

MINUTES of a meeting of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee held at the Te Kauwhata Rugby Club, Mahi Road, Te Kauwhata on **WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2026** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Mr Tim Hinton (Chairperson)
Ms Angela van den Munckhof (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Lauren Hughes
Ms Estelle Jonathan
Mrs Liz Tupuhi
Mr Ian Wrigley
Ms Harjeet Kaur
Mr Courtney Howells
Mr Mike Peters
Mr Derek Peel
Councillor Marlene Raumati

Staff Attending:

Mrs K Barnsdall (Strategic Initiatives & Partnership Manager)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies received for the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

Resolved: (Cr Raumati/Mr Peel)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee held on Wednesday, 4 February 2026 be confirmed:

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting; and**
- b. all reports be received.**

CARRIED

TKCC2602/1

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Resolved: (Ms Jonathan/Mr Wrigley)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee held on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

TKCC2602/2

PUBLIC FORUM

- There were no members of the public present however it was noted by the Chair that the venue for the Committee meetings for 2026 has been changed to the Te Kauwhata Rugby Clubrooms and this will be advertised.

ACTION: Senior Democracy Advisor to update Committee page on the Council website to show meeting venue as Te Kauwhata Rugby Club.

BOARD REPORTS

6.1 Te Kauwhata Community Committee Plan – January 2026 Update

The report was received (*TKCC2602/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- It was noted by the Senior Democracy Advisor that there are no updates for the Committee plan this month.
- Moving forward Committee members are able to provide updates to their specific projects or any work they are undertaking and update the report for the Committees information.
- The Chairperson noted the plan is a live document so any updates or additions can be made and members can provide further information.

REPORTS

7.1 Te Kauwhata Works & Issues Report

The report was received (*TKCC2602/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- The Creative Communities Fund item can be removed from the report as it is now closed.

ACTION: Creative Communities Fund Item to be removed.

- Cr Raumati confirmed she will follow up on the March 2026 expected completion date for CCTV cameras with Council.

ACTION: Senior Leadership Team (SLT) representative to follow this action up with Council staff and update Works & Issues report.

7.2 Discretionary Fund Report

The report was received (*TKCC2602/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- The Senior Democracy Advisor noted for the Committee that all commitments for 2025 have been processed and paid.
- The Committee noted the resolution for the transfer of \$1,717.16 for CCTV security camera repairs (Invoice: 11361) from the North Waikato Development Fund (NWDF) to the Te Kauwhata Community Committee Discretionary Fund as per resolution TKCC2511/05.
- Cr Raumati queried whether the funds for the Dog Exercise Park (\$88.35 – Resolution: TKCC2308/09) had been returned to the fund or whether a resolution was required before this could happen? The Senior Democracy Advisor will confirm with finance.

ACTION: Senior Democracy Advisor to follow up with Finance to determine if TKCC2308/09 (\$88.35) requires a resolution from the Committee before returning to the fund.

Resolved: (Cr Raumati/Ms Tupuhi)

THAT the Te Kauwhata Community Committee:

- a. receives the report for the Te Kauwhata Discretionary Fund and the North Waikato Development Funding report; and**
- b. notes the resolution to shift the transaction from NWDF to TKCC DF has been processed within the finance team.**

CARRIED

TKCC2602/3

7.3 Councillors Report

The verbal report along with a copy of the Councillors Chatter Newspaper article was received (*TKCC2602/2 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- An update on the Council Finance 101 workshop that was held this week in Chambers was provided with the feedback that the workshop was enjoyable and there is some good work happening in the Finance space.
- Apologies were given to the Committee for the lateness of the report however it was noted that Councillors only returned to Chambers this week.
- A comment was made in regards to the Chatter Newspaper article with a feeling that it seemed adversarial in tone. Councillor Raumati acknowledged the tone of the article and noted this is the tone and direction set by His Worship the Mayor.
- The mandates coming from Central Government, along with the many pieces of legislation that is being imposed on Councils without any funding attached puts so much pressure on the Waikato District Ratepayers.
- The Rates Capping Policy, Resource Management Act (RMA) changes as well as Infrastructure Funding & Financing Amendments are just some of the pieces of legislation that Central Government are proposing and it is unknown what the costs to Council will be to implement these changes.
- The impact on our Communities from these pieces of legislation is unclear and discussions are happening across all Councils at this time.
- Councillors are hitting the ground running in 2026 with a full calendar of meetings and workshops already scheduled in the Chambers.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items were raised under General Business:

- A reminder that the Stakeholder Engagement Training session is taking place on Wednesday, 18th February 2026 at 5.30pm. The calendar appointment needs to be re-sent as it was accidentally deleted from calendars.

Lake Waikare Project:

- Mrs Tupuhi gave the Committee an update on the Lake Waikare project and advised a draft Action Plan has been developed for review.
- A meeting with the Meremere Community Committee was suggested in order to share information on the project and get an understanding of what the plan is moving forward.

ACTION: Mrs Tupuhi to touch base with the Meremere Community Committee to organise a joint meeting to update members on the Lake Waikare project (Before the end of February 2026).

- There are three (3) significant & transformative actions for this project: Reforestation, Flood Scheme and Intensification of Land Use.
- Work that is underway for the project was outlined for the Committee as well as “What’s Next” in the project space which was noted as Wetlands Management along with management of Subdivisions moving forward.
- The draft Action Plan is currently with the Working group for their final input and upon completion will progress to Government Minister Tama Potaka for consideration. It was further noted that the Working Group have had discussions around the possibility of implementing a Governance Body for this project.
- In response to a query from the Committee it was noted the Working Group are hoping to have input on funding from Central Government.

Speed Bumps – Main Road:

- The Committee had a robust discussion on the speed bumps in the Main Street of town and the impact they have had since being installed.
- Feedback was a mix of both positive and negative from across the Community.
- On a positive side the bumps have slowed the traffic going through the Main Street significantly and pedestrians feel more safe when crossing the road.
- From a Business Owner perspective the feedback to date has noted no change in the traffic speed through town, large trucks travelling over the bumps at speed are causing damage to the buildings and it is very noisy.

- Cr Raumati noted that Business owners are entitled to their views as well as those members of the community who are happy with the speed bump installation and her role as Councillor is to take all feedback or concerns to Council as well as the positive comments.
- The discussion ensued with Committee members all expressing their opinions on the speed bumps and their different ideas.
- It was noted that striking a balance between pedestrian safety and the issues raised by Business owners requires sensitivity from the Committee and further discussion and moving forward it would be best practice to let Community members know that these discussions are being had by the Committee and to come along to meetings to express their opinions.
- It was noted that there are a few options on the table for alternative routes for heavy trucks & traffic travelling through town but none that are viable at this stage.
- There are ongoing discussions as well as ideas being submitted to Central Government such as a GST on Roading Levies being distributed back to communities that have issues with their roading network.

Community Committee Facebook Page:

- The Committee are moving forward with the creation of a Community Committee Facebook page and queried with Council staff what the best set up of this page would be and which Committee member would be the Facebook Administrator.
- The Chair noted his vision of the Committee having a strong link to the wider Community and having the platform to ensure any relevant information or key project updates that may have an effect on members of the public would be beneficial for Te Kauwhata.
- The Senior Democracy Advisor noted that links to Committee Agendas for upcoming meetings as well as the confirmed Minutes of the meetings would be great to have posted on the Facebook page as well as notification of meeting dates.
- A brief discussion was had in relation to information that Council posts on the WDC Facebook page and what is appropriate to share on their own Community page and the standards around this.
- It was further noted by the Strategic Initiatives & Partnership Manager that it is important to differentiate between Committee information and Council information and to let Council deal with any issues with information posted on their page.

ACTION: WDC staff to provide communications support, including branding resources, social media guidelines, and/or training material to assist TKCC in setting up their new community page. Share any relevant digital collateral (e.g., TKCC community plan profiles and PDF).

Blunt Road Walkway: Funding Discussion:

- Cr Raumati noted that there is a good vibe to start of the 2026 year and it is good to see a real diversity in the membership sitting at the Committee table this triennium.
- A query was raised around the current funding commitment on the North Waikato Development Fund for the Blunt Road walkway and the possibility of re-committing this money to other potential projects in the Community was put on the table for discussion.
- The Chairperson gave the Committee an overview of the Blunt Road Walkway project and what has occurred to date. The project appears to have stalled and if there is no timeframe for work on the project to start or even move forward then the Committee are invited to come back to the next meeting with some thoughts or ideas on the proposed re-commitment and how best to proceed.

Te Kumete Road (Boatramp):

- An ongoing issue at Te Kumete Road was raised by the Committee and the work done to date by Mr Peel was acknowledged by Cr Raumati.
- Cr Raumati advised that discussions have been had with key Council staff and there is not a lot of options from a legislative perspective that can be done but Police have also been made aware of the issue.
- Cr Raumati believes this is an issue that sits outside the remit of the Community Committee; there are multiple issues at play with behaviour.
- It was noted that the length of time Council took to address this issue was too long and could have been handled earlier.
- It was noted that the vast majority of members think that this issue is out of the jurisdiction of the Committee and to leave Council (either Waikato District or Waikato Regional) and NZ Police to deal with this.

ACTION: WDC staff to connect with Waikato Regional Council. Confirm which agency is responsible for managing this area (the individual appears to be set up on the boat ramp by the river). Provide WRC with information and context regarding the Te Kumete Road issues raised by the public.

Other Business:

- The next meeting of the Te Kauwhata Events Committee (which Mr Peel is also a member of) is happening next week and any updates or relevant information will be provided at the next meeting.

- The Te Kauwhata Athletics Club operate out of the Domain on Monday nights and the Committee have received a written request from the Club for permission to install a storage box/room at the Domain to keep their equipment in safely.
- The Athletics Club have already received funding for the storage box/room and a container has been purchased and ready to install if permission is receive.
- The Chairperson is keen to support this initiative for the Athletics Club as the member numbers total over 100 from the local community and the Committee are in agreement to support this proposal as well.

ACTION: Council staff to follow up with the Parks & Reserves team to confirm storage options for the Te Kauwhata Athletics Club and what potential implications are for the Te Kauwhata Rugby Club lease, along with suitable locations for the storage container.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.29pm.

Minutes confirmed and approved on day of 2026.

Mr Tim Hinton
CHAIRPERSON