up.
- Approval has been received by the Eketahuna Our Town Committee for the Eketahuna Kiwi Country signs.
- The Tararua District has been commended on its positive road safety initiatives and achievements, particularly in relation to the district having the lowest road toll within the Central District policing region.

## 10. **Correspondence**

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

(a) ***Alexander Turnbull Library***  
***Re: Aubrey watercolours of Eketahuna***

***30 June 2009***

(b) **Pukaha Mount Bruce Board** **6 July 2009**  
**Re: Sponsor a hectare renewal for forest restoration and pest control project**

(c) **Horizons Regional Council** **28 July 2009**  
**Re: Proposed One Plan - Water Hearing**

(d) **John Haar** **31 July 2009**  
**Re: Cliff Walk**

**Dimock/Death** **Carried**

10.2 **Pukaha Mount Bruce Board**

10.2.1 Cr Davidson declared an interest in this item of business, and abstained from the discussions and voting on the motion regarding this matter.

10.2.2 **That the Board increase its sponsorship to four hectares of pest control at Pukaha Mount Bruce, and**

**That the sum of \$100.00 be provided from the Board's discretionary funds for this purpose.**

**Dimock/Death** **Carried**

10.2.3 It was agreed that the Board will visit Pukaha Mount Bruce following its next meeting to inspect their new facilities recently completed. The opportunity will also be taken to have lunch whilst at the Wildlife Centre.

10.3 **John Haar – Cliff Walk**

10.3.1 The Chairperson and the Community Assets Manager will be meeting John Haar at 1.30pm today to discuss hazardous trees on the Cliff Walk that require pruning or removal.

11. **Chairman's Remarks**

11.1 Nil

12. **Items Not On The Agenda**

12.1 **Eketahuna Public Toilets**

12.1.1 It was noted that the Eketahuna Public Toilets are frequently being vandalised.

12.1.2 This situation needs to be monitored, and consideration be given to options that will assist to prevent this problem such as security cameras.

13. **Bush District Education Plan Proposals For Consultation**

- 13.1 It was agreed that in light of the widespread concern in the community regarding these proposals the Board will make a submission to the Bush Education Working Group.
- 13.2 The closing date for sending submissions is 17 August 2009.
- 13.3 ***That the Board make a submission to the Bush Education Working Group on its Bush District Education Plan proposals for consultation, and***

***That this submission include the following matters.***

***The Board is very much aware of the widespread community opposition to the Bush District Education Plan proposals for the future provision of education in the Bush District. These proposals inflict major changes to the structure and delivery of education within these communities located in the southern part of the Tararua District. This particularly applies to the smaller rural areas through the total closure of their schools.***

***Whilst such reforms set out to consider the big picture for the future of education over a large area, they must also be empathetic to the wellbeing and demographics of each community.***

***By imposing the proposal as it stands is likely to be counterproductive to achieving the review's objectives for a strong and sustainable network of schools. This opinion is based on the Board's belief that significant changes of the magnitude being contemplated will be resisted and disruptive.***

***Therefore the Board urges the Working Group to rethink its approach to this matter by working with each individual school community to determine acceptable solutions that fulfil the long-term educational needs of their area. In this way the foundation to a successful outcome can be focussed on reaching decisions that the community buys into through endorsing the aims of the review.***

***The Ministry of Education can facilitate this process through initiating constructive dialogue over a period of time with the communities concerned. It should not force unacceptable options upon them that they consider are adversely detrimental to the sustainability of their area.***

***Fraser-Davies/Dimock***

***Carried***

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12.35pm.

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Chairperson