



**Minutes of Tamahere Community Committee Meeting at
Tamahere Community Centre, 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 April 2025**

Present:

TCC: Charles Fletcher (Chair), Janis Swan, Anne Cao, Bevin Coley, Lyn Harris
WDC: Cr Crystal Beavis, Cr Mike Keir, Geoff King
WRC: Pamela Storey
Tamahere Forum: Scott Mathias
Tamahere Lions: Sue Fookes
Community: Maggie Wilcock, Cindy Jacobs

1. **Apologies:** Russell Gibbs, Leo Koppens, Sue Robertson, Buddy Annals, Jane Manson, Mayor Jacqui Church

Motion: Apologies be accepted

Moved: Lyn Harris **Seconded:** Bevin Coley **All in Favour**

2. **Confirmation of Minutes** of meeting held 4 March 2025.

Motion: Minutes of the meeting held 4 March 2025 are approved

Moved: Lyn Harris **Seconded:** Anne Cao **All in Favour**

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

4. **Correspondence (February 2025)** - *circulated by email prior to meeting*

Motion: Correspondence is accepted

Moved: Lyn Harris **Seconded:** Bevin Coley **All in Favour**

5. **Waikato Regional Council** – WRC Chair, **Pamela Storey**, presented to the committee:
- The Waikato Regional Council (WRC) Annual Plan opens for consultation today and closes Wednesday 30 April.
 - The Annual Plan comes into effect 31 July 2025, and this is our opportunity to give feedback to the council. Go to the Waikato Regional Council website and search for “Your Voice Matters”. There is a link through to 2025/26 Annual Plan for you to have your say.
 - The plan introduces a transport annual rate which varies according to where you live.
 - A 5.9% rate rise has been proposed. This increase is less than forecast due to central government funding being available.

The main issues being consulted on are:

- **Regional transport rate** – this is the preferred rating system following strong feedback from ratepayers.
 - It recognizes fairness and that public transport is a public “good”.

- There are 5 different rate levels with Tamahere falling in the Central Transport Zone/ unserviced. This reflects a greater degree of regular service and is divided into a “serviced rate” and an “unserviced rate”. Tamahere will initially be rated at the unserviced rate of \$38.35/property.
- To find out what rate your property will incur please go to the consultation page on the WRC website and enter your residential address.
- The Regional Transport rate supports public bus services as well as community and mobility transport systems. Trusts that provide this service can apply for this funding.
- **Wharekawa Coast rating** – this does not affect Tamahere.
 - This is a new targeted rate to manage an ecological catchment area.
- **Rates remission policy** – this is a new remission policy relating to native bush set aside on primary industry land. It only applies to properties 20ha or greater. Landowners are encouraged to engage with the WRC team for further information.
- **Prior year fund surplus** – feedback is requested on how ratepayers would like the Councils surplus funds to be used e.g. hold for civil emergency or something else.
- **Fees and charges** – review has been made, and charges have been set for regulatory services and information gathering. Feedback on these changes is requested.

Other Discussion Issues:

- I. Cr Keir raised the issue of the WRC costs attached to their **consent process** when it relates to community projects such as gully restoration. Gully restoration always has the objective of clearing the area of invasive plants. This is a job that WRC wants to have happen.
 - He suggested the consent process needs to be streamlined to recognize these community projects which normally operate with minimal funding and reliant on free community labour.
 - Cr Storey stated she would look at the gully restoration project currently led by TMRT and see if she can assist in any way.
 - Cr Storey also responded with the observation that the current Resource Management Reform is looking for a regional spatial plan so that one plan covers all aspects of the region’s development.
- II. **SNA’s**: When SNA’s became a consideration, WRC had a database which it shared details of with Councils for areas that could potentially be SNA’s using its maps. District Councils were then required to “ground proof” these proposed areas. The concern expressed by our Committee is that SNA’s now appear to affect private property owners “property rights and use”, something never raised when the SNA issue commenced.
 - SNA’s have not been flagged on WRC maps as they are a District Council responsibility. Some Councils have done work in this area and others have not.
 - There are many SNA’s that have not been truthed and it is not clear where this project currently sits given the current Government reforms underway.
- III. **Plan Change 1 (PC1)**: This was a controversial proposal with a large number of submitters. It primarily relates to how WRC, in the Waikato & Waipa districts, manage our environment so freshwater bodies of the Waikato can be enjoyed for generations.

- It is still in front of the Environment Court with the Judge continuing to pursue discussions with Appellants to try and come to resolution.
- No final resolution date has been set.
- The Resource Management Reform will have no effect on the PC 1 outcome.

6. **WDC Service Delivery – Tamahere Community Committee Issues Report** - Report circulated prior to the meeting by Geoff King and accepted as read. Charles asked for clarification about the Tamahere Reserve and the bats enquiry made by Council to DoC and WRC. He was concerned that nothing supports the proposition that bats live and roost in the Reserve so did not want to see any implication to say they did.

TMRT Trail & Bridge Work: The “client” referred to in the report is TMRT.

Discretionary Fund Report: We have enough funds to maintain the Tamahere Forum to the end of this financial year, but further funds will be required to maintain the web page through to the end of the 2025/26 financial year. This has been raised with Mayor Jacki Church and TCC and its community will need to submit on the LTP to raise the funding allowance for TCC from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (from general rates). TCC has received an allocation of \$10,000 for the 2024/25 financial year.

Tamahere Park Seat Donations: The telecommunication plan has not been updated with the new Fibre (UFF) cabling installation through the Tamahere Park and Recreation grounds, since the changes occurred for the Airport Road underpass project.

- A clear system of how payments can be made for more park benches needs to be developed. Geoff was confident that Momentum could still be used for this purpose.
- There is no Council park plan for the placement of future park benches. TCC can formulate our own plan and update Council.
- Sue confirmed that Lions would be prepared to install future seats, as they have done previously, as needed.

Motion: WDC Service Delivery Report be accepted

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Janis Swan

All in favour

7. **Councillors’ Report**

Report circulated by Crystal and accepted as read.

- *Consultation on LTP:* Feedback open 11 April to 11 May – refer WDC website “say-it”.
 - There are two drop-in sessions in our area. One is planned for 6.00pm – 7.00pm Tuesday 6 May (prior to our next meeting). There are online sessions programmed too. Please refer to the WDC website for full details.
 - Fees and Charges have been reviewed and increased – Please consider when reviewing the LTP.
- *Water Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO):* Refer “Local Water Done Well”
 - Hamilton is the preferred partner.
 - Residential properties in Hamilton are not currently charged via a meter for water consumption. Many properties have meters installed but it will take HCC 5 years to install them throughout Hamilton.

- *Waste Management Consultation:* Council strategy review & consultation. Consultation will open at the same time as the LTP.
- **Event:** Tour the Green Gorilla Recycling Centre at 137A Rotowaro Road, Huntly on Saturday 5 April.
- Apply for funding for your waste minimization project. Closes Friday 18 April.
- ANZAC Day services: refer WDC website Events for details.
- *Speed Management Plan (SMP):* Adoption of updated SMP is expected to be completed by Council on 14 April. Some roads have retained open road speed limits.
 - All schools will have variable speed zones of 30km/hr.
 - Speeds throughout the Waikato will be regularly reviewed.

Motion: Councilors' report be received.

Moved: Bevin Coley

Seconded: Janis Swan

All in favour

8. NZTA – HCC roundabout for SH26:

- No updates have been received since last month's meeting.
- **Action:** Charles will follow up on progress with Sarah Loynes (HCC).

9. Tamahere Reserve:

- Glynn has been working with Leo & Russell with regard to the trees needing to be removed in April (this month). The trees being cut down will be left where they fall. The status of bats in this area is causing complications for this process.
- **Action:** Geoff will provide an updated report to Charles reflecting the imminent tree removal process.

10. Tamahere Forum

- Scott, Cindy & Charles met last week to discuss the way forward. Scott and Cindy have agreed to work together to achieve positive outcomes for the Tamahere Forum.
- TCC have enough funds to cover expenses to the end of this financial year. At the beginning of the next financial year we will receive a \$5k allocation, however we need a \$10k annual allocation to keep the Forum open.
- A quarterly invoice is required.
- Tamahere Forum's latest invoice has been resubmitted.

Motion: Invoice 0071 for Website management and maintenance over 3 months (18 March to 18 June 2025) to the value of \$2,625.00 (no GST), presented by Scott (Planet Food News), is approved for payment by the Waikato District Council from TCC funds.

Moved: Lyn Harris

Seconded: Bevin Coley

All in favour

11. Reports

▪ **CCTV Update:**

- Charles had a very constructive meeting with Waikato District Council, their consultant and AllTech.
- The Council brief and objective was clarified between the parties.

- Scott (AllTech) was invited to provide his recommendations, given the brief, and provide a revised price.
- CCTV will not be live monitored. Tamahere will receive the first of the new cameras.
- There are three locations for cameras around the Village and three other locations around Tamahere as proposed by NZ Police.
- All cameras need a reliable power supply. The Village locations have feasible power locations available with the street lighting but the other three cameras will need the input from Waipa Network (local network company). This will be expensive and needs to be costed separately. Scott (AllTech) and WDC are working on this.
- Charles feels this project is now moving forward in a positive direction.
- **Civil Defence:** Cr Beavis has provided Charles with the latest draft plan for Tamahere.
 - Tamahere needs a “Champion” for this project.
 - **Action:** Charles will circulate the draft plan to the Committee and see if there is a committee member who is prepared to convene meetings and update the plan.
 - **Action:** Cr Beavis will prepare a paragraph regarding this opportunity for the Tamahere Forum
- **WDC LTP (release 11 April 2025)** – WDC briefing to TCC once consultation opens. Council staff will be at Tamahere for TCC and public consultation commencing one hour prior next months TCC meeting.
- **Predator Free Tamahere (PFT):** Jane Morgan’s report was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. Thank you for the alert regarding ferret sightings!
- **Tamahere Lions:**
 - Charles has discussed the playground shading issue with Mayor Church during a recent meeting. Tamahere Lions are looking to get revised quotes.
 - Umbrellas: A sponsor has not yet been found but a few umbrellas will be available soon. The main focus is next summer. Georgina from our local Four Square will be the umbrella “caretaker”.
 - The shading issue needs to be discussed in the Forum, to seek feedback and support from the community. Some of the playground gear (e.g. the slide) is made of stainless steel and gets very hot in the sun.
 - Community fundraising is the only way this project will proceed quickly as the Council has no funds for its shading obligations (which are provided for in the District Plan).
- **Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust (TMRT):** Russell’s written report was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read. There is clearly a lot happening with the gully restoration project and activity in Tamahere Reserve and Billsthorpe.
- **Tamahere Model Country School (TMCS):** Report circulated by Buddy and taken as read.
 - Community Event: Pumpkin Night – 4.00pm Saturday 5 April.
 - Term 1 concludes: Holiday dates – 11 April – 28 April.
- **Tamahere St Stephens Church:** Crystal reported:
 - Next Market Day – Saturday 19 April 2025.
 - Special Easter services are still to be confirmed – please visit website for details.
 - Next project: Upgrade the toilet area.
 - Furniture Restoration Event – Went well with approx. 20 participants.
- **TCC Community Plan 2024-26:** Sub-committee meeting not held in March.

- Maggie attended Council training meeting on Tuesday 11th March 5.30pm – 7.30pm in Ngaruawahia – Engagement training for Community Boards & Committees. Summary as follows:
 1. Dominique Thurlow arranged the WDC training meeting held on 11 March. The delivery was by Amanda Hema. Amanda is ex Waipa, highly qualified in governance and council operations and currently works at Waikato University.
 2. The topic for the evening was Stakeholders Engagement 'Upskilling'.
 3. The 1st hour focused on building relationships, stakeholder prioritisation, leveraging personal connections and collaborating with WDC.
 4. The 2nd hour focused on practical application using roads and water as the topic.
 5. The next workshop is on Engagement with Iwi; more information to come.
 6. Maggie queried the relevance of connecting with all community stakeholders e.g. the fire brigade – not necessarily local.
 - The next Governance and Funding Workshop is being convened by WDC for 5.30pm on 16 April at the Hamilton Car Club on Vale Road.
- Action:** Cr Beavis will circulate confirmation of event details.

Motion: All of the above reports be received

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Anne Cao **All in favour**

12. Submissions

- **WDC** – refer <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/say-it>
 - Speed Management Plan – Charles presented TCC submission.
 - Long Term Plan – open for consultation 11 April to 11 May
 - Charles will circulate key points once the council has released the information.
 - **Action:** Committee to feedback to Charles to be included in the TCC submission.
- **WRC** – refer <https://yourvoicematters.waikatoregion.govt.nz>
 - Consultation: Regional Council annual plan is seeking feedback with key issues being transport rate levy issue, updated fees and charges and current financial surplus. Now open from 1 April to 30 April.
 - Thank you to Pamela Storey for attending our meeting.

13. Other Business

- Tamahere Park:
 - Seats & Lighting: Charles hasn't caught up with Paul Johnson recently.
 - Charles has spoken with the Hall electrician regarding the light installation. He will submit a price to Charles.
- Mayor's Community Awards 2025 Nominations: Closing date is 9.00am Thursday 1st May 2025. Janis has received information from Leo suggesting John Sheat. Leo has outlined John's long history of community contributions.

Motion: TCC nominates John Sheat for the Mayor's Community Award 2025, in recognition of his voluntary service over many years.

Moved: Janis Swan

Seconded: Charles Fletcher **All in favour**

- Traffic calming measures for Birchwood Lane: Project to be tracked for progress. Bevin commented that the **Road Policing Unit** has been very busy in the Newell Road- Birchwood Lane area (speedsters watch out).

14. Date of the next meeting: 7.30pm on Tuesday, 6th May 2025.

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

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

