



**Minutes of Tamahere Community Committee Meeting at
Tamahere Community Centre, 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 August 2026**

Present: (19)

TCC: Charles Fletcher (Chair), Lyn Harris, Anne Cao-Oulton, Jane Manson, Peter Mayall, Maggie Wilcock, Peter Nation
WDC: Cr Crystal Beavis, Cr Mike Keir, Rochelle Deane, Aram Goes
Tamahere Lions: Sue Fookes, Robert McHugh
Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT): Leo Koppens
Tamahere Forum: Scott Mathias
Community: Don Law, Ash Parmar, Les Port, Mohan Lala, Harleem Kaur, Maninder Singh

1. **Apologies:** Mayor Aksel Bech, Lauren McLean, Mark Manson, Sue Robertson,
Motion: Apologies be accepted
Moved: Lyn Harris **Seconded:** Anne Cao-Oulton **All in Favour**
2. **Confirmation of Minutes** of meeting held 2nd June 2026.
Motion: Minutes of the meeting held 2nd June 2026 are approved.
Moved: Maggie Wilcock **Seconded:** Peter Nation **All in Favour**
3. **Matters arising (not on this agenda):**
 - **Mayoral Awards** – Congratulations to all 2026 recipients of the Waikato District Mayoral Awards, in particular Russell Gibbs (TMRT) and Predator Free Tamahere. Your ongoing contributions to the community are greatly appreciated.
4. **Correspondence (29 May 2026- 31 July 2026) (42 in | 62 out) - circulated separately**
Motion: Correspondence be received and/or approved.
Moved: Anne Cao-Oulton **Seconded:** Peter Mayall **All in Favour**
5. **WDC Service & Delivery Report | Tamahere Community Committee Discretionary Fund | New toilet block** – Rochelle Deane (circulated separately)
 - **Tamahere Village CCTV Cameras:** Cameras are fully operational and are connected to the network which includes the Tamahere Stormwater Fence (due to ongoing vandalism). These high-quality cameras allow NZ Police live monitoring and access to review recorded history.
 - **Tamahere Community Centre CCTV Cameras:** These cameras are NOT part of the Tamahere Village CCTV network. They are separately monitored by the Community Centre and are lower quality cameras.

- The grass area adjacent to the Community Hall has been subjected to car burnouts.
- This area is covered by Tamahere Community Centre CCTV network, using cameras mounted on the Community Centre. Unfortunately, they do not provide a clear image of the offenders as images are too dark. The hall cameras are not of the same quality as those in the Recreation Park and may need upgrading.
- **Tamahere Village Playground:** This is a Council owned asset and the Community contributed extra funds for it to be upgraded to a higher standard. There is no Council capital funding, district wide, for shading playgrounds. The primary concern for the community and parents are the stainless-steel slides which overheat and burn children on hot days. The stainless-steel slides are not fit for purpose during hot weather and the Council, as the owner of the asset, has the responsibility to do something to keep children safe. A minimum requirement would be signage highlighting the problem.
- **District wide playgrounds:**
 - Four playgrounds have recently been upgraded at a cost of \$1.2 million and none of the upgrades included shading. Council needs to look at its role and responsibility in providing these facilities
 - Shading for playgrounds district wide should be assessed and provision made in the LTP to provide shade during summer.
 - More injuries to children could result in the closure of playgrounds during the summer holidays for health and safety reasons, defeating the point of having playgrounds for use during the busy summer holidays.
- **Council Speed limit Review:** Following the announcement of the outcome of this review, through the Tamahere Forum, we received a huge level of feedback. It seems people were unaware of the review. Charles noted the Council has failed to inform submitters of the outcome of the review, following the hearings. Apparently, the outcome had to be referred to NZTA and central Government for final sign off.
- **Tamahere Park lighting:** A light was purchased by Cushman & Wakefield in 2024, paid for by WDC using Tamahere residents' donations. The light was to be for the exercise equipment in the Tamahere Park but it is a low lumens light and may not be fit for purpose. Because TCC stopped this work the light is in storage at Cushman Wakefield. There are no funds available to install the light. Something needs to be done with this asset.
- **Tamahere Park Toilet block:** Council has awarded the contract for this project (at a cost of \$162k+ GST and a contingency of \$20k +GST). The budgeted cost was queried (emails circulated during the last week) as this seemed excessive.
 - Les Port, a Matangi builder, attended this meeting. Les has extensive building & civil construction experience. He had been asked to look at the project to install a toilet block, the same as what is at the park, using the existing infrastructure for water, sewage, electricity. Les commented that he was not familiar with Waikato District Council (WDC) procurement policy, but he gave a ball-park figure of \$80 - \$120k (+GST) given the brief.

- The original toilet block provider withdrew; other providers tendered but the Council had to work hard to get the pricing down to the level accepted during the procurement process.
- Charles thanked the Council for the work done to get a better price. The Committee remains concerned by the procurement process & resulting costs and encouraged staff involved to continue to look for procurement efficiency.
- Cr Keir reported that the whole Council procurement process was under review. Cr Keir advised the Sculpture Park had a similar toilet block project which cost a similar amount to the new Tamahere toilet block.
- Cr Keir and Rochelle thanked the Committee for their emails expressing concern; these concerns have been noted by Council staff.
- **Discretionary Fund:** This is \$10,000 for the current year (half of which came from Blueprint) for the primary purpose of upgrading and maintaining the Tamahere Forum website (now done) and keeping our community informed (which is proving to be very successful). We need to look carefully at how we manage the funds available.

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

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Peter Mayall

All in favour

6. Councilors' Report - Report circulated by Crystal and Mike and accepted as read.

- **Council Amalgamation Proposal:** Cr Beavis reported that the Council will be discussing this further tomorrow with the formation of a Western Waikato Unitary Authority option being put to the vote. Waikato District Council is committed to a water catchment concept (Lake Taupo to Waikato heads)
 - Cr Keir stated that the roading budget (some 60% of all Council spending) has been negatively affected by approximately 5% due to the world oil supply challenges.
 - Cr Beavis said there would be a 2–3-year transition period for contractual activity to be streamlined due to pre-existing agreements.
 - \$500k more is needed for storm water improvement.
 - Scott asked who would be funding the amalgamation ongoing process. Cr Keir responded that central Government had contributed to the amalgamation in Auckland & he hoped that this would happen again. This is a concern and has not been addressed.
 - Leo asked if the amalgamation of councils would proceed under a change of government following this year's elections. Cr Keir feels confident that no matter who is in government there is an appetite for local government/council reform.
- **Tamahere Reserve:** Charles & TMRT received the Boffa Miskell draft Tamahere Reserve Concept Plan and have had a meeting with Matthew Villanueva (WDC). Before the concept plan can proceed there needs to be resolution of access to the Reserve as well as the outcome to the pine trees which are near the end of their

lives (if not already dead). WDC is hoping to get NZTA support to resolve the access which would also improve the safety of access onto Woodcock Road from Tauwhare Road. We do not currently have an agreement as to what the access will look like going into the Reserve. We need to see design options as soon as possible. Cr Keir has agreed to supply this to TCC for feedback. He is hoping to provide these options for the November 2026 meeting.

- **Proposed Sand Quarry at 1466 Cambridge Road:** The issues highlighted for this quarry development (in the Waipa District but hard on the Waikato District boundary) are:
 - ground water take, which has already been accessed for the Tamahere Country Club and proposed WTR Fast Track development, and
 - traffic movements and congestion on a dangerous intersection (Cambridge Road-Hooker Road) and a very busy primary road.

Ideally the Waikato District staff need to be working with the Waipa staff to avoid future problems for Tamahere.

- **Tamahere Drive earthworks:** Massive earthworks have occurred just south of Day Road (a strawberry farm has had all of the crop and top soil ripped up with site preparation for a large commercial building extending into the restricted side margins). Given the rural zoning we would like Council feedback as to the use and consequence of compatibility for this development, including the loss of highly productive land.

Action: TCC asks that Rochelle (WDC) provides TCC with a summary of new consents (land use and building) or proposed activity in the monthly Issues & Works Report or the Councillors Report. This is more important for non-notified applications.

- **SNA's:** Does the RMA reform include the removal of the SNA's (Significant Natural Area) policy? What is the Council's plan? What is currently the position?

Action: TCC asks that this be included in September's report from our Councillors.

Motion: Councillors' report be received.

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Peter Mayall

All in favour

7. Roothing

- **Tamahere Drive upgrade:** The plan presented at the Open Day has been accepted and approved for construction (February 2027)
- **Fast Track Southern Links Project:** Charles has received an update from NZTA which he will circulate to the committee. This project has now stalled due to a lack of funding. A consequence is the serious concern about the safety of the Narrows Bridge – this is near the end of its safe use as a thoroughfare for heavy vehicles, but traffic numbers and truck movements are currently significantly above NZTA projections for SH21/Airport Road (as the link between SH1 and SH3) and increasing.
- **WTR Fast Track proposal:** Charles circulated information regarding the list of projects applying for Fast Track approval which included the WTR proposal. He

encouraged everyone to review the WTR information provided, including the supporting reports, for the Fast Track application.

8. Traffic Issues & Concerns for Tamahere | Speed Zone changes - Fieldays Traffic – Southern Links

- **Traffic on Tamahere local roads and Airport Road:** With all of the development in Tamahere there has been a significant increase in traffic numbers, made worse by the road works for the HCC peanut roundabout and resealing the Expressway between Tamahere and Cambridge. Concern has been expressed at the very little interest given to improving the infrastructure of the local road network including Narrows Bridge. Both NZTA and Waikato District are pleading lack of funds. Councillor Keir noted Council is currently committed to some \$2m for roading improvements in the area.
- **Speed Zone changes:** The signage is currently being erected to give effect to over 200 speed zone changes – cost?
- **Fuscia Lane:** A resident has requested a speed hump be built near the beginning of Fuscia Lane to slow traffic down at the Matangi Road end. This is a safety concern due to lack of traffic visibility when exiting driveways on the Lane. Council is looking at this.
- **Fieldays Traffic:** A resident expressed concern at the huge disruption caused locally by the Fieldays traffic and changes made to accommodate that. Peter Nation, as the recently retired CEO of Fieldays, commented that this is only for four days in the year and, as the largest event in New Zealand, the traffic management plan is the most sophisticated and dynamic to cope with 30,000+ visitors per day with constant monitoring of all traffic movements and making adjustments to cope with congestion, accidents, etc. The local impacts are minimal considering the big volume of vehicles and being able to clear peak traffic with relatively short delays. The real problem, as discussed already, is the increased traffic on our local roads and the failure of NZTA to properly plan and implement changes to the state highway network in a timely manner.
- **Southern Links:** Today NZTA has announced a delay to its plans for the Southern Links project. It has funding of \$100 million to plan and design this Road of National Significance for construction and that work is nearly complete. There is no indication of when this project will proceed to construction. It is unfunded and the Government is making it clear it does not have the funds to build given other priorities. This puts the Tamahere interchange and local roads under extreme pressure for the foreseeable future with the Council also underfunded for its roading requirements.

Action: Charles to arrange a follow-up meeting with NZTA.

9. Tamahere Forum

- Tamahere Forum is growing well with new subscribers, greater number of “hits” and more feedback. The Forum highlights elements of great interest to the community to keep them informed. It’s important that we continue to do this.

- There is no change to the monthly fee. There is an annual “hosting fee” for the Forum website, for this year it is \$601.36.
- The August agenda drew a large readership which is very positive – our community is encouraged to attend these meetings and it is good to see increased numbers who do come to see what we are doing.
- We understand that Matangi Community Committee (MCC) are working on their current website and we have offered to support them with this process following our experience. It is possible to combine the Forum to cater for both Tamahere and Matangi communities, if there was any interest in this by MCC. There is no point in them spending money to “re-invent the wheel”. Councillor Bevis indicated she thought MCC representatives will be in contact with Scott Mathias to discuss.

Action: Peter Nation to provide Scott with information to include in the next Forum on: *What to do in case of an earthquake.*

- Charles submitted a proposal to Council early last year for all Waikato Community Committees and Boards to establish a website template and common center for maintenance and updates, with a shared cost, which would relieve the Council (given the limitations of its own website and traffic for Council business). This has merit and the new Council should be invited to look at this idea.
- Funding for Tamahere Forum is covered for the current year to June 2027, but ongoing funding needs consideration. WDC should expect to provide a contribution for the benefit of the community reach and feedback, provided to Council, generated from the Forum.

Motion: Thank you Scott for continuing to develop and upgrade the Tamahere Forum. We acknowledge an awesome job and outcome.

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Lyn Harris **All in Favour**

- Invoices for the current Tamahere Forum work have been presented for approval:

Motion: That the Planet Food News Invoices be paid by the Waikato District Council from TCC LTP funds as follows:

Invoice 0107 for \$875.00 (no GST), for consultancy media & communications management of tamahereforum.org for the period 1 Sept to 1 October 2026, is approved for payment by 8 September 2026

Invoice 0112 for \$601.36 (no GST), for WIX Annual Subscription or Tamahere Forum website, is approved for payment by 17 August 2026

Moved: Lyn Harris

Seconded: Ann Cao-Oulton

All in favour

10. Chairmans Report:

- **Matangi Recreation Reserve:** The community steering group formed to work on this project has progressed well and WDC has been very proactive. The final concept plan is well underway. The plan for the Sports Pavilion is up for discussion. Funding needs to be found to progress this.
- **Tamahere Reserve:** The draft concept plan has been received from Boffa Miskell (BM). This needs further work.
- **Tamahere Forum Signs:** These are now available. Charles will pick some up from Mark later this week and members are encouraged to do likewise. Approval to put

the signs up from the property owner is required. Volunteers are now invited to erect these signs round Tamahere.

- **Community Day feedback:** Scott provided the Committee with a draft report following review of the feedback sheets generated from the day. This will be discussed further at the Vision Tamahere 2075 sub-committee meeting scheduled for next week, Thursday 13 August.

Action: Lyn to book the WDC Tamahere office meeting room for the meeting.

- WDC work on the **LTP review** for 2027 requires community input before the end of this year. We aim to have information available to Council by 31 October.
- **Vision Tamahere 2075** needs Council resources to assist with the future plans for Tamahere. This assistance has not been forthcoming, but assistance continues to be required. If not available TCC will seek external input and funding from Council.
- **Tamahere Community Charitable Trust (TCCT):** This has now been established with all paperwork completed and Charities Services approval.

Motion: That the Chairpersons Report be received.

Moved: Jane Manson **Seconded:** Anne Cao-Oulton **All in favour**

11. Reports:

- **Tamahere Community Response Group (Civil Defence):** Peter reported they now have a draft response and communication plan. They will be part of a practice response event on 12 September. The group is working together well.
 - **Action:** Peter Nation asked for a No. 2 account to be opened via the TCCT specifically to assist in funding the response group and to build resources required for this purpose.
 - Peter has had initial discussions with Graham McAdam (Tamahere Community Centre Chair) to consider the Centre being HQ in an emergency. Additional infrastructure would be required to make this feasible e.g. water tanks and solar power. This is feasible.
- **Matangi Community Committee Update:** Catherine and Kitty successfully applied for funds for the website project from the WDC. Anne was not at the last meeting, but Crystal was. She reported that MCC will discuss with us the options arising from the Tamahere learnings and its current position, noting that MCC has used Facebook for a long time.
- **Predator Free Tamahere:** Report received and circulated.
 - Congratulations on being awarded a Mayoral Award. This reflects the fantastic community engagement & successful environmental work achieved to date.
 - Community meeting on **Monday 17 August starting at 5.30pm** at the Tamahere Community Centre. Gerry Kessels, Principal Ecologist/Director of Kessels & Associates Ltd with Bruce Clarkson, Professor of Restoration Ecology at Waikato University will be there.
- **Tamahere Lions:** Currently have approx. 25 active members. New members welcome.
- **Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT):** Report received and circulated.

- 21 6-meter planks of new 8x2 timber have been stolen from Tamahere Reserve – this is a significant loss to the community (approx. cost to us all is \$1,300). TMRT is really disappointed with this theft. The Community needs to be watching and reporting this criminal behavior.
- Thank you to Cr Keir for getting action on the Woodcock/ Tauwhare Road intersection. We look forward to the draft concept plan.
- Tamahere Reserve concept plan is of serious concern as there is still no indication of a plan to harvest the dead, dying and remaining pine trees in the reserve, one of which is currently a serious danger.
- Tamahere Reserve needs to be included in the TCC LTP submission to Council.
- Leo is hoping for further progress on the Bilsthorpe to Alan Turner bridge track. This requires a bridge to be built. Council has settled on one bridge (not two), a saving of \$60,000. The track & fencing into the Bilsthorpe Lane end of the track looks great and the new public access will open soon.
- **Tamahere Model Country School (TCMS):** Report received and circulated. Thanks to Lisa Laurence for a comprehensive report.
- **Tamahere Saint Stephens Church:** Saturday 15th August is the next market day.
- **Vision Tamahere 2075 – Community Plan Update | NZTA Southern Links**
 - Meeting booked for **Thursday 13 August at 7.00pm** in the WDC Tamahere Office meeting room.

Action: Charles to contact Nathan Sanderson to assist us with this project.

Motion: All of the above reports be received

Moved: Lyn Harris

Seconded: Peter Mayall

All in favour

12. Submissions.

No new submissions.

13. Other Business: Nil

14. Date of Next Meeting – 7.30pm on Tuesday, 1st September 2026.

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

The meeting closed at 10.03pm and a Tamahere Community Charitable Trust meeting followed this meeting.