



**Minutes of Tamahere Community Committee Meeting at
Tamahere Community Centre, 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd September 2025**

Present: (30)

TCC: Charles Fletcher (Chair), Janis Swan, Lyn Harris, Anne Cao-Oulton, Jane Manson, Bevin Coley
WDC: Cr Crystal Beavis, Cr Mike Keir, Geoff King, Megan May, Aram Goes, Janette Underwood, Carli Last
Tamahere Lions: Sue Fookes
Tamahere Forum: Scott Mathias
TMRT: Leo Koppens, Russell Gibbs
Community: Maggie Wilcock, Sue Robertson, Cindy Jacobs, Jonathon Smith, Meg Wilshier, Shelley Howes, Andrew Mowbray, Paul Oulton, Peter Mayall, Medihah Bardsley, Lauren McLean

Everyone was warmly welcomed and given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

1. **Apologies:** Don Law, Buddy Annals, Sue Robertson, Aksel Bech, Allan Sanson, Mayor Jacqui Church.

Motion: Apologies be accepted

Moved: Lyn Harris **Seconded:** Janis Swan **All in Favour**

2. **Confirmation of Minutes** of meeting held 5th August 2025.

Motion: Minutes of the meeting held 5th August 2025 are approved.

Moved: Lyn Harris **Seconded:** Jane Manson **All in Favour**

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

4. **Correspondence (July 2025)** (55 in | 52 out) - *circulated by email prior to meeting*

Motion: Correspondence is accepted.

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

5. **WDC Service Delivery – Tamahere Community Committee Issues Report** - Report circulated prior to the meeting by Geoff King and accepted as read.

- *TMRT Trail & Bridges:* Further discussion took place with regard to the cost indications for this project. The concern of the community is that this community trail is being over-engineered for the purposes of a walking track which floods on regular occasions. Future discussion in agenda item below.

- *Toilets:* The cost to build the second toilet block has been received by council with the price quoted being well above previous modular blocks. A Quantity Surveyor has been engaged to review current market rates – is the new price justified?
 - Vandalism of public toilets is an on-going problem for Council across the district, including the Tamahere Recreation Park toilet block.
 - The community needs to look out for this negative activity particularly in light of future ratepayer investment.
 - Reports on vandalism can be notified via Antenno.

Motion: WDC Service Delivery Report be received.

Moved: Jane Manson **Seconded:** Janis Swan

All in favour

6. Councillors' Report

Report circulated by Crystal and accepted as read.

- **Meet the Candidate:** Charles reports that the Matangi meeting is confirmed for Saturday 13 September from 12.30pm.
- **Tamahere Lions 10th Anniversary Celebration:** Sue reports that due to the Council rules, for using the Piazza at Tamahere Recreation Park for this celebration, it will not be happening this year. Tamahere Lions are hopeful that Council rules can be reworked so that the Piazza public space can be fully utilized by the community in the future.

Motion: Councilors' report be received.

Moved: Lyn Harris

Seconded: Anne Cao-Oulton

All in favour

7. Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust - Monthly report received and taken as read.

- Russell outlined the purpose of TMRT to everyone. The community is encouraged to visit the TMRT website tamaherewalkways.org or become a Facebook follower to keep up with developments.
- Over the last 4 years the Trust has been focused on the Bilsthorpe Lane restoration project. This area continues to be planted out. The Trust continues to work in conjunction with WDC to build track access and bridges.
- With the recent felling of the pine trees in Tamahere Reserve TMRT volunteers have returned to the gully in this reserve to try and get some semblance of order, to the damage caused by the dropped trees, so that community can continue to enjoy visiting this Reserve. WDC has agreed to replace parts of the boardwalk that were damaged by the tree felling event.
- The Trust commits a lot of time to meetings to develop the process with Council to move the restoration projects forward.
- Maggie reported that Council had outlined 5 track types. It was initially indicated that the Bilsthorpe track would be built to a Track 5 standard, the lowest intended from tramping only. It seems the Track 3 standard is the current focus of Council for the Bilsthorpe track. Maggie suggested this is not required in this environment as the area is prone to periodic flooding.

- Cr Keir reported that the scope does seem to have moved, and he agrees with Maggie's comments.
- Cr Keir also felt that since the inception of the targeted rate the work TMRT has done is "fantastic" and the community can be very happy with the benefits which would not have been possible without the targeted rate.
- The Trust, TCC, Cr Keir and WDC staff are working on options to contain costs for completion of the Bilsthorpe track and proposed bridges, so that the development work can continue without using all LTP funds (and leaving nothing in the budget for other works).
- **Action:** Cr Keir to liaise with Megan May on the scope of work before it goes out to tender.

Motion: TMRT report be received.

Moved: Charles Fletcher

Seconded: Janis Swan **All in favour**

8. **Birchwood Lane Survey response (WDC survey)** – Council staff presented the Birchwood Lane survey results

- Following feedback from the community regarding vehicle speed along Birchwood Lane, Council staff took the opportunity to trial a temporary speed management system. The impact of this trial had a quick negative community response. A post speed management trial device survey was undertaken even though most of the mitigation aspects were removed prior to the expiration of the trial project.
 - The council survey had 245 respondents. There was no clear outcome as to whether respondents felt the speed limit should be altered.
 - A consistent suggestion was to build a raised pedestrian crossing at the Devine Road end of Birchwood Lane. This would serve two purposes: traffic calming and pedestrian safety for those going to school and day care. The timeframe for the project from agreement to investigate the crossing, funding being allocated, location & design would take at least a year.
 - Following presentation there was a good discussion and Council staff responded constructively to all questions.
 - Charles suggested that it may be helpful to the Council if TCC convenes another public meeting to discuss the options to facilitate decisions going forward.
 - Aram Goes noted that it may take some time to implement changes. Road maintenance and resealing is planned for Birchwood Lane this summer, so the paint on the road will be covered and new road marking completed. Budget constraints mean that new capital works may not happen until 2026-2027.
- **Newell Road cul-de-sac** – NZTA took the lead with design and presented the proposal to WDC for comment.
- This was contrary to what NZTA indicated to TCC during a recent meeting, minutes of which have been distributed to the Committee, NZTA and Council staff.

- Following discussion, it was made clear to Council staff that no work should be progressed on this issue until we have the benefit of current community opinion.
- Aram Goes advised Council has no current view on the NZTA proposal and is happy to accommodate current community thinking.

9. Tamahere Reserve and community consultation

- **Concept Plan for the Tamahere Reserve:** Council has received a proposal from Boffa Miskell. Council will engage Boffa Miskell to assist with this plan preparation. Megan May outlined its understanding of the current position:
 - Stage 1 Proposed fee: \$22,660.00
 - Stage 2 Proposed fee: Dependent on which of two options is chosen. Either \$7,410.00 or \$10,350.00
 - Provision for external sub-consultants: \$17,000.00 - \$22,000.00 (estimate only) if needed for specific reasons.
- On behalf of TCC, Charles has sent suggestions to Council for the Scope to be modified.
- Megan suggested that Council staff consider the TCC suggestions, then confer with Charles and Leo/Russell to confirm the modifications to the Scope before further discussion with Boffa Miskell.

10. TCC Community Plan Update & NZTA Southern Links update

We held our first sub-committee meeting on Tuesday 19 August (approx. half from TCC and half from the community). Meeting notes were circulated following the meeting.

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 September 7.00pm – 9.00pm at the WDC Tamahere office.
- Lauren McLean wanted to know how people might know about this – information is on the Forum and in our last minutes. An invite was extended to her to join in.
- We will be looking for wide community input as we progress through the plan development.
- Regular short surveys are proposed, through the Tamahere Forum, for community feedback.

NZTA Southern Links Update: NZTA is presenting the case to the NZTA board this month. Then details will be presented to Cabinet with decisions on all of the Roads of National Significance being announced before Christmas.

11. Reports

- **WDC LTP 2025-2034**
 - Funds for the improvements to Matangi Recreation Reserve had been allocated in a previous LTP. It was not visible in the current 2025-34 LTP financial reports.
 - Charles communicated his concern to CEO, Craig Hobbs, regarding clarity of reporting. Feedback was that it is a work in progress and Council is working towards further financial reporting clarity to ratepayers.

- Carryover projects, approved but not done, have funds approved but there is no clear record or reporting on these projects (often funding is borrowed by Council) so they seem to fall into a “black hole” and can take years to reappear. It will be good if Council can address this issue promptly.

- **CCTV**

The CCTV installation at Tamahere is now underway. The server location is now proposed to be in the Tamahere Community Centre and details are being worked through by Council.

Mike and others noted that the CCTV project now proceeding, as the first under the new Council CCTV strategy, is a consequence of the persistence and dedication which Charles has maintained for this project.

Motion: A vote of thanks to Charles for all the work he has done on the CCTV project (expected to be the model adopted for the rest of the district).

Moved: Janis Swan **Seconded:** Jane Manson **All in favour**

- **Civil Defence**

- There has been no response for a community civil defense local community leader following the insert of Cr Beavis’s call in the Tamahere Forum.
- Lauren McLean indicated she may be able to help but would like further information (Cr Beavis to address).

Charles met with Nathan Sanderson last month (August). Part of the discussion included seeking support from the Tamahere Country Club by way of a Country Club resident joining the TCC committee and assistance from residents with skills. Nathan has committed to place something in the Country Club newsletter.

- **Predator Free Tamahere (PFT):** Jane Morgan provided a report for this month (circulated and taken as read).

- Work has extended to include Pencarrow Road
- The Bat signage at the Allan Turner bridge will be replaced to reflect the original brief.

- **Tamahere Lions:**

- *Playground Shade Project:* Grant applications are continuing to be completed.
- *Tamahere Lions 10-year celebration:* With the difficulties in securing approval to use the Tamahere Piazza the Tamahere Lions have looked to Gails of Tamahere for support so that a celebration can happen before Christmas.

- **Tamahere Model Country School (TMCS):** Report circulated by Buddy and taken as read.

- Board Elections – Opens 10 September & closes Wednesday 17 September.

- Tamahere Winter Gala Ball Saturday 16 August was well supported and went really well. It was also a very successful fund-raising event.
- *Important dates:*
 - Ballot for out-of-zone places closes Thursday 2 October.
 - End of Term 3 is Friday 19 September.
- **Tamahere St Stephens Church:**
 - Next Market Day – Saturday 20th September 2025 – same day as Meet the Candidate meeting at Tamahere Community Centre.
 - The St Stephens team are well underway with the planning of Christmas events including the Christmas markets and TMCS dressing the Christmas tree.
- **Tamahere Forum Update:**
 - Please email Scott with local information at: scott@omnimedia.co.nz
 - In June, Cindy sent a proposal on a new look for the Tamahere Forum. Now that funding is in place the committee needs to review this for feedback at October's meeting.
 - There is a plan for a full update of the WDC website commencing this December. Charles has asked that Council consider the possibility of Boards and Committees having their own websites, using the Council platform, with their own local information and comms/email capability. Geoff indicated that the new Council website will need to be operational first, hopefully in the new year.

Motion: All of the above reports be received

Moved: Lyn Harris

Seconded: Jane Manson

All in favour

12. Local Council Elections

- The voting period for the Local Government elections is from 9 Sept to 11 Oct 2025 and the last day to enrol to vote (Special Vote) is Friday 10 October 2025.
- We are voting for:
 - Mayor for Waikato District Council – 2 candidates for 1 position
 - WDC Councillors for Tamahere-Woodlands Ward - 5 candidates for 2 positions
 - Waikato Regional Council councillors - 4 candidates for 2 positions
- Two **“Meet the candidates”** meetings for Tamahere residents:
 - **Wednesday 10th September** 4.00pm – 6.00pm where candidates introduce themselves and address three questions that will be sent to them prior to the meeting. A Q & A time will occur at the end of the introductions.
 - **Meeting Chair:** Charles will be overseas for the rest of this month so a chair for this meeting will be required. Sue Robertson (the immediate past TCC Chair) was proposed (following the meeting Charles invited Sue Robertson to chair the meeting and she has agreed).

- **Saturday 20th September** 11.00am – 1.30pm where candidates can sit & chat with people on a Q & A basis. This is the same date as the monthly St Stephen's Market Day at Tamahere.
- Jane indicated signage could be posted at the entrance to the Market to let people know they can meet the Candidates in the Tamahere Community Centre.
- **Venue (both meetings):** Downstairs meeting room & foyer space at the Tamahere Community Centre.
- **Action:** Lyn to follow up with Gaylene Kanawa as to whether a mobile voting booth could be stationed at the market or Community Center on market day (9.00am – 1.30pm).

13. Submissions

- **WDC** – refer <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/say-it>
- **WRC** – refer <https://yourvoicematters.waikatoregion.govt.nz>

14. Other Business:

- Tamahere Community Charitable Trust – Charles has proposed this as a funding stream for Tamahere future developments. Members are to consider, for a future decision, as it contemplates that each elected member will become a trustee.
- Tamahere Recreation Park – the lighting project is an example of what the Charitable Trust fund could be used for.
- Mail Theft Update – Charles circulated the feedback received from NZ Post (much appreciated). We have received no response from the NZ Police to date.
- Charles will be overseas for the rest of September.
- NZTA Intersection Speed Zone Plan Unveiled with submissions closing Friday 3rd October. This includes Airport Road at the intersection with Raynes Road & introduces a temporary speed reduction to 60km/hr when traffic is approaching along Raynes Road.
 - **Action:** Contact David Ralfe and see if he would like to draft a submission for TCC to finalise, reflecting our previous discussions. Refer <https://nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/consultation-opens-today-proposed-speed-limit-changes>.

15. Date of the next meeting: 7.30pm on Tuesday, 7th October 2025.

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

The meeting closed at 9.41pm.