



**Minutes of Tamahere Community Committee Meeting at
Tamahere Community Centre, 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th October 2026**

Present: (21)

TCC: Charles Fletcher (Chair), Lyn Harris, Anne Cao-Oulton, Peter Mayall, Maggie Wilcock, Peter Nation, Sue Robertson, Jane Manson, Lauren McLean

WDC: Cr Crystal Beavis, Cr Mike Keir, Rochelle Deane, Mayor Aksel Bech (for the first part of the meeting only)

Tamahere Lions: Sue Fookes, Robert McHugh

Tamahere Forum: Scott Mathias

TMRT: Leo Koppens

Community: Mohan Lala, Graeme Henderson, Medihah Bardsley, Janette Chynoweth

1. Apologies: Nil

2. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting held 1st September 2026.

Motion: Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2026 are approved.

Moved: Maggie Wilcock **Seconded:** Lyn Harris **All in Favour**

3. Matters arising (not on this agenda):

Resignation: Mark Manson has tendered his resignation from the Committee and the Tamahere Community Trust effective 25th September 2026 due to his move to Taupo.

Motion: That Mark Manson's resignation is accepted and that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mark to record, on behalf of the Committee and Community, our appreciation for his time and effort towards the betterment of our Community.

Moved: Charles Fletcher **Seconded:** Lyn Harris **All in Favour**

4. Correspondence (28 August 2026- 30 September 2026) (36 in | 40 out) - circulated separately

Motion: Correspondence be received and/or approved.

Moved: Lyn Harris **Seconded:** Sue Robertson **All in Favour**

5. Mayor Aksel Bech addressed the meeting:

- Aksel confirmed that WDC CEO Craig Hobbs has resigned. He is 18 months into his 5 year contract. Councillors have accepted the resignation. Craig will be leaving at the end of October 2026.
- Aksel noted it has been a very tough 18 months for Councils with Rates Caps, Transformation, Amalgamation talks, etc.
- A replacement is now required as the CE position is required for some of the Councils statutory functions.
- The new appointment may be a short-term role because Government amalgamation intentions are still proposed despite current "Pause" and the General Election outcome.
- Waikato could see options for several potential redundant CEO's forming a group resource. Aksel commented that a committee of persons will not be able to be the WDC CE as the law requires one person appointed with the responsibilities, not a committee.
- Aksel commented that he is pleased to see a funding solution has been found for Stage One of the Vision Tamahere 2075 and he is working hard on the Council end for this project going forward.

Aksel was excused and left the meeting.

6. **WDC Service & Delivery Report | Tamahere Community Committee Discretionary Fund | Summary of Consents | SNA's – Rochelle Deane** (circulated separately)

- **Summary of Consents:** *This has been circulated*
TCC remains interested in developments on Tamahere Drive – what has been applied for/consented? (None on the list)
Action: Rochelle to check and advise if something is in the system, otherwise, monitor.
- Today the **new Toilet Block** for Tamahere Park has arrived and been sited adjacent to the existing one. The existing water tank has disappeared, has it been relocated/put underground?
Action: Rochelle to check and advise. She noted that extra plumbing work has been required but she was not sure why.
- Based on the number of consents seeking dispensations a question arose regarding how many times a change to **setback/side yard rules** are requested in the District? And, how many of these are approved? Does this signify a need for Council to review and change its rules, in the District Plan, if there is a significant number of applications and if such change requests are frequently approved?
Action: Crystal and Rochelle to check and advise.
- A further question regarding gully edges was raised where different setbacks are approved side by side. Maggie identified a boundary where the property on one side had a 15 m set-back but the property on the other side had a set-back of 7 meters! Rochelle thought it would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
Action: Councillor Crystal Bevis will see if someone at Council can explain.

- **Playground Shading:** The answers provided by the Works and Issues Report do not make sense in respect of the zones. The Tamahere Structure Plan was PC 3 notified 28 July 2012, decision report 21 March 2013, which provided for the creation of the Tamahere Village, Business area, Village green (Piazza), Park and playground, included shading. Shading is not provided for in the Open Spaces Zone (Park and playground) but is required in the Tamahere Business Zone (where it is not required – buildings and parking). Maybe an error has been made? Maybe the zoning needs review/change?
Action: TCC is to make a submission for the LTP to provide for shading of the playground.
- Today all WDC Staff were told about the **transformation** outcome for changes to the way WDC will run going forward, following consultation. Staff opinions have been listened to. Currently there are many gaps in staffing as there has been a hiring freeze during the 18 months of transformation, with redundancies and resignations. Implementation will take time. Council is contracting work out to CoLab until it rebuilds internal resources.
- **Piazza Reclassification:** Three submissions were received (including one from TCC). Submitters will be notified of the Council's decision, which will now be determined on Wednesday 7 October. Effective use of the Piazza has been a problem and Council is to review the conditions applied for the Trading in Public Places Licence.
Action: Rochelle to please follow up and report.
Concern was expressed as to the current state of the Piazza Stage structure. Maintenance is required. Is Council checking this structure, say 6 monthly? What maintenance is planned for the Piazza and stage (needed now) in view of the intention for it to have more public use?
Action: WDC staff to check and report.
Fees for use of the Piazza facilities need to be realistic if it is to attract regular use – perhaps an LTP consideration.
- **Fast Track Projects:** The Government has changed the law to enable Council to levy Development Contributions on approved Fast Track Projects. The Tamahere – Woodlands Ward and the WDC have a significant number of these coming through.
Action: Councillors are to look into how Development Contributions will be assessed, collected/paid to Council for Fast Track Projects.
- **TCC Discretionary Fund:** As at 30 September 2026 Net Funds remaining are \$2,695.64 (with Tamahere Forum paid to 31 October 2026).
- **Tamahere Forum:** TCC committee members and the public are invited to provide feedback on current issues, to be posted on the Tamahere Forum. We want to encourage others to add their feedback. This is open to everyone in Tamahere.

Motion: That WDC Service Delivery Report and the Discretionary Fund Report be received.

Moved: Lyn Harris

Seconded: Peter Nation

All in favour

7. Councillors' Report - Report circulated by Crystal and Mike and accepted as read.

- **Waikato District Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation:** Early engagement with the Tamahere Community will happen at an **Open Day on Sunday 18th October** from **2pm – 5pm** at the **Tamahere Community Centre**. This will be Councillor led with WDC staff support. Formal consultation of the LTP is expected in March/April 2027, when submissions will be received and considered. This is an update, not a major rewrite, of the LTP.
- Other **Open Day discussions** will include
 - Tamahere Vision 2075 Stage One consultation,
 - Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust work and Q&A, and
 - Matangi Recreation Reserve new Master Plan consultation.
- **New Rules for Councils:** Legislation now enacted by Parliament, to bring Council focus back to core services and, from next year, to only permit elected members to vote on Committees.
- **Fast Track projects:** Tamahere-Woodlands Ward has a high percentage of the 16 Fast Track projects referred for Fast Track in the Waikato District.
- The new **Planning Act 2026** and **Natural Environment Act 2026**, enacted last Friday, means a 2.5 year transition for the **RMA** which is to be repealed. This is expected to result in more regional and national consistency. Ultimately there will be **17 new Regional Spatial Plans**, the zones loosely based on the current Regional Council areas. Any new consents will be under current rules. Once the new rules are in place we will be in one of the 17 areas, with a Waikato Spatial Plan, and a chapter in the Regional Plan. There should be a lot more permitted activities and consents should be a lot easier to administer.
- **Woodcock/Tauwhare Rd intersection plan** is being progressed by the Council roading team. Leo Koppens asked that the speed change area be extended. Speeds are well over the new 80 kph limit and need to come down. Can WDC put up a digital Speed Display Sign, to highlight to motorists their speed as they approach this intersection - this has been effective on Birchwood Lane?
- **Hamilton Pony Club:** Has applied to Council for a new lease of the property they have occupied for many years (their old lease lapsed some years ago). For the community TCC is asked to confirm support for the Hamilton Pony Club to continue its activities from 464 Pickering Road in Tamahere. They have 80 members and own and maintain the building and facilities on site. They also maintain the grounds for this Reserve. Surrounding neighbours report they are very good neighbours and cause no traffic problems.

Motion: TCC to provide a Letter of Support for Hamilton Pony Club for a new lease of the WDC Reserve, being allotment 96 Tamahere Parish, 464 Pickering Road Tamahere on terms approved by Waikato District Council.

Moved: Anne Cao-Oulton

Seconded: Jane Manson

All in Favour

- **Waikato Regional Transport Committee:** Mike is a member of this Committee and advised that the Committee has written to the Minister of Transport

expressing concern as to cost escalations for regional infrastructure and asked to widen the enquiry to see why costs are increasing so much. He also advised that WDC has a sum of approx. \$500,000 for Council roading projects available. Since NZTA suspended its roading subsidy to local Councils, he is thinking that this could fund the Woodcock/Tauwhare Road intersection improvements. This will not occur until next construction season. Being investigated.

Motion: Councillors' Report be received.

Moved: Jane Manson

Seconded: Peter Nation

All in favour

8. Roothing

- TCC and WDC attended a **meeting with NZTA** on 2-9-26 to discuss the **Hamilton Southern Links** road connection to the Expressway, which is currently back on hold. Notes of the meeting have been distributed. NZTA was very careful to focus on its Central Government directives and funding. Despite the recent cuts they are continuing with some work on this project, so it will be "shovel ready" when funding is available.
- The life of the **Narrows Bridge** was also discussed. We suggested NZTA put back the Bailey bridge to spread the load capability, improve safety and extend the life expectancy of the current bridge. NZTA will deal with vegetation removal to improve sight lines for traffic using the current Narrows Bridge.

Action: Councillor Mike Keir is to follow this up.

- **Expressway southbound traffic queues** (at the Alfred Main Bridge location). TCC asked if a permanent sign could remain to warn motorists of queues as they arrive at the expressway corner under the Alfred Main bridge, for the lane dedicated to the Tamahere exit (offramp to the Tauwhare Road eastern roundabout). NZTA will address this.

- **Regional Transport Committee:**

Buses: There was discussion about the continuation of the local bus service when the trial ends in January/February next year. TCC is not happy for every ratepayer to pay \$35/person to keep the service operative, despite the users (sadly, only a small number) of the service thinking it is very good.

The community has had no say in the routes or timing of buses over the trial and WRC has refused to make changes, when asked to do so. Because the route only provides a service into Hillcrest, and not the city centre, it is not effective, hence the small user numbers.

The Cambridge bus service runs hourly, currently with a temporary route change to include a stop on Tamahere Drive during the expressway road works. This stop is popular and TCC supports it becoming permanent as the Cambridge bus goes right into Hamilton City. The stop is outside Gate two to the Tamahere Country Club. Council may need to provide for a permanent stop when it upgrades Tamahere Drive early next year, avoiding a loss of car parks closer to the Church.

Action: Rochelle to provide the latest user and financial stats to us please.

Action: Councillor Mike Keir, with the support of TCC, is to write to the Regional Transport Committee to ask for the temporary bus stop, on Tamahere Drive, to be made permanent.

Other: Most of the RTC issues currently are around HCC and Raglan. There is also discussion on speed issues on SH21.

- **WTR Fast Track proposal:** No developments

9. Vision Tamahere 2075

- Vision Tamahere 2075 will be included in the Councillors Open Day for discussions on the Long-Term Plan review for 2027 - 2037. The Forum will promote this event.
 - Councillor Crystal Beavis will arrange for WDC staff to compile a flier for a letterbox drop (TCC to provide wording for Vision Tamahere 2075 Stage One). TCC has offered to distribute the fliers in the week beginning 12 October and Matangi and Tauwhare will be asked to assist for their areas.
 - Peter Nation also suggested Council use the Antenno app to promote the Open Day in the Tamahere, Matangi, Newstead and Tauwhare areas.
 - Matangi, Tauwhare and Ngāti Hauā have been invited to contribute to **Vision Tamahere 2075 Stage Two**, incorporating the wider interests of Tamahere, Matangi, Newstead, Tauwhare and Ngāti Hauā. Representatives are now attending the Vision Tamahere 2075 planning meetings.
 - Mike Keir mentioned the need to link the work on Vision Tamahere 2075 to the Regional Spatial Plan. These Plans have become too restrictive in the past.
 - **The next meeting of the Vision Tamahere 2075 Project Team is at 7:00 pm on Monday 12 October 2026** at the WDC Tamahere Community office, Wiremu Tamihana Drive.
 - The Tamahere Forum will push consultation for this project forward. Committee members contributions and feedback for this consultation is essential.
 - TCC, in consultation with WDC, has contracted a Planning Team for this project due to the lack of resource within WDC at present.
 - The Planning Team cost for Stage One is quoted at \$60,000 plus GST (\$69,000). This is being funded from donations to the Tamahere Community Charitable Trust.
 - **Stage One is to be completed by the end of November 2026** with a report for Council identifying what the Tamahere Community wants to see in the LTP with priorities for the next three years.
 - WDC has requests from other wards, including Raglan, for similar planning needs. Mayor Aksel Bech would like to see provision in the LTP to fund these needs, including Vision Tamahere 2075 Stage Two.
 - WDC has some Futureproof Funds which could be available. Councillor Crystal Beavis is to investigate.
- Action:** Councillor Crystal Beavis is to find out what funds are available from Futureproof for the Vision Tamahere 2075 project.

10. Chairmans Report:

- **Matangi Recreation Reserve:** Charles Fletcher is a representative on the steering committee producing the Master Plan for the Matangi Recreation Reserve. The plan has been completed and is being submitted to Council on 8th October 2026 for consultation approval.
The Master Plan determines the future location of the sports fields, basketball courts, buildings, parking, etc. Funding is approved for construction of the netball/multi purpose courts. Some funding is available for site preparation, tree removal, levelling and resurfacing as a consequence of integrating the recently donated land now added to the Reserve – Charles displayed the new plan on the screen and identified the donated land additions.
The current Club Rooms building needs to be refurbished or replaced. It has been determined it is viable to refurbish as there is no asbestos in the current building. Funding could be by targeted rate and LTP allocation. A long way to go on this project.
- **Tamahere Reserve:** A draft Concept Plan is now available and there is a meeting on 12 October 2026 at 2pm to look at this. Charles displayed on screen the current plan options. Issues outstanding are vehicle access, carpark size and location and no buildings. Leo Koppens commented that the access track to the Reserve is very important for safety, and there is money available to upgrade this now. TMRT needs approval to proceed. Leo indicated he did not want to see funds all used up by Council on access and carparking.
- **Tamahere Forum:** We need to progress putting up the Forum signs around the ward. Suggested to have a working bee, with committee members firstly getting a list of locations (with approval from landowners) and then a big effort to erect more signs. Quite a few are now up. Please advise suitable dates/times to Charles, Lyn or Sue.
Action: Rochelle to please check if signs can be erected on Council owned fences around parks/reserves?
- **CE Craig Hobbs Meeting (all WDC Board/Committee Chairs) and WDC Transformation:** Charles attended a meeting with Craig. This was constructive but Craig's resignation has superseded this event.
- **Tamahere Community Charitable Trust (TCCT):** All ASB requirements are now complete. Sue will follow through on the account opening and arrangements for the next meeting of the Trustees.

Motion: That the Chairpersons Report be received.

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Sue Robertson

All in favour

11. Reports:

- **Tamahere Community Response Group (Civil Defence):**
No written report this month. Peter Nation reported that there are now a great group of people on the committee and great skills in the community. The Committee has been meeting and have had training as part of a Hamilton wide CD initiative. They are continuing to look at the Tamahere Community Centre as a

Welfare Centre and will need to identify a further backup centre. Planning to hold Community Engagement Day in 2027. The group will also be looking for funding for necessary plant and equipment.

- **Matangi Community Committee Update: - Anne Cao-Oulton**
Next meeting 7pm on 21-10-26 at Matangi School.
- **Predator Free Tamahere:** *Report received and circulated separately.* It is noted that great progress is being made by this group.
- **Tamahere Lions:** The Lions group are looking for new projects – suggestions welcomed. Sue Fookes reported that Lions are holding a Quality Preloved Clothing and Crafts Market between 6-8 pm on Thursday 26-11-26 at Gails of Tamahere.
- **Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT):** *Report received and circulated separately.* Leo Koppens commented on aspects of the report and mentioned security is an issue. Peter Nation is to pass on the contact details of a Security patrol from Cambridge that operates in the area.
Action: Peter Nation will pass on information to Leo Koppens
- **Community Patrol NZ for Hamilton East-Tamahere-Matangi** - It is not known if this is still operating as they have not responded to requests for assistance so far. This was set up by two local ex-police officers and a vehicle was donated for patrol work in this area.
Action: Charles will make enquiries on behalf of TCC to Community Patrol NZ.
- **Tamahere Model Country School (TCMS):** *Report received and circulated separately.* This is an excellent informative report. Lauren McLean is to talk to school management about the Reuben The Road Safety Bear 5 Top Safety Tips. The Committee feels that there should be a sixth tip, that pedestrians need to walk on the side **facing the oncoming traffic** when walking on a roadside without a footpath.
- **Tamahere Saint Stephens Church:** Jane Manson advised the next Market **will** be on Saturday 17th November 2026. Christmas Festival preparation is in full swing. The Church would like to make clear that if the current temporary Bus Stop on Tamahere Drive is to be made permanent that it not take up existing car parks near the Church.

Motion: All of the above reports be received

Moved: Peter Mayall

Seconded: Lauren McLean

All in favour

12. Council Consultation and Submissions: Each Committee member to check:

- **WDC - 'Have your Say'**
- **WRC - 'Have your say'**

13. General Business:

- **General Election – Waikato MP Candidates** – Invite to meet. Peter Nation noted that he was not aware of any formal **“Meet the Candidates”** event in Tamahere. The candidates are:
 - **ACT:** Ash Palmer
 - **Labour:** Jamie Toko

- **National:** Tim van de Molen
- **NZ First:** Robbie Cookson
- **Independent:** Walt Cavendish

It was agreed that an invitation be sent to these candidates to attend the Open Day event at Tamahere on 18 October 2026. Peter will follow through on this.

- In his Mayoral duties the Mayor is required to take Oaths and Declarations and would find it helpful to have Justice of the Peace training. He has been nominated to become a JP and seeks support for this nomination from TCC.

Motion: That Tamahere Community Committee write a letter of support for Aksel Bech to become a Justice of the Peace.

Moved: Charles Fletcher **Seconded:** Anne Cao-Oulton **All in Favour**

- Councillor Mike Keir addressed the meeting saying he wanted to record his appreciation for:
 - what has been achieved by the Council in arriving at a surplus of \$26.7 million for the year ended 30 June 2026 (budgeted for a loss of \$5.8 million) and lower borrowing due to lower capital expenditure.
 - Being one of a few Councils which has delivered a lower rates increase than most, at an 3.79% average rates increase for 2026/27, in the face of the Government rates cap of 4%.
 - the manner in which Mayor Aksel Bech has handled events associated with the resignation of CE Craig Hobbs.

14. Date of Next Meeting – 7.30pm on Tuesday, 3rd November 2026.

Actions: See **marked** through the Minutes above.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.