

**TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**Eketahuna Community Board**

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Eketahuna Community Board held in the Eketahuna Service Centre Meeting Room on Friday 7 May, 2004 commencing at 10.00am.

1. Present

Messrs H M Cooper (Chairman), J M Harman (Deputy Chairman), P J Best, C C Death, Mrs F Ramsay and Elizabeth Fraser-Davies.

In Attendance

Cr W Davidson	-	Eketahuna Ward District Councillor
Mr R Taylor	-	Administration Officer

2. Apologies

2.1 Nil.

3. Personal Matters

3.1 The Chairman conveyed the Board's sympathy to Cr Davidson at the recent passing of his father.

4. Notification of Any Extraordinary Business Not on the Agenda

4.1 The following matters were notified as items of extraordinary general business for discussion at today's meeting:-

- Tararua Rooding Sports Person of the Year Awards
- Meeting on possible assistance for community initiatives
- Eketahuna Camping Ground

5. Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 ***That the minutes of the Eketahuna Community Board meeting held on 2 April, 2004 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

***Harman/Death***

***Carried***

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Totara Logs (Item 6.2)

6.1.1 The trees which have fallen into the river are still to be recovered.

6.1.2 An approach has been made to the local college offering them some of the totara logs, but as yet they have not replied.

6.1.3 A proposal to arrange a Maori carving for the Community Centre is to be looked at next week.

6.2 Signpost on the Corner of Bridge and Main Street (Item 6.3)

6.2.1 The signpost for Ekeslea Home located on the corner of Bridge and Main Street is still there.

6.2.2 A further request shall be made to remove the signpost.

6.3 Long Term Council Community Plan (Item 6.6)

6.3.1 The public meeting on the Long Term Council Community Plan was well attended, with some 50 people turning out from the community.

This is a pleasing response, and the Board appreciates the good level of public interest in these meetings.

6.4 Eketahuna Water Supply Resource Consent (Item 7.3)

6.4.1 The draft conditions for the Eketahuna Water Supply resource consent are expected to be received from Horizons Regional Council in the next week.

6.5 General Assistance Grants Scheme (Item 9)

6.5.1 It was requested that an end of year balance sheet for the Board's General Assistance Grants Scheme be prepared and submitted for its information.

6.6 Anzac Day Service (Item 11.1)

6.6.1 There was a good attendance at the Anzac Day Service in Eketahuna. The contributions from the Number 10 Transport Group and the Army who provided the guest speaker were much appreciated.

7. Tararua District Council Report

7.1 ***That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 April, 2004 (as circulated) be received.***

***Best/Fraser-Davies***

***Carried***

7.2 Local Government Commission Determinations of the Membership and Basis of Election for the 2004 Local Authority Elections

7.2.1 Disappointment was expressed at the Commission's decision to discontinue a separate ward for Eketahuna.

This was despite there being significant support from both the community and the Council to retain the existing ward structure.

7.2.2 Of note and significance in the Commission's determination was the emphasis which they made to the meaningful role that Community Boards can contribute to the governance structure.

7.2.3 The Board noted the comment made in a report from the Chief Executive that the opportunity could be considered by the Council to review the functions delegated to Community Boards.

This is an issue which should be progressed, and it is a matter of whether this occurs before or after the elections in October.

- 7.2.4 The Chairman emphasised the benefit of local knowledge being taken into account when tenders of local relevance are considered.

Council officers should liaise with the Board's Chairman to discuss such tenders before any decisions are made.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 ***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***

b) ***Department of Conservation*** 15 April, 2004  
***Re: W A Miller Scenic Reserve – Public Toilets***

***Ramsay/Fraser-Davies***

***Carried***

8.2 New Zealand Community Boards Executive Committee

- 8.2.1 The draft role description for Community Board members is very informative, and provides a good reference to set out their work and responsibilities.

This information will be of assistance in the forthcoming elections to advise new candidates about the position of being a Community Board member.

9. Chairman's Remarks

9.1 Retirement of Jerry TeWake

- 9.1.1 ***That the Board confirms the Chairman's actions in acknowledging Jerry TeWake's thirty five years of loyal service to both the Eketahuna County and the Tararua District, and wishing him all the best for a long and happy retirement.***

***Harman/Death***

***Carried***

10. Extraordinary Business Not On the Agenda

10.1 Tararua Roding Sports Person of the Year Awards

- 10.1.1 ***That the Board convey its congratulations to the Eketahuna Rugby Club on achieving the following successes at the Tararua Roding Sport Person of the Year Awards:-***

- ***The senior team who were named Team of the Year***
- ***Their coach who was named Coach of the Year***

***Death/Ramsay***

***Carried***

- 10.1.2 Board Member Death gave a verbal report on the Tararua Roding Sports Person of the Year Awards which he had attended.

10.1.3 In presenting his report Board Member Death expressed disappointment at the following matters:-

- The lack of promotion and publicity of this year's event.
- Eketahuna not being considered as the venue to host this event. It would like this opportunity to be provided in the future.

10.2 Meeting on Possible Assistance for Community Initiatives

10.2.1 Board Member Harman advised that a meeting is to be held on Tuesday 11 May, 2004 at 7.00pm to discuss this matter. All board members are invited to attend.

10.2.2 There shall be a presentation made to look at the Our Town concept and to consider projects which the community may want.

10.3 Eketahuna Camping Ground

10.3.1 Board Member Best gave a verbal report on the Eketahuna Camping Ground, and advised that this facility continues to provide a popular area for campers to stay.

10.3.2 Items noted in his report included the following:-

- Damage from the storm has been cleaned up, and there are some trees still to be removed.
- Sealing of the driveway is now complete.
- Many complimentary remarks are being received from users of the camping ground, including several from overseas visitors who have stopped there.
- The present operators of the camping ground are to transfer the management to their son.
- A proposal is being investigated to undertake a walkway project which would include areas within the camping ground's vicinity.

11. Draft Tararua District Community Plan

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

***Additional Sewerage Charges Levied on Businesses for Pan Tax***

***The Board opposes the levying of additional sewerage charges as a cost being imposed on businesses for pan tax.***

***This is not considered to be in the best interests of the district, and the prospect of this substantial rate increase is a disincentive to them.***

***Whilst the Board acknowledges that the Council must generate the necessary revenue required to fund the cost of this essential service, it considers there are other more appropriate ways to do this.***

***As a compromise to this situation the Board proposes the following as an alternative option to the basis of applying these charges.***

- *Levy one full uniform sewerage charge on all users, whether they be residential or commercial properties.*
- *Levy a substantially reduced partial charge for each subsequent toilet within a commercial / industrial property.*

*This approach will go some way to addressing the widespread concerns which exist in relation to this issue, and recognises that businesses should not be unfairly penalised.*

*It is important that their contribution is acknowledged and appreciated as an essential part of the community, and they are not singled out for a significant rates increase.*

#### **Upgrading of the Pahiatua Track**

*The Board supports the Council's continued commitment to upgrade the Pahiatua Track as the alternative route to the west.*

*This work is appropriate as Palmerston North is the major commercial centre for a considerable area of the Tararua District.*

*The Board believes that the Council needs to ease the ongoing demand on ratepayers to fund the total cost of this project.*

*To facilitate this outcome the Board supports the Council in its endeavours to secure financial assistance from Transfund and Transit New Zealand towards the upgrading programme proposed for this road.*

#### **Drinking Water Quality**

*The Board is very frustrated at the continued delays in progressing improvements to the standard and quality of the water in Eketahuna. At the present time its appearance leaves a lot to be desired.*

*In light of this situation the Board again repeats its previous request that the filtration of the town's water supply be urgently progressed.*

*This work was identified as a priority many years ago, and is well overdue to be programmed and completed.*

*How much longer does the Eketahuna Community have to wait before this issue is satisfactorily resolved, and the installation of a filtration system actually occurs?*

*After all the Council has already made provision in its budget to fund the cost of carrying out this essential work.*

#### **Sealing of Putara Road**

*The Board is aware that the Council has stated there will be no seal extension work done in the future.*

*This is considered to be a retrograde step in the long term, particularly in the context of the Tararua District Community Plan which is relevant for a period of ten years.*

*The Board accordingly urges the Council to review this policy at some stage of the Plan, and specify a time when this is likely to occur.*

***This should be done as a matter of good practice, and to acknowledge the expectations of many rural ratepayers who request that their metal roads be sealed.***

***They pay a significant contribution towards the district's rates, and have a right to expect that their Council will programme such work to be undertaken.***

***In the case of the Eketahuna Ward the Board asks that Putara Road be identified as a priority for seal extension, and is included at some time within the Plan's proposed roading programme.***

***The project which it supports being undertaken is to seal the first kilometre of this road up to Larsen's Bridge.***

***This is necessary as heavy traffic regularly use the road which is very prone to corrugations, and it provides a rough surface for other vehicles that travel frequently in this area.***

***There is also potential to develop greater tourism opportunities in this part of the district by providing a better standard of road to this location.***

#### **Kerb and Channel Programme**

***The Board is disappointed that the Council does not support some provision being included in the ten year plan to undertake a kerb and channel programme.***

***Whilst this is not considered to be of immediate priority, such work is necessary to achieve the long term vision of making the town's in the Tararua District more attractive.***

***To enable this to occur the Board requests that the Council agree to include a programme of kerb and channel improvements at some time in the Plan.***

***Ramsay/Fraser-Davies***

***Carried***

- 11.2 ***That the Chairman and Deputy Chairman present the Board's submission to the Council at the hearing to be scheduled for this purpose.***

***Best/Death***

***Carried***

- 11.3 It was noted that on page 143 of the Draft Community Plan there appears to be an inaccuracy concerning the Eketahuna Water Supply.

With regard to the reference of lime being added for PH correction it should read "just after the reservoir".

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12.45pm.

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Chairman

