

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 2 May, 2008 commencing at 10.05am.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Mrs M E Reynolds	-	Her Worship the Mayor
Mr R Taylor	-	Governance Manager
Mr S Taylor	-	Manager District Assets

2. Apologies

2.1 Nil.

3. Personal Matters

3.1 Nil.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

4.1 Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 ***That the minutes of the Eketahuna Community Board meeting held on 4 April, 2008 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

Death/Davidson

Carried

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.1 ***Rongokokako Hall*** (Item 6.1)

6.1.1 The offer of \$7,000 received to purchase the Rongokokako Hall has been accepted by the Hall Committee, and the building will be removed from its present site and relocated to a property in Morgans Road.

6.2 ***Roktopus Playground Equipment*** (Item 6.2)

6.2.1 The Eketahuna Our Town Committee is investigating the overall planning of developing the playground area, including possible options to install new equipment.

- 6.3 ***New Residents Welcome (Item 6.6)***
- 6.3.1 The new residents welcome afternoon tea was a successful and well attended event.
- 6.3.2 A letter of appreciation was tabled from Karl and Jenny Seater (two new residents to Eketahuna) complimenting the Board on arranging this event, and acknowledging Eketahuna as a great little town to live in.
- 6.4 ***Town Inspection by the Board (Item 6.5)***
- 6.4.1 It was noted that the following items identified during the inspection are still to be undertaken:-
- New gates and fence repairs at the cemetery
 - Spraying of weeds at the camping ground
 - Clean up of the Bridge Street area in the vicinity of the bridge
- 6.4.2 The Manager Community Development is to be requested to advise what progress has been made regarding the proposal to build disabled facilities at the camping ground.
- 6.5 ***Eketahuna Money Exchange (Item 7.3)***
- 6.5.1 The Manager Community Development will involve the Board in developing a marketing strategy to increase usage of the Eketahuna Money Exchange facility.
- 6.6 ***Anzac Day (Item 11)***
- 6.6.1 The Anzac Day Services held in Eketahuna and at the Anzac Memorial Bridge were very successful and well supported events.
- 6.7 ***Eketahuna Community Centre Woodcarvings Project (Item 12)***
- 6.7.1 A carver from Akitio (Jeff Bryan) has expressed interest in undertaking this work, and Board Member Death is following up this matter.
- 6.8 ***100th Birthday Celebrations of Mrs Markey (Item 13)***
- 6.8.1 ***That the Board pay from its discretionary funds the costs of providing the catering at the community event on 12 July, 2008 to celebrate the special occasion of Mrs Markey's 100th birthday.***
- Fraser-Davies/Dimock*** ***Carried***
- 6.9 ***Spring Families Paintings (Item 14)***
- 6.9.1 A valuation has been obtained from Dunbar Sloane for the purpose of the Council's insurance on the Spring families paintings displayed on loan in the library.
- 6.9.2 It was noted that there are some Awbry paintings at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington which are on long term loan from a former Eketahuna local authority.

6.10 **Public Forum on the Council's Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009 (Item 16.1)**

6.10.1 The Board's public forum regarding the Council's Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009 was reasonably well attended (about 20 people), although the numbers were fewer than on previous occasions.

7. Tararua District Council Report

7.1 ***That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 9 April, 2008 (as circulated) and 30 April, 2008 (as tabled) be received.***

Davidson/Fraser-Davies

Carried

7.2 ***Tararua District Plan Review No. 1***

7.2.1 The Proposed District Plan will be included on the agenda for discussion at the Board's next meeting.

8. Reports From Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities

8.1 ***Local Government New Zealand Community Boards Workshop***

8.1.1 Board Member Dimock and Cr Davidson gave a verbal report on the Community Boards workshop which they had attended in Palmerston North on 15 April, 2008. This included reference to the following matters:-

- This was a very worthwhile and informative workshop.
- The advocacy role of Community Boards was emphasised.
- Communicating with the community is very important.
- Delegations from the Council to the Community Board for local matters enhances their effectiveness.
- Providing new board members with an induction to assist them to undertake their roles.
- Information available through Local Government New Zealand newsletters.

9. Correspondence

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

***(a) Local Government New Zealand 23 April, 2008
Re: Outcome of elections for Zone 3 representatives on the New Zealand Community Boards Executive Committee***

Davidson/Fraser-Davies

Carried

10. Putara Road

10.1 ***That the report from the Contract Supervisor for the Southern Area dated 18 April, 2008 concerning Putara Road (as circulated) be received.***

Davidson/Death

Carried

- 10.2 Concern was expressed that the pot holes on this road are very bad, and work is required to fill them rather than grading.
- 10.3 A commitment was made that the necessary repairs would be done, but this has not as yet occurred.
- 10.4 The Manager District Assets is to follow up this matter.
- 10.5 Board Member Fraser-Davies tabled an example of the metal being used to maintain Morgans Road.
- 10.6 The Manager District Assets advised that the example presented to the meeting did not comply with the specifications for the type of metal to be used, and he will follow up this matter.

11. Chairman's Remarks

- 11.1 Nil

12. Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009

- 12.1 *That with regard to the Council's Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009, the Eketahuna Community Board makes the following submission.*

Rates

The Board congratulates the Council on its endeavours to reduce the rates requirement to the levels proposed. However it has some concerns at the methods used, namely drawing from internal and depreciation reserves.

In the Board's opinion this approach can at best be adopted as a one off solution, and in the future the ability to hold rates to reasonable levels will require innovative thinking to identify new options.

Water Supply Exploration

The Board commends the Council on committing funding for water supply exploration work throughout the district. This is critical given the pressure on the current supplies during periods of very hot and dry weather.

A programme of exploration work needs to be determined whereby Eketahuna's water requirements along with Woodville and Dannevirke are factored in to the Council's ten year Community Plan.

This would assist to provide some certainty and assurance to each community that the service which they are paying for is sustainable all year round, as a repeat of the current water restrictions is unacceptable to the ratepayers of this community board's area.

Town Centre Refurbishment

The Board strongly recommends that the refurbishment of the Eketahuna Town Centre be included in the ten year Community Plan, as through its omission this project could easily slip off the Council's radar.

Swimming Baths

There are serious leaks in both the learners and main pool of the Eketahuna Swimming Baths. This situation needs urgent attention before the next swimming season as there is significant water loss occurring, thereby necessitating the use of a considerable amount of water each day to top up water levels.

As a result of this problem the efficient use of the solar heating system is being negated, and this has implications to maintain the temperature of the pools.

The Board accordingly requests that the necessary work be undertaken to ensure the swimming baths are operating effectively at the time of opening.

Roading

The Board is concerned about the standard of maintenance on some of the metal roads within its area, and has previously raised community dissatisfaction regarding this matter.

To ensure that the appropriate level of service is provided the Board believes that more base metal is required in some places and the grades of top metal are looked at.

Eketahuna Information Centre Funding

The Board thanks the Council for providing financial support to the Eketahuna Information Centre and its decision last year to maintain this grant at \$8,000 per annum.

This assistance has enabled the Eketahuna Information Centre to establish a very effective service through volunteers to welcome visitors as they enter the Tararua District at its southern boundary.

Statistics of Tararua Information Centres visitor numbers throughout the district clearly demonstrate the success of the Eketahuna Information Centre, and its achievements in relation to these facilities.

Tribute to the efforts of Eketahuna and its commitment to operating an information centre were recognised through being the overall winner of last year's Tararua TrustPower Community Award.

At the present time the Council's funding to each information centre varies, and in the Board's opinion the allocations being received do not equitably acknowledge the services being provided.

The Board accordingly urges the Council to review this matter when the next Community Plan is considered, and notes that last year it signalled the intention to raise this issue.

In making this request the Board reaffirms its belief that the Eketahuna Information Centre should be granted a fairer share of the Council's budget for information centres.

Fraser-Davies/Death

Carried

- 12.2 The Board requests the opportunity to present its submission to the Council, with the Chairperson to arrange for this to occur.

13. Eketahuna Water Supply Resource Consent Variation

- 13.1 The Manager District Assets advised that he had commenced discussions with staff at the Horizons Regional Council regarding this matter, and at this stage he is optimistic of achieving a satisfactory outcome to this process.

- 13.2 There appears to be an acceptance that the current resource consent conditions for the Eketahuna Water Supply are not achievable, and a more realistic approach is required to the river flow levels and the quantity of water available to the community.

- 13.3 The amount of water being used by the Eketahuna Water Supply is still very high, and despite investigations having been undertaken the reasons for this situation remain unexplained.

14. Items Not On The Agenda

- 14.1 Nil.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12.10pm.

Chairperson