

Minutes for a meeting of the Rural Port Waikato Community Board held in the Te Kohanga Community Hall, Cnr Kohanga & Tuakau Bridge-Port Waikato Road, Te Kohanga on **THURSDAY, 3 AUGUST 2023** commencing at **6.35pm**.

**Present:**

Ms L Fry (Chairperson)  
Ms F Coker-Grey  
Ms R Costar  
Cr CA Eyre

**Attending:**

Mrs E Edgar (Executive Manager Communications & Engagement)  
Mr J Marconi (Economic Development Advisor)  
Mrs L Wainwright (Democracy Advisor)

Mrs M Bovill (Chairperson, Onewhero Bowling Club)  
Ms R Peach (Treasurer, Pukekawa Playcentre)  
Ms A Yerkovich (Port Waikato Residents and Ratepayers Association)  
Mr R Davis (Chairperson, Port Waikato Residents & Ratepayers Association)  
Mr M Beattie (Sunset Beach Lifeguard Service)  
Mr N Turner (BlueFloat)  
Mr T Young (BlueFloat)

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Coker-Grey)**

**THAT the apologies from Mr B Cameron and Cr Paaniora Matatahi-Poutapu be received.**

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/01**

It was noted that Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church was unable to attend this meeting.

## **CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Resolved: (Cr Eyre/Ms Coker-Grey)**

**THAT** the agenda for the meeting of the Rural Port Waikato Community Board held on Thursday, 3 August 2023 be confirmed:

- a. and all items therein be considered in open meeting;
- b. all reports be received; and
- c. in accordance with Standing Order 9.12 the Board resolves that the following item be added to the agenda to inform the Community Board of the plan to improve road safety at pickup and drop-off times at the Onewhero Area School as advised by the Chairperson:
  - i. Item Number 6.6 – Onewhero Area School Road Safety Improvements.

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/02**

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Ms Fry advised members of the Board that she would declare a non-financial conflict of interest in item 6.2 [*Discretionary Fund Applications*] as she was a member of the Port Waikato Residents and Ratepayers Association.

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Coker-Grey)**

**THAT** due to a non-financial conflict of interest from Ms Fry, Cr Eyre be nominated to chair Item 6.2.

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/03**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Cr Eyre)**

**THAT** the minutes for a meeting of the Rural Port Waikato Community Board held on Thursday, 22 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/04**

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

The following issues were discussed:

- The Blueprint Implementation strategy appeared to be urban centric and a concern was raised on this affecting the district-wide blueprint. Councillors could assist in distributing the feedback survey in their areas to ensure larger coverage. The online survey would close on Friday, 30 June 2023 but feedback could continue to be received. The current district-wide and Local Area Blueprints (“the Blueprint”) could be accessed as follows:

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/blueprints>

- The Board was requested to arrange a meeting between Waikato District Council’s Councillor Eyre, the Chief Operating Officer, Watercare’s Hamilton Manager, and the Roding Manager to discuss the failed Port Waikato stormwater systems. Discussions would be held on the Franklin District Council’s Stormwater Catchment Management Plan, Port Waikato Township, Issue B, September 2004 of Port Waikato Finam CMP Report. The report identifies Port Waikato stormwater problems along with recommended options.

**ACTION:** Cr Eyre to raise the question of a meeting with Watercare’s Hamilton Manager at the Port Waikato Community meeting scheduled for Saturday, 5 August 2023.

- The detailed Watercare routine maintenance plan for Port Waikato had not been received by the Board as requested at its meeting held on Thursday, 23 February 2023. The schedule would determine the frequency of future routine maintenance.
- Clear and transparent communication was required to assist Port Waikato residents.

## **REPORTS**

Rural Port Waikato Community Board Discretionary Fund to 30 June 2023  
Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received [RPWCB2308/02 refers] and no discussion was held.

Discretionary Fund Applications  
Agenda Item 6.2

Ms Fry had advised members of the Board that she would declare a non-financial conflict of interest in this item and took no part in discussion or voting on the Port Waikato Residents' and Ratepayers' Association application.

The report was received [RPWCB2308/02 refers] and discussion was held on the following items:

Onewhero Bowling Club

- Mrs Bovill outlined the plans to restart the Onewhero Bowling Club on Thursday, 28 September 2023 at 14 Hall Road, Onewhero.
- The Club would be open seven (7) days per week. \$650.00 had been raised by the Club to date and a membership fee of \$30 would be charged with casual bowlers being charged \$5.
- The Club would be a space for the community to connect and build new relationships and a place to play social twilight lawn bowls. The Club would be available for members to have a social roll-up any day during the week and would also provide coaching lessons for beginners or anyone who was keen to better their skills.
- There were plans to use the Club as a sports hub for local sporting groups.
- A bar license would be applied for in the near future.
- To assist in furnishing the Clubrooms, Southern Hospitality NZ offered second hand catering and kitchen supplies. The website was: <https://www.southernhospitality.co.nz>.

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Fry)**

**THAT the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:**

- a. approves an allocation of \$941.40 (incl. GST) from their Discretionary Funding account to:
  - i. Onewhero Bowling Incorporated Society,
  - ii. purchase umbrellas, blackboard and a mini table board for the re-opening of the Onewhero Bowling Club.

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/05**

### Sunset Beach Lifeguard Service

- Mr Beattie advised the Board that while the Port Waikato Fire Service were first responders for emergencies, they were not first responders for water emergencies.
- NZ Police and SARS were first responders for water emergencies and the Sunset Beach Lifeguard Service provided a Search and Rescue service that could be called upon at any time of the year, day or night, to provide water and rock-based rescue services in the local area. There were currently 12 members on the callout list.
- This year to date, there had been numerous rescues, six (6) of those under NZ Police and SARS.
- Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) and other PPE was no longer a viable option for rescues due to different body build/size. The PFDs the Club would like to purchase were a 'one size fits all' which would alleviate the problem.

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Fry)**

**THAT the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:**

- a. **approves an allocation of \$3,024.40 (incl. GST) from their Discretionary Funding account to:**
  - i. **Sunset Beach Lifeguard Service,**
  - ii. **upgrade the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Sunset Beach Lifesaving Service, Search and Rescue (SAR) Squad.**

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/06**

Pukekawa Playcentre

- Ms Peach advised that to satisfy a Ministry of Education requirement, the topping up of bark at the Pukekawa Playcentre playground needed to be carried out within the next three (3) to six (6) months.
- 40 cubic metres of bark had been ordered for the playground.
- Mulch man was the only company in the area that pumped and spread the bark.

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Fry)**

**THAT the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:**

- a. **approves an allocation of \$2,400.00 (plus GST) from their Discretionary Funding account to:**
  - i. **Pukekawa Playcentre,**
  - ii. **Replace the playground cushion fall bark to meet Ministry of Education standards.**

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/07**

Port Waikato Residents' and Ratepayers' Association

Ms Fry vacated the chair due to a non-financial conflict of interest and Cr Eyre assumed the chair for this item.

- Ms A Yerkovich advised the Board that there was a lack of iwi identity at Port Waikato.
- The Residents and Ratepayers Association would work with iwi on the signage project which was a collaboration between the Association and Waikato WINTEC design degree students. The students would present their designs to the community to vote on the which design best suited the area.
- To have a better understanding of the area, the students would visit a marae, historical trails and the school camp.
- At a later date, a QR code would be added to the signage to enable locals/visitors to scan and see the history of Port Waikato.
- The application for funding was to enable the project to start. Further funding would be sourced in the future.

**ACTION:** Staff to hold discussions with Cr Eyre on the criteria to obtain funding from the CAB (Community Aspirations Budget).

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Fry)**

**THAT the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:**

- a. **approves an allocation of \$1,600.00 (excl. GST) from their Discretionary Funding account to:**
  - i. **Port Waikato Residents and Ratepayers Association,**
  - ii. **for a project to create heritage signs that will tell local stories of significant events, people and places and give akonga real life work experience.**

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/08**

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Fry)**

**THAT the Rural Port Waikato Community Board:**

**a. approves an allocation of:**

- **\$700.00 to Onewhero Area School, (plus GST),**
- **\$500.00 to Waikaretu School (plus GST),**
- **\$500.00 to the Naike Community Pool (plus GST), and**
- **\$500.00 to the Te Kohanga School (plus GST)**
- **from their Discretionary Funding account for pool chemicals for pools that are open for community use.**

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/09**

Cr Eyre vacated the chair and Ms Fry assumed the chair for the rest of the meeting.

BlueFloat Energy Presentation

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received [RPWCB2308/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- Mr Turner and Mr Young outlined the Waikato Offshore Wind project which would not be up and running until the next decade.
- BlueFloat Energy were based in Madrid and carried out offshore wind projects.
- The wind turbines would be located approximately 22 kilometres offshore and would ensure that New Zealand had power in the future.
- Currently, there was no legislation in New Zealand that would allow this project to go ahead. Once legislation was passed, BlueFloat would call for permits which would be carried out in two (2) stages.
- Local business services and workforce would be sourced locally, where possible.
- Community and iwi engagement was the current focus.



Mayor's Community Awards  
Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received [RPWCB2308/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- It was noted that the Board had until Friday, 11 August 2023 to put forward names for the Mayoral Community Awards.
- Mrs Costar would complete the nomination form.

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Cr Eyre)**

**That the Rural Port Waikato Community Board nominates Ms Kate Reece for the Mayoral Community Awards.**

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/10**

Community Engagement Strategy Feedback  
Agenda Item 6.5

The report was received [RPWCB2308/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- Page 1 – there were four (4) points outlining how, through engagement, Waikato District Council would listen to build relationships. It was requested that a fifth point be added on increasing efficiencies e.g. by gaining local knowledge Waikato District Council would become aware of issues, sites, events or historical facts that would be highly valued by the community and could impact the proposal.
- Page 2 – paragraph starting “Waikato District Council will:...”. Point two (2) states “have an authentic relationship with mana whenua, working on continuous improvement.” The question was raised as to why only “mana whenua” were listed as the relationship needed to cover mana whenua, community groups and communities.
- Framework document, page 1 – under the heading of “Considerations”, “Time” category, could seasonal farming activities be added as calving and lambing were extremely busy times of the year for farmers and there could be a lack of input from them for events. Farmers needed to be able to engage at a time when they could contribute.
- Framework document, page 2 – the first paragraph listed five (5) points that would be considered before engagement took place. A suggestion was made that a further point “What do I need to know” be added to the document. This would help to ensure that the right groups were being engaged with.
- Framework document, page 2 – informing/influencing. Drop-in meetings must allow communities to have input. The goodwill between Waikato District Council and some communities had been severely damaged due to communities being unable to participate in some drop-in meetings.

Works, Actions & Issues Report Status of Items August 2023  
Agenda Item 6.6

The report was received [RPWCB2308/02 refers] and the following discussion was held:

- The Board discussed finding a solution for funding of chemicals for school pools.
- The Onewhero Area School Road Safety Improvements report was considered at this time.

**Resolved: (Mrs Costar/Ms Fry)**

**The following from the LMC Ltd memorandum was proposed to be undertaken, subject to consultation by Council's Roading Planning Team with the Onewhero Area School:**

- Council engagement with the school regarding use of the Kea crossing facility.**
- Mark 2 parallel carparks between the kea crossing and the entrance to the school staff carpark.**
- Mark 60-degree angle carparks between the school entrance and the end of the kerb and channel.**
- To reduce the risk to all users, the bus turning area would be formalised with an island and markings. No parking lines would be installed to protect the bus turning area.**
- Regrading of the table drain between the Recreation Reserve entrance and the Onewhero Society of Performing Arts.**
- It is also proposed that Council's Road Safety Co-ordinator engages with the school with the endeavour of improving behaviour at busy pickup and drop-off times.**
- This work would be undertaken this financial year, within existing budgets. Please note any further improvements requiring capital expenditure would need to be included in the next LTP for funding.**

**CARRIED**

**RPWCB2308/11**

## Waikato District Council Executive Update

### Agenda Item 6.7

Verbal reports were received on the following matters:

- Live Waikato District Council project updates were available for the community to access <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/projects>.
- Service Request Transformation Project had been underway for some time.
- The LTP process had kept elected members and staff very busy.
- Waikato District Council was completing activity management. Part of the process showed the teams and roles.

## Chairperson's Report

### Agenda Item 6.8

No report was received.

## Councillor's Reports

### Agenda Item 6.9

A verbal report was received on the following matters:

- Connectivity Strategy – a project was underway which covered how communities connected for recreation and leisure.
- A public meeting would be held on Saturday, 5 August 2023 at the Port Waikato Community Hub at 1.30pm which would inform the community on the decision and implications for the community of the managed retreat. Waikato Regional Council had been asked to setup a joint management group with Waikato District Council to work through the process with Waikato District Council. Their decision was pending.
- Rural Economic Advisory Panel. 15 members had turned out for the first meeting and a terms of reference document was being discussed by the group.

## Agenda Item 6.10

Verbal reports were received on the following matters:

- The Board would make a submission on the Freedom Camping Bylaw. The hearing would be held on Tuesday, 12 September 2023 with deliberations held on Wednesday, 13 September 2023.
- Concern was raised on trailbike riders not wearing protective gear. Multiple children, without protective gear, were seen riding on the roads at Port Waikato. A 16-year-old boy had crashed and passed away in Pukekawa recently. He was not wearing protective gear.
- Watercare were being reactive to Cyclone Gabrielle. The main drain in Port Waikato needed to be the focus as this affected the whole Port Waikato village. Pressure on Watercare would need to be kept up to ensure that progress was made.
- There were still residents at Port Waikato that had red stickered homes. Concern was raised that many of the residents still did not know what was happening.
- The Community Board Working Committee would be meeting on Tuesday, 9 August 2023 to form a working group to move forward ideas raised at the initial meeting.
- A meeting had been held on Friday, 7 July 2023 at Port Waikato Surf Club to discuss the resilience fund.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.29pm.

Minutes approved and confirmed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.

L Fry  
**CHAIRPERSON**