



**Minutes of Tamahere Community Committee Meeting at
Tamahere Community Centre, 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 May 2026**

Present: (19)

TCC: Charles Fletcher (Chair), Lyn Harris, Anne Cao-Oulton, Jane Manson, Mark Manson, Peter Mayall, Sue Robertson, Maggie Wilcock, Lauren McLean
WDC: Mayor Aksel Bech, Cr Crystal Beavis, Cr Mike Keir, Rochelle Deane, Aram Goes

Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT): Nil

Tamahere Forum: Scott Mathias

Community: Sue Fookes (Lions) Susan and Robert McHugh, Mohan Lala, David Ralfe, Don Law

NZTA: Susan Collins, Sarah Anderson, Adrian Bathgate

1. Apologies: Peter Nation

Motion: Apologies be accepted

Moved: Sue Robertson **Seconded:** Maggie Wilcock
All in Favour

2. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting held 7th April 2026.

Motion: Minutes of the meeting held 7th April 2026 are approved.

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

3. Matters arising (not on this agenda): Reporting Correspondence – Nil

4. Correspondence (1 April 2026-30 April 2026) (29 in | 17 out) - *circulated by email prior to meeting*

Motion: Correspondence be accepted.

Moved: Peter Mayall **Seconded:** Mark Manson
All in Favour

5. NZTA update on Hamilton Southern Links Project– Sarah Anderson (NZTA Project Director Infrastructure Delivery) and Susan Collins (NZTA Regional Manager System Design Waikato / Bay of Plenty). Tamahere issues and implications if WTR project proceeds (FastTrack)

Sarah Anderson took the Committee through a presentation showing the new plan for the Hamilton Southern Links route. This highlighted the Designated design and the Proposed design. Specifically taking the Southern Links connection over Tamahere Drive

direct to the Expressway, replacing the roundabout, with the result that there is NO LOCAL ROAD connection in Tamahere to the Southern Links road.

The objectives and timelines were discussed.

Questions from the floor asked for consultation on the design to remain open for longer to allow more stakeholder and local input. Specifically, TCC does not agree the Southern Links connection should have no local road access, (Tamahere Drive in particular) with the removal of the roundabout at the Tamahere Drive junction.

TCC expressed concern that:

- a. pre-Expressway traffic modelling grossly underestimated traffic numbers on SH21/Airport Road and the Tamahere local roads, evidenced by what has occurred since the Expressway opened in July 2022.
- b. Tamahere locals experience with traffic congestion has not been addressed.
- c. the Devine Road/Birchwood Lane link to the Expressway, off Alfred Main Drive, came at a substantial cost to ratepayers, contrary to Council expectation and understanding.
- d. the Devine Road/Birchwood Lane link has been very difficult when traffic has been diverted from the Expressway during accident closures, poor signage has resulted in chaos on local roads.
- e. The voice of local residents seeking change has fallen on deaf ears.
- f. The completed Expressway development is a very different result to expectations and NZTA assurances. Some work is still not done (1C/Cambridge Road from the Alfred Main Drive bridge to Newall Road) which TCC has recently raised with NZTA.
- g. The existing Tamahere Interchange was never designed to be part of an Expressway and work to improve its use for the Expressway have not met requirements for a major expressway interchange.
- h. Any model estimation of future traffic numbers, using the Southern Links route south to Taranaki, east to Tauranga and to SH 21, will not be realistic. Tamahere residents experience support a view that traffic numbers will be much larger than model projections to the detriment of local roading use.
- i. The Tamahere Interchange should not be the only access to the Expressway in this area as it was never designed to handle the current volume of traffic.
- j. Hamilton now has the "Inland Port" so heavy truck movements into and out of Hamilton (especially Tauranga) were never a consideration with traffic numbers.
- k. Although NZTA is aware of the Waikato Thoroughbred Racing (WTR) project in Tamahere, it has not been considered and any traffic generated is ignored for the Southern Links project as WTR has NOT made a formal approach to NZTA for access to the Expressway or the proposed the Southern Links road.
- l. The Narrows Bridge is near the end of its economic life – this is only way of crossing the Waikato River using SH21 (Airport Road). Will this bridge be closed or upgraded? This issue has yet to be determined.

Recent discussions with NZTA and WDC disclosed that the WTR FastTrack considerations have been with the WDC Planners who have left NZTA with the impression that roading

is of no concern the WDC so does not need consideration by NZTA. The WDC Roding Team and TCC have a different view and this concern will be addressed by WDC going forward.

Susan Collins indicated TCC would not be officially recognized as stakeholder by NZTA so its views must be represented by WDC.

The Southern Links project will be designed in 6 stages for construction. No funding is confirmed yet. The recent Government funding of \$100M is for investigation and construction plans to prepare documentation for tenders to construct the Hamilton Southern Links road.

The Southern Links project will be staged and each stage has a different Benefit Cost Ratio which determines the priority of funding and construction. It is very likely some or all sections of the Hamilton Southern Links road will be tolled.

There was a lot of discussion about options for the Tamahere Drive local road access to the new Expressway Interchange. Susan Collins indicated expressway safety was a consideration. There was pushback on this notion as having Tamahere Drive connections to the Southern Links road will make no difference to traffic using the expressway between the existing interchange at Tamahere and the new interchange for the Southern Links connection.

Aram Goes from WDC made several suggestions and will take this further with NZTA.

The existing Narrows Bridge SH21/Airport Road could end up a rat run to/from the Expressway at Tamahere if the Southern Links road is a toll road and this is a concern the final design needs to address.

TCC also raised the future plans for the development of the Titoki Sands site, between Tauwhare Road and where the new interchange for the Southern Links connection is to be built, specifically a proposed service center (similar to that at Taupiri). NZTA has no knowledge of this and it is NOT included in its current planning or design work.

Concerns raised about engine breaking on SH21/Airport Road need to be referred to Andrew Corkhill NZTA Director, Regional Relationships – Waikato/Bay of Plenty.

6. WDC Service & Delivery Report and Tamahere Community Committee Discretionary Fund | Budgeted cost for new toilet block? – Rochelle Deane (circulated separately)

The Service and Delivery Report was circulated and taken as read: Items discussed:

- The toilet block contract is prepared for signature and this needs to be signed by the preferred contractor. Rochelle is unable to disclose the contract price.
- Council is holding \$5,421.52 in the fund for TCC.
- The promised Concept Plan for the Tamahere Reserve remains outstanding. A meeting with Boffa Miskell, since the January consultation closed, gave a

preliminary indication of progress but there has been nothing in the period since. Apparently, this because Council and Boffa Miskell are waiting to consult with Ngāti Haua. Rochelle will follow up on progress for this consultation.

Charles expressed concern that Ngāti Haua did not make a submission and it seems that separate private meetings with Ngāti Haua is contrary to the Council's desire to be transparent and open with its communities. This situation is unsatisfactory and has unnecessarily delayed finalizing the Concept Plan for the Tamahere Reserve which Megan May had personally promised to have finalized by late last year.

Government Unity Authority and amalgamation plan

Mayor Aksel Bech reported that yesterday the Government directed all NZ Councils to consider amalgamation of Councils and Regional Councils throughout the country, to reduce the number of Councils and the cost of rates, which need to be agreed by 9 August 2026. If any Councils do not come up with a proposal one will be provided for them. Regional Councils will be removed by July 2027 and the amalgamation of Councils will be implemented for the 2028 elections.

Whilst there will be fewer local authorities it is intended to empower local voices. The Mayors' initial thoughts are that WDC would target Hamilton and Waipa Councils and maybe one other. He also speculated the balance of the old Franklin District could come back together and become part of Waikato (presently Auckland).

WDC can put together a community presentation for the next Tamahere Community Open Day on 14 June 2026.

Motion: WDC Service Delivery Report be received.

Moved: Lyn Harris

Seconded: Jane Manson
All in favour

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

- Crystal advised that the 2026 Rates increase has been confirmed at an average of 3.7% across the board excluding water costs. Water charges will continue to be charged by the local council with Rates in the same area target rates are noted for the coming year. Iawai has advised that the Water cost increase so far is less than was expected for this first period.
- The Rural Ward Fund – is open until Friday 8 May for funding applications from local voluntary groups, societies and charitable entities outside a Waikato District community board catchment area (including anywhere in the Tamahere-Woodlands Ward) for projects and events that support local wellbeing and connectivity. Hall committees cannot apply for hall maintenance purposes (which are supported by a targeted rate) but can apply for events or projects that benefit the wider rural area they serve. It has up to \$55,000 available for this round.

Another funding round is expected to be advertised later in the calendar year. The most given to one project previously is \$12,000. It was suggested that we could apply for funding for the provision of signs for the Forum – Quote approx \$2,000+.

- Council is proposing an extra security camera in the Park to catch activity near soakage pond near the Barbeque area. It was mentioned that there may already be a camera under the barbeque pavilion.
- Waste Minimisation Fund also open for applications.
- The Newstead Walkway is having a bridge rebuilt after the storm and is currently closed.
- The Peanut-roundabout on Morrinsville Road should be open as planned on 19 May, 2026.

Motion: Councilors' report be received.

Moved: Maggie Wilcock

Seconded: Sue Robertson

All in favour

8. Tamahere Drive Upgrade – Update

Aram Goes was present and advised:

- the plan of the preferred design is done with adjustments completed, in line with feedback from St Stephens Church and Tamahere Country Club.
- There are a few more traffic safety checks to be completed.
- The aim is to share this final iteration after the 30 May. The aim was to achieve more on-road parking spaces.
- WDC has agreed to delay construction to start in January 2027 (by 3 months) to avoid the Church's busy Christmas period. Happy for TCC to publicise this.

Due to the construction not commencing until 2027 it was suggested that the road marking south of the Country Club be re-painted as it has almost disappeared and is very difficult to see on wet nights.

Advised also that the Expressway on and off ramps (south bound followed by north bound) at Hautapu will temporarily close with the continuation of the Expressway road resealing north towards the Tamahere Interchange.

9. Tamahere Forum – website update is now live www.tamahereforum.org . Scott went through a demonstration of the new website and asked for people to start interacting with it for further testing and comments.

Feedback is required along with suggestions for further content, look and feel. We have a new vehicle to link with the Community where we can pursue what we value, where, opinion, and share our voice.

Fieldays 10-13 June 2026 Information Notice will be placed on the Forum.

Motion: The Committee records its appreciation to Scott for his work on building this website and amending as required and the many benefits it offers our community.

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Anne Cao-Oulton

All in favour - Passed with Acclamation

10. Chairmans Report:

Charles has been involved in meetings regarding the Matangi Recreation Reserve. These are ongoing and include representatives from the Matangi Hillcrest Sports Club, Matangi, Newstead, Tamahere and Tauwhare community representatives. The aim is to determine what the plan for the Reserve should be. Central to this is the fate of the current building, owned by the Club. The Club has a grant from WEL Trust to fund an engineer’s assessment of the existing building and if it is salvageable. Asbestos may be an issue. Quotes for demolition are being sort.

The Club has a price to replace with a 600m2 modular building, for approx. \$1.2M. There is obviously a lot of work still to do planning the future of the park as a multiuse community facility.

Charles is waiting for the Maneapoto Pa trustees to confirm their availability for a meeting, there is no date or time yet set.

Concept Plan for the Tamahere Reserve addressed in item 6 above.

Motion: That the Chairpersons Report be received.

Moved: Sue Robertson

Seconded: Anne Cao-Oulton

All in favour

11. Reports:

- **Civil Defense:** Charles reported that Peter advises he now has a team of people together to develop this strategy. There is a good post on the Forum about this and he is talking with the Hall Committee about potential upgrades to the Hall Complex to become the Tamahere CD venue.
- **Matangi Community Committee Update:** The Committee met recently, Anne has been ‘approved’ to be a member of both Tamahere and Matangi Community Committees to enhance communication and synergies between the two. The Committee was really pleased to see the Council has finally fixed/upgraded the footpath on Matangi Road down the hill to Morrinsville Road and the Matangi Committee is right behind the Matangi Sports Ground Project update
- **Predator Free Tamahere:** Report received and circulated. We note that Bat Monitoring has commenced and that Ngati Haua have offered to commence pest control in the old Pa site area.
- **Tamahere Lions:** Charles has talked to the Council about the difficulty of the Lions applying for grants to build Council playground shading at Tamahere, where the assets are to be owned by the Council, particularly where the Council is required to provide

shading by its District Plan. Council has just spent \$1.2m refreshing/rebuilding four playgrounds in the district, including the one beside the Tauwhare Pa. None of them include shading!

Lions are having a subcommittee meeting this coming week to discuss whether it is worth continuing with this project.

- **Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT):** Report received and circulated. Progress on Bilsthorpe access is very good and the upgrade to the access at Tamahere Reserve rehabilitation after the felling of the trees. Work has started preparing for the application for extension of the Community Targeted Rate. It has been determined this will be most efficiently done in conjunction with the next LTP compilation. A new Trustee has come on board – Karel Kuper.
- **Tamahere Model Country School (TCMS):** Report received and circulated. Thanks to Lisa Laurence for a comprehensive report.
- **Tamahere Saint Stephens Church:** The Vicar attended the Anzac Service at the Country Club Village. It was well attended. They have had good dialogue with Aram Goes from WDC regarding the upgrade of Tamahere Drive. Jane advised that she had attended a Heritage Trust meeting and that they are doing a great job with Museums in the area. The Museums are talking together, and this is beneficial. All the Museums have difficulty with lack of storage and archiving space. Previously space was available at Hamilton Museum but that was no longer available. If anyone can give any alternative ideas of available space it would be appreciated. Jane also said the quality of the content in the various Museum displays make them well worth visiting.
- **Vision Tamahere 2075 – Community Plan Update | NZTA Southern Links, Open Day 1.30pm, 14 June 2026:** Southern Links progress and WTR Projects have been discussed earlier in the agenda. WDC staff are busy with the LTP planning work, it will be necessary for us to email Council, through Rochelle, to ask for resources to assist our Vision Tamahere 2075 project. Our growth since the last Census in 2023 has been approx. 10%, however this is lower than other areas in the district. We will not necessarily have any priority. We need to apply for funding for our Vision Tamahere 2075 plan and other Ward necessities. There are many large projects in the pipeline, we know of, that will have an effect on the Ward, the WTR project and 3 large Retirement villages already on or seeking Fast Track approval. None of this was considered in the 2023 Census data being used in developing the Councils 2070 plan. There are no applications for Private Plan Changes being accepted by Council currently due to Government direction. All of this could greatly affect our Wards coming requirements.

The Committee has booked Tamahere Community Centre (Hall) for the Next Open Day: 2.00pm to 5.00pm on Sunday 14 June, 2026. We have identified several groups that could be invited to present at the open day e.g. NZTA, WTR, TMRT, WDC Local Body Amalgamation. **There will have a separate Sub-Committee Meeting next Wednesday,**

7:00 pm, 13 May 2026 to plan the Open Day. The meeting will be held at the WDC office on Wiremu Tamihana Drive.

- **Tamahere Community Charitable Trust Update:** Waiting for the Charities Commission to complete. No update.

Motion: All of the above reports be received

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Anne Cao-Oulton

All in favour

Mike Keir left the meeting at 10.00pm

12. **Submissions.** Nothing current

13. **Other Business:**

- Look into applying for Rural Growth Fund Money for the Forum Signs for community. We have a quote for circa \$2000+, application is on the council website.
- Footpath upgrade on Matangi Road at the Morrinsville Road end. Thanks to Council for a great upgrade and awesome to have it done while there is no traffic and very little foot or cycle traffic while the Peanut Roundabout is being constructed by HCC with Morrinsville Road being closed.

Motion: On behalf of the communities of Tamahere and Matangi we express our thanks to the Council for the timely upgrade to the Matangi Road footpath, down to Morrinsville Road, while HCC has had that road closed for road works, avoiding traffic management costs and disruption to motorists. Great job done.

Moved: Sue Robertson

Seconded: Lyn Harris

All in favour

Motion: TCC is authorised to apply to the Rural Growth Fund for funding for signage to promote the Tamahere Forum (www.tamahereforum.org) in the Tamahere Ward to improve communication in the community and information about coming events.

Moved: Sue Robertson

Seconded: Lyn Harris

All in favour

14. **Date of Next Meeting – 7.30pm on Tuesday, 5th June 2026.**

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

The meeting closed at 10.10pm