



**Minutes of Tamahere Community Committee Meeting at  
Tamahere Community Centre, 7.30pm on Tuesday 2 June 2026**

**Present:** (22)

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

**WDC:** Cr Crystal Beavis, Cr Mike Keir, Craig Hobs CEO, Rochelle Deane, Matthew Villanueva, Mayor Aksel Bech (from 8.10pm)

**Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT):** Nil

**Tamahere Forum:** Scott Mathias

**Community:** Sue Fookes (Tamahere Lions), Lisa McCosh, Dianna Jones, Katie Jones, Alex Mathison, Sue Burns (Vicar, St Stephens Church)

1. **Apologies:** Jane Manson

**Motion:** The Apologies be accepted

**Moved:** Peter Nation      **Seconded:** Anne Cao-Oulton  
**All in Favour**

2. **Confirmation of Minutes** of meeting held 5th May 2026.

**Motion:** Minutes of the meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 are approved.

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

3. **Matters arising (not on this agenda):**

- We have had no response from the Charities Commission as to the approval of Charitable Status for the Tamahere Community Trust.
- Jane Manson has been awarded the **Kings Service Medal** for Services to the Community, in the Kings Birthday honors. Her activities include the creation of the Tamahere market 22 years ago, ongoing local church involvement and services to Anglican Action. Jane has been a member of this Community Committee for a long time, led the Tamahere-Woodlands Heritage committee, received a Waikato Mayoral Award 2 years ago while pursuing her career in nursing and bringing up a family. A real stalwart for Tamahere. We are very proud of her being recognized in this manner and extend her our Congratulations.

**Motion:** The Committee recognises and congratulates Jane Manson for her well-deserved award of the Kings Service Medal.

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

**4. Correspondence (1 May – 28 May 2026 (41 in | 28 out))- circulated by email prior to meeting**

**Motion:** Correspondence is accepted.

**Moved:** Maggie Wilcock

**Seconded:** Peter Nation

**All in Favour**

**5. WDC Service & Delivery Report and Tamahere Community Committee Discretionary Fund (Discussion) | Budgeted cost for new toilet block, Council Approval for Tamahere Forum Sign – Rochelle Deane (circulated separately)**

The Councils Report is taken as read with the following discussion:

- a. The damaged fence to the Tamahere Park water pond has not been fixed yet after the most recent (3<sup>rd</sup>) attack/act of vandalism. Watercare plans to replace the fence with a much stronger vandal proof style fence and a CCTV camera. Cost possibly \$43,000. The fence needs to be fixed as it is a H&S matter.  
The Committee expressed concern at this level of repair cost when the problem seems to be opportunist youth vandalism and the repair could be completed with strong 12mm bolts fastened through the fence panels and the posts, top and bottom, at a much more modest cost coupled with proper CCTV surveillance and signage. Rochelle will check with Watercare, investigate their options with costings and report back.
- b. Council is arranging a permanent camera linked to the Tamahere Village CCTV network and the Safer Cities system for NZ Police to monitor.
- c. Charles had a query as to the current Tamahere Village CCTV network connection with Safer Cities and the ability of the NZ Police to monitor. When he last checked, the Council has been a bit slow with this due to the work underway for setting up other networks in the District. Is the current Tamahere Village CCTV network able to be accessed by the NZ Police yet, so that footage can be used to catch perpetrators? Rochelle to check and report back.
- d. **Reserve Update:** Matthew Villanueva, advised his team has collected feedback on the Concept Plan for the Reserve. Once drafted the draft plan will be given to TCC and TMRT to discuss and finalise, not quite ready to circulate this yet.
- e. **Meeting with the Trustees of the old Maneapoto Land :** Charles met with the Trustees recently regarding the Tamahere Reserve Concept Plan and the Maneapoto Pa site. They are impressed with the TMRT work in the Tamahere Reserve and have asked if TMRT can assist with their site and that of the Urapa across the road (even though it is owned by other Maori and they are just managing the site). They recognise that both need tidying up, starting with a helicopter/drone spray of the gorse. TMRT are happy to help. Good that communication is occurring in both directions.
- f. **New Tamahere Park Toilet Block:** The contract has been awarded by Council to ASAP Contracting Ltd and it will be built offsite, delivered and installed. Council is

still not able to tell us the cost or give an indication. Commercially sensitive negotiations are ongoing for adjustments due to the fuel crisis. Disappointment was expressed by TCC as to why we could not be given an indication of the approx. cost. Concerned that cost will be excessive with little benefit from money spent on the previous identical toilet block to future proof the site for this toilet block. It will be too late to change with the contract awarded!

- g. **Tamahere Forum Website:** TCC has LTP funding of \$10,000 this year and next year (2 years in total) to fund the development of the Forum as an interactive website. This work is substantially done and the site is now operational. There is some refinement being done now. The Community now has interactive communication both ways.
- h. **Other Committees/Boards:** TCC indicated WDC could consider utilizing the Tamahere Forum website for roll out to other community boards and committees, all linked to the WDC website, avoiding re-inventing what is now working and saving money. Craig Hobbs advised that, with amalgamation coming, they had slowed work on the redevelopment of the WDC website but ideally it would host all the community websites in the future environment, so they are not keen on a roll out, in the short term, off the WDC site. Potentially the Matangi Community Committee (which has a very old site) could utilise the Tamahere technology for a Matangi Forum, so could Tauwhare and other smaller Council community groups/halls.
- i. **Tamahere Playground:** There has been no progress in trying to secure funding for shading in the playground or even a plastic type covering to the slides from Council to overcome the danger of heat causing injury to children during hot periods. Council considers the District Plan has no provision to provide for shading for any of the WDC playgrounds. TCC invites **WDC to review this position** (not to provide for this shading) for Health and Safety reasons.  
The Tamahere Lions Club has found it impossible to obtain funding for shading, as a local project, because the Council (as the owner of the asset) should be funding this. Our local fundraising experts, despite working with Council staff, after 21 months working on this project for the second time with no success, have not been able to secure any funding and have now formally advised, that they are withdrawing from the process to concentrate on something they can achieve.
- j. **Re-Classification of Piazza Land:** Matthew advised that there is to be consultation on the change of classification of land, previously classified for Sewerage disposal (not now used for effluent fields near the shops) to Local Purpose Community Use. Consultation open online from 10 June 2026.

**Motion:** That TCC supports the change of classification and is to make a submission.

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

- k. **Piazza Use:** Some time ago Charles sent a report to the Council (former Mayor and former CEO) and has recently re-sent this to the current Mayor and current CEO regarding how challenging it is to use the Piazza for events and the need for a much more informal process so the Community can actually use this facility. Craig thought this had been referred to the Open Spaces team. **Rochelle** to check report back.

- l. **Rural Ward Fund:** The TCC application to fund printing of 100 signs, to the Tamahere Forum in the Ward was heard today (it has been approved). Rochelle advised that the proposed sign had been reviewed and she would get back to us tomorrow with comments in respect of Council Bylaws and signs.
- m. **TCC Discretionary Fund Balance:** The balance at the end of May is \$3,671.52.

**Motion:** The WDC Reports be received.

**Moved:** Maggie Wilcock

**Seconded:** Peter Mayall

**All in favour**

- 6. **Councillors' Report** - Report circulated by Cr Crystal Beavis and Cr Mike Keir and accepted as read.
  - a. **Fast Track:** Cr Beavis talked about the FastTrack process and activity in our area as set out in the Report. One project has been approved under FastTrack, 12 projects have been referred to FastTrack and 4 more are preparing to go onto FastTrack. She advised that there was little consultation and even Council had no influence once a project was in the FastTrack process.
  - b. The **Rural Ward Fund** hearings were completed today, Applicants will be notified imminently.
  - c. **Submissions to Council:** A reminder **to submit** on the "Managing the Road Corridor" review while it is open. What would we like to see or changed in our corridors?
  - d. **Water Charges:** Residents will see their Water charges levied from 1/7/26 via lawai but will need to pay these to WDC in the normal way for the coming year.
  - e. **Speed Limits Review:** Hearings were completed last year and outcome referred to Wellington. Now completed and new limits approved, the roll out will start soon, with new signs. The results are in the NZTA Speed Management Plan on the NZTA website for viewing
  - f. **Pencarrow Road speed limits** – part 80 kph and part 100 kph. A community member present asked what the outcome was of the speed limit review for Pencarrow Road. Cr Beavis advised that the Pencarrow speed limit had been left at 100kph, Peter Nation noted there is a lot of Police speed monitoring in the area at the moment. For the Committee, Charles noted there was often a conflict between the land zoning and speed limits. Rural land zone areas usually retain an open road speed but where intensification of living occurs there is a call to lower the speed. Unfortunately, Council does not change the zoning so creating a conflict. If speeds travelled in an area is considered too high, as a result of intensified living development, Council must re-consider zoning as well as the speed.
  - g. **Council Decision for Submitters:** The Committee and other submitters to the Council Speed Limits Review have not been notified of the outcome to their submissions! It is disappointing that the Council has failed to acknowledge the efforts of submitters and failed to give them the determination outcome. **Craig Hobbs will follow this up**
  - h. **Significant Natural Area (SNA's) consultation:** Some years ago Council undertook a consultation process, for the Waikato Regional Council, to determine SNA's in the district. This contemplated a visit to every property thought to have an SNA. Very

few visits eventuated and, at the time the Tamahere Ward Councillor indicated that nothing was going to come of this process. Years later we now discover that, following an Environment Court decision, SNA's are now relevant and various owners have had their property rights affected by an SNA on their property. As many property owners know nothing of the SNA decision and as most submitters have not been notified of the outcome of their submissions, Council has an issue to address. Maggie suggested the Council needed to confer with all affected property owners and ask if that could be done as a review may be necessary (basis of any decision to record an SNA). Our **Councillors'** need to follow this up with staff.

- i. **Dog Registration:** Tags due for renewal 1/7/26, will be a new lifetime metal tag and renewal should be done between 1/7/26 and 31/7/26.
- j. **Waikato Thoroughbred Racing:** Proposal has not yet been submitted to FastTrack review. WDC was asked by the Commissioners to submit their thoughts on the proposal and this has now been done.
- k. **NZTA Southern Links:** It has been confirmed that NZTA's revised design does not include a local link road to Tamahere Drive or any other local roads. It also has not provided for access to/from the East (Matangi) side. WDC has partly addressed the local roading consequences in their submission and **Mayor Aksel** will take the Tamahere problems to the Futureproof Committee to try to gain support for local road connection in Tamahere. Tamahere residents and TCC are not accepted as "stakeholders" by NZTA.

WDC is a stakeholder and needs to strongly advocate with NZTA, for Tamahere.

The Tamahere Ward has been adversely affected by the post Expressway construction, because mitigation measures were not planned adequately and the traffic modelling has significantly under projected traffic numbers, especially on SH21 (Airport Road) and the Tamahere Interchange.

The logging truck roll over, in the Tamahere Interchange, on 22 May highlights the deficiency of the interchange design, as it was never built to be part of an Expressway.

Hamilton Southern Links will have a big impact on Tamahere and that will need mitigation, including the consequence of the local roading network being used as an alternative to Southern Links if it is tolled.

The Narrows Bridge is a big future problem and the Council must be mindful that it will need to be replaced.

Southern Links, is unlikely to be built for at least 10 years. Agreed to **invite NZTA to the Open Day** to talk about the Southern Links Project.

- l. **Mayoral Awards:** Proposed Mayoral Award nominees from Councillors' and TCC – format and process has been circulated. Aksel spoke to this noting that some structure has now been introduced. Now have several categories and are intended to provide a balance in categories and types of recognition. Timing will align with Matariki. Nominations are due on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and will be presented on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The Ward Councillors and the Community Committee all get to nominate people. Committee to ask around the Ward and **the Forum** to promote, seeking nomination suggestions for the Committee to consider.

**Motion:** Councillors' report be received.

**Moved:** Peter Nation

**Seconded:** Anne Cao-Oulton

**All in favour**

**7. Local Roding - Tamahere Drive:**

- a. **Tamahere Drive Upgrade** – WDC Progress (public interest in final plan). The new plans were received today and have been loaded up on the Forum. Visitors present wanted to ask questions.
- b. The meeting was advised that the new plan closes off entry from road to cattle yards and it seems none of the affected land owners along the refurbishment have been spoken to. **Cr Keir will ensure WDC staff** attend to that.
- c. There was discussion as to whether this upgrade should occur prior to the WTR project in terms of damage that could do to the road. It was also noted that Tamahere Drive was the old SH 1 so was well made and should have a strong base, but the current surface will not last long and needs to be done now.
- d. Sue Burns from St Stephens gave a short history of this project and whilst they are happy with the belated input they have had on the project were somewhat disappointed that the initial neighbourly discussions and acquiescence given did not necessarily mean that their generosity of spirit was reciprocated.
- e. The Church predates all other stakeholders, and social cohesion is very important to their values. The Church is grateful to everyone for their efforts and that WDC and the consultants along with TCC have ensured that they have been able to protect their use of their facility in the redesign.

**8. Chairmans Report:**

- a. **Matangi Recreation Reserve** steering group progress: This is an exciting development and will benefit from the planning by the wider group of Matangi, Tauwhare and Tamahere happening now. The Rugby Club and Tauwhare have some decisions to make now to move this forward.
- b. **Tamahere Reserve** – Matthew Villanueva progress: Explained in Councilors' session above.
- c. **Maneapoto Pa property Trustees** – meeting report: Good constructive meeting. Offered our support for anything they would like to discuss including ideas for use and future development of their site.
- d. **Sir Peter Vela** – meeting report: Discussed a lot of things. Sir Peter, as a resident and great supporter of Tamahere, is aware of what is going on in the Community and in the racing industry at the moment, but is not actively involved in the business side of things. He has just finished chairing a Ministerial review into the Future of Racing in NZ and submitted the Report. He is not involved in the WTR project at all. His thoughts are that change must come to ensure the future. He is happy to assist TCC with anything, just have to ask.
- e. Informal meeting with Craig Hobbs is scheduled for 9 June 2026.

**Motion:** The Chairman's report be received.

**Moved:** Charles Fletcher

**Seconded:** Lyn Harris

**All in favour**

**9. Reports:**

- a. **Civil Defense for Tamahere:** Peter Nation reported this group has met and been renamed the **Tamahere Community Response Group**. There are 7 members and Scott Bolt, Emergency Manager from WDC, and Greer Gisborne from the Tamahere WDC Office also attended. There is a lot of work to do to determine resources needed, resources available, what is required, budget, define an area of coverage, define what improvements to the Tamahere Community Centre are necessary and planning. It is envisaged that there will be several levels of volunteers and groups involved going forward.
- b. **Matangi Community Committee Update:** Anne Cao-Oulton reported there has been no recent meeting. The next meeting is on 10 June 2026. She is aware the Committee is beginning work to rebuild their website and seeking funding for this from the Rural Ward Fund. Might be a good time to discuss what Tamahere has achieved and if it can assist Matangi.
- c. **Predator Free Tamahere:** Jane’s written Report circulated. Progress on eradication of pests is going very well. PFT and TMRT are talking although it seems their only common pest is rabbits.
- d. **Tamahere Lions:** Sue confirmed the Lions are withdrawing from the Playground Shading Project and Council has been informed. She has nothing else to report this month.
- e. **Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT):** Written Report has been circulated. TCC would like to ask that TMRT provide our committee with a forward plan of their intended works.
- f. **Tamahere Model Country School (TCMS):** Written Report has been circulated. We note that the whole community is invited to the School Choir Festival to be held at the Tamahere Community Centre on 18 June 2026. School roll is down on last year. Comment that a noticeable number of parents are taking children to other schools e.g. Matangi.
- g. **Tamahere Saint Stephens Church:** Sue indicated she had nothing to add to the discussion earlier in the agenda.
- h. **Vision Tamahere 2075:** Sub Committee has a meeting at 7pm tomorrow, 2 June at the WDC Office Tamahere to progress and organise the Open Day **(2.00pm to 4.30pm Sunday 14 June 2026)**. The focus of this meeting is the Open Day, the participants and the communications with the community.  
Council is invited to participate to gain feedback on the Governments Local Body Amalgamation proposal.  
Simon O’Connor has meet with Charles to discuss the Vision 2075 project. He has since meet with two experts, one being an author for the Future Proof project, who have the expertise we need and they have agreed to assist – they are to submit a proposal for our consideration and discussion with Council. Don Law, who is on the sub-committee, is liaising with Simon (who is his nephew) so this can be progressed.

**Motion:** All of the above reports be received.

**Moved:** Anne Cao-Oulton     **Seconded:** Sue Robertson  
**All in favour**

**10. Other Business:**

**Local Government Reform:**

Mayor Aksel Bech and Council CEO Craig Hobbs presented a segment on the Government requirements for upcoming Local Body Amalgamation. Councils have until the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2026 to analyse, consult, make decisions and agreement as to which Councils they would like to amalgamate with.

The new groupings will be Unitary Authorities and Regional Councils will cease to exist from the Local Body elections in 2028. They think that the amalgamations, reform and rates capping will continue after the November election regardless of which parties are in Government.

There are two options for Councils, they can choose the ‘Head Start’ option and make their own suggestion by 9/8/26 or let the Government decide groupings after that.

Government will have final say over any groupings to ensure the groups meet their predetermined criteria re population, stability, land areas etc. The outcome will be legislated.

WDC has 1 month to consult. They will be using all avenues at their disposal to make this happen meaningfully. Council Management and elected members are already working on this and have ideas to seek feedback on.

WDC will participate in the Tamahere Community Committee’s Open Day on 14 June 2026 to present information and seek feedback from residents/ratepayers. They will mount a display, have staff on hand to discuss. Lauren offered to host a live Q&A with the Mayor and CEO at 3pm for a presentation and Q&A session.

It is expected that the new ‘Unitary Councils’ will be Back to Basics in terms of their role and areas they control. The previous requirements for “Well-beings” have been dispensed with by Government.

A Feedback Form was distributed to those at our meeting to complete and this will be modified and used at all consultation going forward. It is available on-line.

**11. TCC Submissions:**

**WDC** – “Have your Say” to keep updated. refer

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/say-it> Early Engagement Survey - Activities within Councils Road Corridors. Survey opened 25 May and closes 26 June.

**WRC** – refer <https://yourvoicematters.waikatoregion.govt.nz>

- 12. Date of Next Meeting** – Would usually be 7.30 Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (Council has proposed a break with no meetings in July. Charles, Sue and Lynn are away in July) so 4<sup>th</sup> August 2026 could be an alternative. It was decided that Committee members would discuss and make a decision after the Open Day as to when the next meeting was

required. It may be that an informal meeting is arranged in July with the next formal meeting being 4 August 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

