

ŌWHANGO-NATIONAL PARK COMMUNITY BOARD

Te Poari-ā-Hapori o Ōwhango-National Park

MINUTES

THE MEETING OF ŌWHANGO-NATIONAL PARK COMMUNITY BOARD
HELD AT OWHANGO HALL, 2157 STATE HIGHWAY 4, OWHANGO
ON TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2023, AT 6:33PM

PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

Present | Tuhinga

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| Deputy Chairperson | Simon O'Neill | |
| Board Members | Murray Wilson | |
| | Peter Zimmer | |
| Councillor | Janelle Hinch | |
| Mayor | Weston Kirton | 7:18PM Item 6 |

By Zoom

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| Chairperson | Anthony Gurr |
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In Attendance | I Tae Mai

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| Clive Manley | Chief Executive |
| Warrick Zander | Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services |
| Stuart Watson | Manager Three Waters |
| Tasha Paladin | Governance Manager |
| Adrian Leineweber | AV and IT Technician |

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| Bill O'Donnell | |
| Brian Goodwin | |
| Peter Brennan | Secretary of Owhango Alive |
| Toni Grass | Treasurer of ORRIS |
| Gennaro Waka | |
| George Taylor | Department of Conservation |
| Sharon Pehi | |
| Tamati Barlow | |
| Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase | |
| Carol O'Donnell | |
| Kim Petersen | |
| Owen Petersen | |
| Helen Roberts | |
| Steve Roberts | |

By Zoom

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| Vini Dutra | Executive Manager Infrastructure |
| Rina Hepi | Manager Community & Recreational Facilities |

Absent | Ngaro

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| Board Member | Eddie Marsters |
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1 Opening

Deputy Chairperson O'Neill presided over the meeting and welcomed the members of the public.

2 Apologies

The Chairperson invited notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Member Zimmer

That the Apologies from Member Marsters and Mayor Kirton (lateness) be accepted.

3 Declarations of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 Notification of Additional Items

There were no additional items not on the Agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Meeting

The order of the meeting was confirmed and the Chairperson advised George Taylor of Department of Conservation would be permitted to remain during the Public Excluded Business of the Community Board.

6 Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders

Note: Mayor Kirton joined the meeting at 7:18PM

The Community Board temporarily suspended Standing Orders to allow Members and the public to address the Board.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Zimmer

Seconded: Member Wilson

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

- 1 Receives the Report **Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders**; and*
- 2 Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, temporarily suspends the following Standing Orders to enable members of the Public to address Council, and members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner:*
 - (a) 21.2 Time limits on speakers | Te tepenga wā mā ngā kaikōrero*
 - (b) 21.5 Members may speak only once | Kotahi noa iho te wā e āhei ai te mema ki te korero; and*
 - (c) 21.6 Limits on number of speakers | Ngā tepenga mō te maha o ngā kaikōrero.*

The Ōwhango-National Park Community Board received addresses as follows:

6.1 Bill O'Donnell

Mr. O'Donnell addressed the Community Board regarding his concerns for the Ōwhango Water Supply due to the lack of clearing of the weir that causes issues when there is heavy rainfall. He also expressed his concern at the lack of maintenance of the Whakapapa Bridge and his fear it will be left to degrade and requested an update on the matter.

Council's Manager Three Waters responded to Mr. O'Donnell and advised that teams had been instructed to clear out the weir, and inspect and evaluate the Whakapapa Bridge. He advised Members that Council was looking to upgrade the Ōwhango plant within the next 12 months to bring supplies up to the new drinking water standards. It is a project that will likely require community consultation.

He acknowledged rural water supply was currently a grey area under the Water Services Reform programme and was a topic for the Local Transition Team Entity B meeting in Kawerau on 20 and 21 April 2023. Council's Manager Three Waters undertook to provide an update to Members following the meeting in Kawerau.

6.2 Brian Goodwin

Mr. Goodwin endorsed the previous speaker's points and expressed his concerns regarding the rumour of a bore being installed in Ōwhango, and the potential impact on the many septic tanks in the village.

Council's Manager Three Waters undertook to provide an update to Members following the Local Transition Team Entity B meeting in Kawerau.

6.3 Peter Brennan

Mr. Brennan, secretary of Owhango Alive, addressed Members on the topic of the Whakapapa River and his concerns over the degradation and impact on wildlife caused by the minimal flow on the river. Mr. Brennan advised that Genesis had restricted the water flow to the minimum rate of three cubic metres per second, which was acceptable as a minimum but not as a standard flow. Owhango Alive had observed the back channels were not receiving water, which was impacting insect life, river stock was approximately 25 per cent of its normal levels, and Whio chick numbers were reported to be down 50 per cent.

Members undertook to make a submission when consultation for the Genesis Resource Consent Renewal is opened.

6.4 Toni Grass

Ms. Grass, Treasurer of Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Incorporated Society (ORRIS) addressed the Board regarding the perceived imbalance of support to National Park based projects. Ms. Grass provided examples of local community funded projects that received little support from the Community Board.

Members undertook, through Member Zimmer, as the Community Board's appointed liaison to ORRIS, to develop a community plan and list of projects ready to prioritise and coordinate with the Annual Plan / Long Term Plan budgets.

6.5 Gennaro Waka

Mr. Waka expressed his surprise to witness roads in good condition being resealed in preference to unsealed roads.

6.6 George Taylor, Department of Conservation (DoC)

Mr. Taylor provided Members with an update on the Ohinetonga Loop Track and 42 Traverse (T42) slips, and other DoC matters of interest to the Ward area

T42: a substantial slip occurred in 2022 rendering the track not operational as a full end-to-end experience. The slip will require considerable investment to rectify and there is no standard operating budget for the track. Geotech advice provided in late February identified the slip as an active slow move slip, and presented three options:

- (a) Once the slip has stabilised, develop a track across the slip;
- (b) Once the slip has stabilised, and funding available, reinstate four-wheel drive access; or
- (c) Find an alternative route. This is the preferred option for DoC. An alternative as been scoped and next steps involve engagement with iwi and consultation the new route. This is anticipated to take place within the next month.

Ohinetonga Loop Track: Mr. Taylor received preliminary Geotech advice during an on-site visit and has requested the advice in writing to inform the next steps. He is of the opinion that the track could be reinstated quite quickly if the value of work required fell within the budget.

Tongariro Alpine Crossing Consultation (TAC): Following consultation on the capping of visitor numbers on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (TAC), DoC is exploring a number of interventions that it can apply in a staged effort to provide for a sustainable future. Many of the interventions are only suggestions at this stage, however, a booking system will be implemented. Much work is needed to assess data and identify the best level at which to cap the daily visitor numbers.

Brown Kiwi Release, Friday 21 April: In 2005 approximately 21 kiwi birds from the Tongariro Forest were gifted to the care of Ngāti Korokī Kahukura and the Kiwi Sanctuary. This Friday marks the return of up to 60 birds to the Tongariro Forest, in the exchange between Ngāti Korokī Kahukura and Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro. Conservation Minister Willow-Jean Prime will be in attendance for the release.

6.7 Sharon Pehi

Ms. Pehi took the opportunity to thank officers and Members for their support following an incident with Animal Control she experienced over Easter Weekend. Council's Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services advised he was working through the matter in confidence with Ms. Pehi and provided Members with a summary of the services Compliance provides.

Council employs two Compliance Officers, one in the North and one in the South of the region to operate during business hours. Their remit is to respond to Requests for Service (RFS) regarding nuisance, including noise, rubbish and animal control. In respect to animal control, the attending officer will assess the incident and decide on the best course of action to find a swift and efficient resolution; this may include impounding a dog, and subsequent infringements.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Member Zimmer

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

- 1 *Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, reinstates Standing Orders in their entirety for consideration of the Agenda.*

7 Confirmation of Minutes of Community Board Meeting**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Member Wilson

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

- 1 *Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board meeting held Tuesday, 14 February 2023 as attached, a true and correct record subject to the following amendment.*

Apologies: *Include note that Member Zimmer's lateness was due to travel delays caused by Cyclone Gabrielle*

8 Capital Works and Members Request for Information

Members were provided with an update on planned Capital Works in the Ōwhango-National Park Ward in the 2022/23 Financial Year. Relevant officers spoke to this report and answered Members' questions.

Key Items Discussed:

- 8.1 **R3 Millar Street Parking & Peak Winter Parking.** Members noted the T42 event was taking place in May and asked what mitigations were in place for traffic management. Council's Executive Manager Infrastructure advised a request for the event had not been sighted at the time of the meeting, however, it was an expectation that Total Sport, the event organiser, would have a traffic management plan (TMP) in place. He undertook to follow up with Total Sport. Members were advised the process for approving a TMP was dependent on the road classification; local authorities would oversee local roads, and Waka Kotahi (NZTA) would also be involved for State Highways.
- 8.2 **E1 National Park Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Members were advised that following the meeting with Horizons Regional Council's consenting team, improvement works that had previously been delayed were now going ahead. Council is required to meet resource consent standards set out by Horizons Regional Council.
- 8.3 **E3 Ōwhango Water Supply Resource Consent.** Members noted the water quality had improved and despite the recent weather events, there had not been a need for a water tanker or a boil water notice.
- 8.4 **D2 National Park Village Plan.** Members were advised a report had been planned to be tabled at the meeting, however, offices were waiting on additional information. It would be presented to the May meeting of the Community Board.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Zimmer

Seconded: Cr Hinch

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Capital Works and Members Request for Information.***

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| 9 Ōwhango-National Park Community Board Action List |
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Members worked through the Action List for the Financial Year 2022/23.

Members requested the Genesis Resource Consent Submission be added to the Action List and that the Community Board undertake to make a submission when consultation for the Genesis Resource Consent Renewal is opened

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Member Wilson

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

1 Receives the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board Action List.

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| 10 Chair, Deputy Chair, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Reports (Verbal) |
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Members each gave verbal updates on recent and upcoming events, and other matters of general and topical interest to the Community Board area.

Member O'Neill thanked Member Zimmer for his written reports to the Community Board (see minute attachment) and encouraged Members to follow suit.

Key topics raised were:

- Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Ōwhango. Officers advised the location was not on the list with charging companies at this stage. Due to the geographical location of Ōwhango being close to Taumarunui and National Park charging stations, it is strategically lower in the priority assessment of sites list for power capacity.
- Fallen tree Owhango Domain. Officers advised a Request for Service (RFS) had been received for a fallen tree in Owhango, however, it was not in the Domain. Officers were due to be on site with Recreational Services 19 April and would assess all trees in the township. Any safety issues should be advised to Council in the first instance.
- Rural Road Conditions. Council is working with Waka Kotahi (NZTA) to get on top of road repairs, however, constrained funding meant that prioritisation was required, and therefore some repairs would take a little longer than desired. It was noted that damaged repairs submitted in June 2022 had only just been approved for payment by Waka Kotahi.
- Pine Tree Harvest Pressure on Rural Roads. Council has limited powers to take action, however, Council's Executive Manager Infrastructure advised he was exploring ideas to address the issues.
- Dark Sky Strategy. The president of the Royal New Zealand Astronomical Society attended the Rocket Launch at the Ohakune Carrot Park, 1 April and engaged in an informal discussion as to how the Dark Sky Strategy might be advanced within the Ruapehu District.
- Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). Members were advised that the CMS within Erua Forest remains problematic to completing the Mountains to Sea cycle trail. The matter is with DoC.
- Member Gurr initiated community focused meetings with Uenuku and Chorus and sought to bring back further information to the May meeting of the Community Board.
- Ōwhango Skate Park. Members were advised the project had a long-term funding plan in place and the project ties in well with a proposed Ōwhango village plan.
- Affordable Water Reform Programme. The Government announced changes to water services reform programme, previously known as Three Waters 13 April. Little information had been provided to Council since the announcement regarding the debt that was originally due to be taken off Council's books from 1 July 2024, other than the transition date has been postponed to 2026. Potential interest on Council's Three Waters associated debt of \$16Million adds significant pressure to Council's budgets beyond 2024.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Hinch

Seconded: Member Wilson

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the **Verbal Reports.***

Minute Attachment(s)

- 1 *Member Zimmer Liaison Report*

11 Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Community Board Business

Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 gives the Community Board the right by resolution to exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on one or more of the grounds contained within that Section.

RESOLVED

Moved: Member Wilson

Seconded: Cr Hinch

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

- 1 *Receives the **Report Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Community Board Business;***
- 2 *Excludes the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting;*
- 3 *Notes the general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

| General subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter | Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution |
|---|---|---|
| C1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of the Community Board Meeting 14 February 2023 | For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board Meeting 14 February 2023. | |
| C2 Confidential Briefing by Members C3 Confidential Briefing by the Department of Conservation | s7(2)(c) To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest | s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7 |

- 4 *Approves that George Taylor, Department of Conservation, is permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded because of his knowledge of C3.*

The Public Business part of the meeting concluded at 8:21PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Community Board Meeting held this 30th day of May 2023.



Anthony Gurr
CHAIRPERSON