



**RANGITIKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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# ORDER PAPER

## TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 10 June 2026

**Time:** 5.30pm

**Venue:** Kokako Street Pavilion  
2 Kokako Street  
Taihape

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**Chair:** Mrs Gill Duncan

**Deputy Chair:** Mr Peter Kipling-Arthur

**Membership:** Ms De-Anna Green  
Ms Melanie Pera  
Cr Diana Baird  
Cr Jeff Wong

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<b>Locations:</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u>            Head Office            46 High Street            Marton         </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u>            Bulls Information Centre            Te Matapihi            4 Criterion Street            Bulls         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border: none; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u>            Taihape Information Centre            102 Hautapu Street (SH1)            Taihape         </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape	
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**Notice is hereby given that a Taihape Community Board Meeting of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the Kokako Street Pavilion, 2 Kokako Street, Taihape on Wednesday, 10 June 2026 at 5.30pm.**

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## AGENDA

### 1 Welcome / Prayer

### 2 Apologies

### 3 Public Forum

Paul Keenan, regarding his proposal to introduce a cleanfill solution that could be modelled in the Rangitikei's Northern Ward. Supporting information will be provided under separate cover.

Te Kahui Ako Group, promoting the story of Tamatea Pokai Whenua, headed by Memory Lyon and Te Whaiwhaia Richie. Supporting information will be provided under separate cover.

### 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

### 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt as a late item at this meeting.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor**

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 15 April 2026** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Taihape Community Board Meeting - 15 April 2026**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 15 April 2026 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

# MINUTES

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1



**RANGITIKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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## **UNCONFIRMED: TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2026**

**Time: 5.30pm**

**Venue: Kokako Street Pavilion  
2 Kokako Street  
Taihape**

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Present Cr Jeff Wong  
Ms De-Anna Green  
Ms Melanie Pera  
Ms Gill Duncan  
Mr Peter Kipling Arthur (Zoom)

In attendance Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager  
Ms Sheryl Srhoj, Manager – Community Property  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

**Order of Business**

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**ITEM 6.1  
ATTACHMENT 1**

Unconfirmed

## 1 Welcome / Karakia

Mrs Duncan opened the meeting at 5.30pm.

## 2 Apologies

Resolved minute number **26/TCB/010**

That the apologies be received from Jordan Winata - Haines Cr Baird and HWTM A Watson

Mrs G Duncan/Ms D Green. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There were no further changes to the order of business.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number **26/TCB/011**

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 11 February 2026 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Ms M Pera/Ms D Green. Carried

## 7 Follow up Actions

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings

#### Item 1 - AED New World

The Taihape Community Board will ask New World to purchase a new AED.

The Board will hold off further decisions and find out where all AED devices are and wait until the workshop. St John advice be that the AED could be moved from Taihape swim centre to Nga Awa due to the close proximity of the AED in town that is owned by Council.

Item 2 - Flag Tracks Thanks to Roding for this edition to Taihape.

Staff to confirm flags are available to be put up from council.

Item 3 – Marae Visits

Ms Pera gave an update on this item. The community board is supportive of the initiative and further information will to come to a Taihape Community Board workshop.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/012**

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings be received.

Ms M Pera/Ms D Green. Carried

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report - April 2026

The report was taken as read.

Mrs Duncan highlighted the Winata Marae during the storm event and the work that had been undertaken.

Mrs Duncan gave thanks for the AED work from Ms Srhoj and Mr Peter Kipling-Arthur.

Cr Wong updated the board that the Taihape Hospital work is not progressing at the rate that was expected, however, work continues.

Mrs Duncan highlighted the LGNZ online webinar conference she attended and the Taihape gumboot day.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/013**

That the Chair's Report – April 2026 be received.

Mrs G Duncan/Ms D Green. Carried

## 9 Reports for Information

### 9.1 Discussion of recent storm event from the Taihape perspective

Most shops were closed and the main street was blocked by trucks. The communication when the phones went down was a concern. Thankful that the council library and offices were open and the marae was providing food and shelter for whanau and then extended that to stranded public.

Ms Green highlighted the role of Mokai Patea services during the event.

The board noted that the intercity buses travelled and then were stuck in Taihape which was disappointing, however, noted the role of Winata Marae opening was positive.

The board requested that all Civil Defence Taihape equipment should be based in Taihape not in Marton. At the most recent event this was brought to Taihape, including the Civil Defence trailer. Housing the trailer is the most pressing issue.

The Taihape Community Board will have a workshop to discuss this before the next meeting with Mr Chaffe.

#### **Resolved minute number 26/TCB/014**

That the report Discussion of recent storm event from the Taihape perspective be received.

Mrs G Duncan/Cr J Wong. Carried

### 9.2 Verbal Update - Northern Area and Property Manager

#### Roading

Weather permitting for Taihape all road resealing and chip outside Kokako Pavillion will be removed. The board asked if there had been any loose seal on the roads.

#### Taihape – Better Off Funding

Mr Calkin is seeking feedback from the Taihape Community Board and will be in contact with members.

#### Property

Taihape Town Hall - presently in the middle of the developed design stage, which is expected to be completed by mid-May 2026.

Taihape Grandstand - presently finalising agreement between Council and the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee. A meeting to be held to commence work on preparing a Project Plan for the Committee.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/015**

That the Verbal Update - Northern Area and Property Manager be received.

Ms M Pera/Cr J Wong. Carried

**9.3 Letter - Ngā Awa Block**

Ms Prince commented on this item that there isn't a bylaw that signs can be put up but they cannot be enforced.

The board discussed the potential for signage or a bylaw.

Ms Green had circulated a letter to members before the meeting and read it to members.

Ms Prince highlighted that she will be attending a webinar on Freedom Camping and can provide feedback on these implications.

Ms Prince initially was considering the park situation but cost was why this wasn't developed.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/016**

That the Letter – Ngā Awa Block be received.

Ms D Green/Mrs G Duncan. Carried

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/017**

That Council staff investigate and report back on the following:

1. There are approximately 30 parking spaces located at Ngā Awa Block. Could 20 of these parks (preferably the parks nearest to the facilities) be reserved for sportsground users
2. Is it possible to restrict parking hours for campers i.e. no parking between certain times.
3. Develop the grass area between the bowling club and Ngā Awa Block (former Croquet Green) for Freedom campers only parking, leaving Ngā Awa Block parking strictly for sportsground users
4. Develop the gravel area for freedom camping
5. Move freedom camping completely away from Ngā Awa Block to Gumboot Alley
6. Investigate other rural communities to consider viable options that support local users while accommodating freedom campers

Ms D Green/Mrs G Duncan. Carried

**9.4 Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust**

Moved back to this after the Mayor's Report.

Staff to confirm if there is an expectation that a report is presented to the Board.

#### 9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - April 2026

AED is a potential payment from here –

Mrs Duncan spoke to the board that Rotary has asked the Board to be responsible for gumboots at Gumboot Lane.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/017**

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – April 2026 be received.

Ms D Green/Cr J Wong. Carried

#### 9.6 Mayor's Report - March 2026

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/018**

That the Mayor's Report – March 2026 be received.

Ms D Green/Cr J Wong. Carried

#### 9.7 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/019**

That the Funding Schemes Update – April 2026 be received.

Mrs G Duncan/Ms M Pera. Carried

## 10 Discussion Items

### 10.1 Annual Plan Taihape Community Board Submission

Mrs Duncan noted that she was at the Annual Plan consultation meeting and to include the potential costs of Central Districts Water costs and that these are shared with the Taihape Community Board with information on how the separate water rate for all households will look.

The board will have a conversation at the workshop about communication as a group.

**Resolved minute number 26/TCB/020**

That the Taihape Community Board request that Council receives the Annual Plan submission and that the officer analysis and decision by Council be reported back through the Taihape Community Board.

Ms M Pera/Ms D Green. Carried

**10.2 AKONA and LGNZ**

Ms Spence provided a presentation on AKONA and LGNZ website resources to board members.

**The meeting closed at 6.56pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taihape Community Board held on 10 June 2026.**

.....  
Chairperson

Unconfirmed

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Taihape Community Board meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for follow up, and a brief status comment.

#### 2. Decision Making Process

- 2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

#### Attachments:

1. **Follow up Actions Register** [↓](#)

#### Recommendation

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings' be received.

**Current Follow-up Actions**

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	30-Oct-23	That the phonebox outside of Greenstone Insurance be removed to allow for better pedestrian visibility.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff have passed on the request to Waka Kotahi. The assigned number is SR37577945	In progress.
2	12-Oct-23	That Council engage with Waka Kotahi over the Gretna corner Give Way as the give way sign has been removed and the markings are not clear and consider repainting the road markings clearly.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff have passed on the request to Waka Kotahi. The assigned number is SR37514935	In progress.
3	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of disability parks in Taihape town and having better signage.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff will add the repainting of the disability markings to the works programme of the road marking contractor.	Completed.
4	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of low garden edging along the corners on Hautapu Street. There are issues with heavy rains and the bark and much flowing into gutters and drains	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff will pass on the requests to Waka Kotahi for consideration.	In progress.
5	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of motorhomes to park on Huia, Tui and Kuku Streets. Plus, open up extra parking at the Outback by marking parking for motorhomes.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Additional motorhome parking along the Outback is not feasible due to land-use restrictions. Kuku street is currently available for motorhome parking. No other opportunities exist on Huia or Tui Street due to space and availability.	Completed.
6	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of the issue with overnight truck parking on Kakako street. Requesting signage directing trucks to the new area.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Parking behaviour is subject to enforcement activities not available to Council staff.	In progress.
7	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of marae signage.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff will pass on the requests to Waka Kotahi for consideration. (This relates to Winiata Marae)	
8	12-Oct-23	That Council engage with Waka Kotahi on traffic speed specifically for areas, Mataroa Rd extended to Bellis Park and the 70k from Jones Road to Bellis Park to 50km.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff will pass on the requests to Waka Kotahi for consideration.	In progress.
9	12-Oct-23	That Council engage with Waka Kotahi about the safety concerns for pedestrian crossings on Hautapu street- such as repainting the crossings, markings before and after the lanes to provide colour blocks, and keeping the vegetation trimmed to below 1.2m. The board would like Belisha beacons to all work.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff will pass on the requests to Waka Kotahi for consideration.	In progress.

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report - June 2026

**Author: Gill Duncan, Chair**

This report must begin with our TCB submission to the Rangitikei District Council 2026 Annual Plan. I believe that it is our privilege to use this annual opportunity, Annual or Long Term Plans, to formally feedback to Council on behalf of our Community. As a branch of Council we have greater insights into behind the scenes process and staff workloads, that give us a chance to highlight main issues for our Councilors edification, say thank you and point out our value as ears and eyes on the ground, steeped in the essential "local" that LGNZ can only dream of. On this note, I received a phone call from Parks and Reserves lead, Murray Phillips, to thank us for our submission.

This AP was especially good to support our Playground Group who have been toiling away over the past 6yrs, and I would like to thank all the various groups who submitted to further their position. As a result of these submissions, a provisional amount of funds has been committed to the 2027-37 LTP budget for replacement toilet facilities.

And now it's Winter! This is a harsh season in Taihape but the old saying goes: "cold hands; warm hearts" that is true of this great place. Hot soup, warm fires and winter sports keep the blood pumping.

The recent walkabout with our RDC Economic Officer, Jarrod Calkin, brought up new ideas for our town through identifying better sites for public seating, discussion around remaining funds being put towards flags to "theme" our town, not just at Christmas, and discussion that the TCB need to have around bringing the Heritage Archilles rose garden back to life. Thank you to Peter who enthusiastically took on this project. With his connections to the Taihape Museum, we are hoping to bring the Archilles story back to life.

Local Government reform proposals continue to rattle the cage. Understanding their impacts for Ratepayers and residents is a core activity for this committee. I have confidence in our ability to have meaningful input for these northern Rangitikei reaches, taking hold of the positives and mitigating any holes in LG functions.

Thank you,  
Gill

### **Recommendation**

That the Chair's Report – June 2026 be received.

## **9 Reports for Information**

### **9.1 Verbal Update - Northern Area and Property Manager**

**Author: Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager**

#### **1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 Ms Prince will provide an update to the committee on council and requested items from the Taihape Community Board.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Verbal Update - Northern Area and Property Manager be received.

## 9.2 Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government

**Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy**

### 1. Reason for the report

- 1.1 To update the Taihape Community Board on the Government's latest direction for simplifying local government, and to ask Board members to help encourage their communities to take part in Rangitikei District Council's June engagement.

### 2. Context

- 2.1 The Government's [November 2025 proposal to replace regional councillors with Combined Territories Boards](#) made up of mayors has changed.
- 2.2 Following consultation, the Government has moved to a staged approach:
  - a voluntary Head Start pathway for councils ready to reorganise/amalgamate quickly; and
  - a later backstop process for areas that do not progress through Head Start.
- 2.3 The Head Start pathway is focused on structural reform. In simple terms, this means councils can propose creating new unitary authorities. A unitary authority brings together the functions of a regional council, such as Horizons Regional Council, and a territorial authority, such as Rangitikei District Council, into one organisation.
- 2.4 Proposals can cover all or part of a region, and may include neighbouring councils from different regions where that makes sense. The Government has said Head Start proposals must be submitted by 11.59pm on Sunday 9 August 2026.
- 2.5 You can read more about the May 2026 Government announcement, the Head Start pathway, and Mayor Andy's reaction below:
  - [Mayor Andy Watson Rangitikei must have a say on simplifying local government](#)
  - [Letter from Minister of Local Government, Hon Simon Watts](#)
  - [Information from DIA](#)

### 3. What could this mean for Rangitikei

- 3.1 The way local government is structured affects how decisions are made, how services are delivered, and how local communities are represented.
- 3.2 In his recent opinion piece, Mayor Andy Watson said the Government's direction is clear, and while the timeframe is very tight, Councillors have a responsibility to ensure Rangitikei voice is heard. Mayor Watson also noted that larger councils do not automatically mean lower rates, and that any proposed cost savings need to be understood alongside possible trade-offs.

### 4. June Community Engagement

- 4.1 Before Council decides what path to take, the Mayor and Councillors want to hear from the community.

- 4.2 From June, Council will be holding public meetings across the district and opening an online survey. This engagement will ask people what matters most to them, such as;
- keeping local decision-making close to rural communities,
  - protecting the local identity of Rangitikei,
  - improving council processes,
  - understanding possible costs and savings,
  - protecting local services,
  - strengthening the regional influence of Rangitikei.
- 4.3 The purpose of this engagement is to make sure people understand what is happening, why it matters, and how they can share what is important to them.
- 4.4 Public meeting dates <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/local-government-reforms/simplifying-local-government>
- 4.5 Requests for additional public meetings can be made to [info@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:info@rangitikei.govt.nz).

## 5. Role of this committee

- 5.1 The Taihape Community Board is a trusted local voice and an important link between Council and communities. Council is asking Board members to help spread the word and encourage people in their communities to have their say during the June engagement period.
- 5.2 This could include:
- sharing the material provided at this meeting
  - encouraging people to attend a public meeting
  - directing people to the online survey
  - helping people understand that this is about the future shape of local government and local voice.
- 5.3 This approach supports Rangitikei District Council's communications and engagement strategy, which recognises Community Boards, Committees and community groups as key partners who can help amplify Council initiatives and support meaningful two-way engagement with residents.

## 6. Supporting information

- 6.1 The Taihape Community Board will be provided with additional communications material at the meeting to distribute through their communities. Should you require additional material to support your local conversations, please contact [comms@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:comms@rangitikei.govt.nz)

## Recommendation

That the report Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government be received.

### 9.3 Taihape Community Board - Officer Analysis of Submissions

**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor**

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To provide the Taihape Community Board with the Officer Analysis regarding the Taihape Community Board submission received for the Annual Plan 2026/27 as requested by the Chair.

#### 2. Context

- 2.1 The Taihape Community Board can refer to the Council Meeting on the 21 May 2026 for all submissions received and for officer analysis of all submissions received.
- 2.2 Submissions are categorised with other submissions that are the same topic, so submission points from the Taihape Community Board will be found throughout the report.
- 2.3 Submitters will be sent a response once Council has adopted the Annual Plan in June, noting that Council requested some changes to the officer analysis of submissions before it is released back to submitters.

[Meetings - Council Meeting - Page 1: Rangitikei District Council](#)

#### Recommendation

That the report Taihape Community Board - Officer Analysis of Submissions be received.

## 9.4 Taihape Community Board Workshop

**Author: Gill Duncan, Chair**

### Taihape Community Board Workshop – Wednesday 13th May 2026 @5:30pm

Present: Peter Kipling-Arthur (Deputy Chair), DeAnna Green, and Melanie Pera

Apologies: Gill Duncan (Chair)

#### **Public Forum** - Presentation by Sandy Spiers (Meditrain on AED)

Document tabled detailing the some of the sample AED units that MediTrain have for sale. Council had been in touch re: the specifications for the unit housing the AED at New World.

The two preferred models have battery life of between 5 – 7 years. To replace batteries (5-7 years) would cost \$240, replacement pads (3year shelf life) \$150. The bonus for working with Meditrain (Essential First Aid) is they would provide courtesy call reminders for purchase of replacement parts.

There are multiple locations throughout Taihape, however Nga Awa would make sense as another site due to the regular use of the building and facilities.

If an AED is purchased for Nga Awa, then Sandy would provide training on using the system.

Discussion about who is responsible for the unit at New World.

**Action** - Peter to follow up with Chanelle Theobald re: the AED at New World, and the purchase history and responsibility for the system

**Action** - DeAnna to follow up with various New World staff to find AED purchase history and responsibility for the system

#### **Marae visits**

Would be easier to table a trip for earlier in the year preferably January, if the visits are about location and connection. Through Mokai Patea Services mahi there is a growing interest from Kaumatua to visit and learn about the local marae.

Discuss the potential of visiting two marae per year during this triennium, for the board to visit and learn some of the history, additionally build a relationship with the marae komiti.

**Recommendation** that a letter to the council, for the next triennium to include the new Taihape Community Board on the northern marae tour.

**Action** – Mel to approach Opaea marae Komiti to organise weekend visit for Taihape Community Board members, follow up/ discussion at the next meeting

#### **Taihape Wellness Project**

PAUSED, due to the absence of Cr Wong. Peter was able to have a off record conversation with Suze Redmayne recently.

#### **Gumboot Day Feedback**

The day was successful, as mentioned prior, the presence of a train full of people helped to boost that. Vendors were not full prepared for the train load of people. If the train is booked for Spring Fling too, this may mean Spring Fling is held in the Outback too.

**Gumboots for Gumboot Alley**

TCDT have advised that they have a supply of gumboots, they just need to be monitored as to when to replace them.

**Reschedule RDC Civil Defence Lead to attend July workshop**

Paul Chaffe to be invited to the July workshop. CD Trailer has been returned to Marton. Starlink would be beneficial if relocated to the care of the Taihape Civil Defense response group. Query about the process in case of another weather event or similar. Feedback is that in case of a major event, email advice and preparation, with watching brief in case action is needed.

DeAnna sits on the group as an MPS, she is happy to feedback to the group that TCB is able to provide additional support if needed.

**Further discussion re: Nga Awa block**

Boards preference is the usage of signage, perhaps defining a preferred time for those parking overnight, or the allocation of parks for purposefully for sport/recreation usage. Additionally, signage promoting Gumtree Motor camp with appropriate map/qr code link/ most direct route for campers.

**Small funds update.**

Street furniture, by Jarrod Calkin, walk around Taihape Friday 15<sup>th</sup> @11am with Gill

Potential idea with Kahui Ako based on their recently published book to become screens prominently displayed somewhere in Taihape, Triangle perhaps?

**Action:** Mel to talk with two members to suggest attending next meetings in June.

**Cemetery Toilets**

Query about who is responsible in case of injury at existing toilet, confirmed as Council. Composting toilets could be a more cost-effective solution, also some sort of water solution for the top entrance to the cemetery, rather than a collection of water bottles.

Peter to follow up with Chris Bennett, perhaps have him present to the board at the July workshop.

Workshop closed 6:45pm

**Recommendation**

That the item Taihape Community Board Workshop be received.

## 9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - June 2026

**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor**

### 1. Allocation

- 1.1 The allocation of the 2025/26 Small Projects Fund for the Taihape Community Board is \$7,146 this includes the carry-over funds of \$930.

### 2. Breakdown

- 2.1 Payment for cat traps - \$132.06
- 2.2 Payment CCTV cameras - \$1,000
- 2.3 Payment picnic tables - \$750
- 2.4 Payment for paint for the CLM - \$585.15
- 2.5 Earmarked funds \$414 Taihape Neighbourhood Support Incorporated from tagged funds.
  - 2.5.1 Remaining funds available are \$4,678.79.

### Attachments:

1. **Small Projects Fund - Taihape Community Board** [↓](#)

### Recommendation 1

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – June 2026 be received.

### Recommendation 2

That the Taihape Community Board [does/does not] recommend to Council to carry forward remaining funds \$\_\_\_\_\_ and earmarked funds of \$\_\_\_\_\_

ITEM 9.5 ATTACHMENT 1

	Income	Expenditure	Amount Paid	Tagged future expenses	Amount
2025/25 Earmarked payments				Northern and Southern Taihape Events Board signage for volunteer groups. Taihape Museum or other interested parties with funding for local historic story boards Rural Workshops	\$2,400 \$414 tagged for Taihape neighbourhood support  2,400 190
Financial Year 2025/26		\$6,216			
Carry forward 2024/25		\$930			<i>Note CPI to still be added</i>
	13-Aug-25	Four cat traps	132.06		
	13-Aug-25	CCTV cameras	\$1,000		
	8-Oct-25	Picnic tables	\$750		
	19-Nov-25	CLM Paint	\$585.15		
Total Funds available 2024/25		\$4,678.85			<i>Note unknown the amount for shortfall</i>

## 9.6 Mayor's Report - June 2026

**Author:** Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

1. Having just returned from a family holiday, this report will be a little disjointed with the noting of things over the last few weeks that may have already had coverage by Comms or Council. My appreciation to Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson for very ably standing in for me is foremost in my mind. While I was away our district faced the possibility of a weather declaration, the new Central Districts Water Board was put in place and major decisions were made by Council on the Marton Pool and Marton Water project. These were big decisions and I was able to Zoom in to the Council meeting on the day and support them. We now have a future with the Marton Pool and while the water strategy project is frustrating in the delay, the money spent on the new bores is not wasted and what we are wanting is the best option for treatment processes. I and Council are committed to keeping you updated on progress over the next few months. The run-up to Council on these decisions takes time and skill answering questions raised and checking that the right information is available to Councillors. It was a pity that the Harvest Festival had to be cancelled but it was the right call. Dave handled all of this incredibly well – thanks.
2. Central Districts Water is now live and will take effect 2027. I have included some photos from the establishment of the new Board and it was a pity that I was away for the powhiri to welcome the new Board. The next milestone will be the setting of what is known as the Statement of Expectations set by the Shareholder Committee representing the three Councils and Iwi aspirations and direction to the entity. The performance of the entity will be held to account through both this process and the Commerce Commission.



## ITEM 9.6



3. Like so many others in our district I took part in ANZAC Day services. It is a time for us to reflect on the sacrifices made by young men and women who left our shores, so many of them not to return. My thanks to all of those who took part. The Rangitīkei has a proud military history. With Waiouru to the north of us, and Base Ōhakea and Linton Military Camp to our south, many defence force staff call our district home. We're incredibly grateful for their service to our country, and the contribution that they make to Rangitīkei. As part of the day I attended the Ohingaiti service at 10am. The young students from Hunterville School and locals read excerpts from letters sent home from the front which I found particularly moving. We will remember them.
4. Local Government New Zealand have initiated regular Zoom Meetings for members with the Minister of Local Government Simon Watts. The 17 March session was Chaired by LGNZ President Rehette Stoltz and the salient points were -
  - 200 members of LGNZ were on the call including our CE Carol and Councillor Diana Baird.
  - Minister Watts thanked the sector for their work and made the point that Senior Ministers were aware of the scale of reforms that the sector faced.
  - The Minister gave assurance that New Zealand is in a good space around fuel security.
  - He then wanted to highlight several of the reforms before engaging in a Q&A session.
    - i) Simplifying Local Government legislation
      - Consultation/Submission process now closed and under review
      - Regarding timeframes proposed at 2 years – the Minister said that several councils want Government to move with pace, so timelines are currently being reviewed.
      - There was the comment that “one size doesn’t fit all” and there will be regional differences.

- Government wants to move at pace was repeated.
- ii) Rates Capping
  - Government is looking at a range-based model
  - Feedback to Government is supportive of the direction for the rates cap
  - The Minister said that final design is not there yet, but legislation should be in place before the election
- iii) Ratepayer Assistance
  - A Steering Group has been set up to look at this.
- iv) Dog Control Legislation
  - Current status is not acceptable
  - Notes the three fatalities in Northland resulting from dog attacks
  - Multi-ministers involved in this review and there will be more on this later
  - The Government is keen to work with the LGNZ sector here
- v) RMA Reform
  - Ministers Bishop and Watts are working closely on this
  - Fewer consents will be required perhaps halving the need
  - Reform process is on track
  - The reforms will help councils to meet rates cap

- Q&A Session –

- Timelines for Regional Councils? *No further comment and it had been referenced earlier.*
- Boundary issues for authorities aligned to reform? *Minister Bishop has responsibility in this space.*
- The issue of compensation to property owners over land reclassification – has this been factored into rates pegging? *No clear answer.*
- The question of the costs of audit amidst the backdrop of rates pegging? *Being looked at by Government was the response.*

5. On 21 March I attended the final tribute to 50 years of operation of the Marton OpShop - a High Tea at Rangitikei College. Over the preceding week there was a series of events celebrating this. Rangitikei is built on voluntary organisations, often started by church groups, service groups and our communities and the OpShop is a classic example of this. It has been a remarkable progression over the 50 years lead initially by Ted Calkin, Betty Corballis and Clifford Brown and carried on through Marton Christian Welfare and the current team headed by Mike O'Regan. Our community has benefitted by over \$50m worth of community support, made possible by the huge number of volunteers at the OpShop and by the gifting of the community who supply it. Recently the OpShop was named in 2<sup>nd</sup> place nationally as the Best OpShop in the country – congratulations, this is well deserved. I have included a photo of the cutting of the cake.

## ITEM 9.6



6. Taihape Health Update – this has been and still is a roller coaster ride. The collaboration between Otaihape Health Trust and Mokai Patea Services to take over, by way of a longterm “peppercorn” lease, the old hospital at Taihape currently run under Te Whatu Ora initially seemed to be straightforward and a fantastic solution for Taihape and the Rangitikei. Progress has been slow but a Zoom meeting with Minister Simeon Brown in June seemed to provide ministerial direction that it should proceed quickly. Effectively he instructed officials to proceed, the key element being the sale of the buildings for \$1, roof replacement and the ground lease at the peppercorn rental. Since that time, health officials have reneged on that direction especially by asking for a huge unrealistic rental cost. I wrote to the Minister in April and have written again this week asking for an urgent meeting. I know that our MP Suze Redmayne is actively supporting us. If this is not dealt with quickly, we as a community need to take action and politicise it as loudly as possible. Jude MacDonald and Piki Te Ora Hira and all involved need our support.
7. The 2026 Ford Ranger NZ Rural Games took place in Palmerston North on 15 March. Once again a hugely successful event with many of the competitors coming from the Rangitikei. Normally I would attend the welcoming powhiri which this year unfortunately clashed with another event, however I did support the Awards Night on 13 March where Marton’s own fencer Tim Stafford was a finalist in the NZ Rural Sportsman of the Year. Tim’s year was defined by a stunning treble of major titles – the Silver Spades, the East Coast Fencing Rivalry in the USA demonstrating NZ standards on the world stage and the Golden Pliers, NZ’s premier solo fencing competition. Tim is more than a champion fencer – he is a leader and stands for skill, integrity and passion in NZ’s rural sports community. Winning the Golden Pliers twice in one decade defines a career – congratulations on your achievements Tim!

8. Last weekend I attended the 2026 Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge event in Turakina. This annual event has been running since 2015 and the number of people there, I believe, was a record this year. The combination of wet weather the week preceding to make the driving obstacles difficult and two days of dry weather just prior provided a very successful mix. I can't tell you who won the event but I can say that as a parking attendant the crowds absolutely loved it and I understand that a large number of people travelled from around the country to watch, many of whom took up local accommodation options – a huge plus for our district.
  
9. The winners of the 2026 Community Volunteer Awards have now been notified and published on our website and social media pages. Thank you to everyone who took the time to put in nominations recognising the extraordinary work so many volunteers do within our district. Myself and Elected Members are visiting each of the 5 winners to present their awards at separate personalised ceremonies starting on 1 May. Pictures and more information will be available on our website following those events.
  
10. On a final celebratory note, just before I went away I attended the Ballance Farm Environmental Awards where Jarred and Bronwyn Clode and the Te Hou Farms team were named the 2026 Supreme Winners, an achievement that they should be justifiably proud of. Te Hou farms is two-thirds owned by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Developments Ltd in partnership with Ātīhau Whanganui Incorporation. I have included a link for further details - [Jarred & Bronwyn Clode | New Zealand Farm Environment Trust](#)



## Deputy Mayor’s Engagements

During the Mayor’s annual leave absence, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson attended the following engagements

- 27 March – Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting with all three Councils. I attended on Zoom and Cr Fi Dalgety attended in person. These are important meetings as we continue to form our relationships with CDW and our three Councils.
- 4 April - Bulls Rugby Club 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee
- Met with Chief Executive regularly including making the unfortunate decision to cancel the 2026 Harvest Festival due to predicted Cyclone Vaianu.
- Zoom meetings with CDEM Regional Mayors and CE’s regarding potential impact of Cyclone Vaianu. This was useful in understanding Council processes and while I have confidence in them, confidence can lead to complacency and we should never be complacent when events like this arise. I am confident we have a robust system in place. I thank the Chief Executive for keeping Elected Members well informed during the weather event.
- 11 April - Gumboot Day in Taihape – thanks to the organising groups for a very well run event myself and my wife enjoyed a great day out. P.S. Thanks for the pickled onions!
- 13 April – tangi of Thomas Curtis, former longstanding member of the Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti and well respected for his work on iwi matters in our district.
- 14 April – Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting.
- 14 April – Rangitikei Rural Support Group meeting – discussed opportunities to work together with their significant networks in Civil Defence. This is a very well respected group with good network connections.
- 15 April – Coroner’s Court Hastings – inquiry into the Cyclone Gabrielle deaths, in particular Mr George Luke who died on the Taihape-Napier Road. I attended mainly out of respect to the family and in support of our Chief Executive and Roding Manager who was called upon to give evidence.

## Mayor’s Engagements

### March 2026

13	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Quarterly Regional Relationship meeting with NZTA Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting Attended NZ Rural Games Awards Evening
14	Attended NZ Ford Ranger Rural Games Attended Child Cancer Red Bucket Appeal Mayoral Challenge Attended Marton OpShop 50 <sup>th</sup> Celebrations Attended Bulls RSA AGM Attended Alistair Stewart’s Gold Star Celebration with Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade
17	Attended meeting with Chief Executive

	<p>Attended LGNZ zoom with Minister of Local Government</p> <p>Attended Citizenship Ceremony</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
18	<p>Attended monthly comms meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended Bulls Town Centre Projects walkabout</p>
19	<p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Balance Farm Environmental Awards</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended National MPS Accelerate35 Meeting</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Field Days Event</p>
21	<p>Attended Annual Plan Public Meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Marton OpShop 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations – Function for Past/Present Volunteers</p>
23	<p>Attended Ngā Wai Tōtā Hui in Ohakune</p> <p>Attended Youth Council Meeting</p>
24	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly online meeting</p> <p>Attended Taihape Town Centre Projects walkabout and Annual Plan Public Meeting</p> <p>Attended RCA Forum Special General Meeting online</p> <p>Attended Taihape Wellness Development Hui</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
25	<p>Attended Community Volunteer Awards Meeting</p> <p>Attended meeting with MSD Regional Commissioner</p> <p>Attended Federated Farmers meeting with Mayors</p>

**April 2026**

22	<p>Attended Mokai Patea Services Kaumatua Ora Wananga</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Zoom on Fuel Crisis</p> <p>Attended Taihape Grandstand Community Meeting</p>
23	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Marton Town Centre Projects walkabout</p> <p>Attended Local Government sector meeting with Ministers re fuel response</p>
24	<p>Attended Rural Communities Chapter Hui online</p>
28	<p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Dawn Parade</p> <p>Attended Ohingaiti ANZAC Day Function</p> <p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Ceremony at Cenotaph Marton Park</p>
26	<p>Attended Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge in Turakina</p>

## ITEM 9.6

28	Attended Mayors Briefing before Council with staff Attended meeting with Minister Peters at Parliament Attended logging meeting with Daran Ponter Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
29	Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting
30	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Meeting Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Workshop Attended Finance/Performance Committee Workshop Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Workshop Attended Campaign Launch of surgical robot at Palmerston North Hospital

**May 2026**

1	Attended presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Katie Deere
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended presentation of Mayor's Recognition Award to Jo Rangooni Attended meeting with TUIA Rangatahi
5	Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Hui Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council Meeting – Annual Plan Hearing
7	Attended Council Meeting and Council Workshop Attended meeting with FRV Chief Executive re Solar Farms Attended Manawatu-Rangitikei Federated Farmers AGM

**Attachments:**

1. **LGNZ four-monthly report December-March (under separate cover)**
2. **Zone 3 - March 2026 - Elected Member Report - Cr Fi Dalgety (under separate cover)**
3. **Zone 3 - March 2026 Elected Members Report - Crs Baird & Sharland (under separate cover)**

**Recommendation**

That That the Mayor's Report – May 2026 be received.

## 10 Discussion Items

### 10.1 Member moving out of Taihape Ward

**Author: Gill Duncan, Chair**

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Mr Peter Kipling – Arthur is moving out of the Taihape area and included by request of the Chair to discuss.

#### **Recommendation**

If needed:

**10.2 Taihape Seating**

**Author:** Gill Duncan, Chair

**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To discuss walkabout with staff, Gill and Peter to place seating, town map placement and other opportunities in Taihape.
- 1.2 Facelift for HMS Archilles memorial and rose garden beside PGG Wrightson's store- Peter to speak with RSA

**Recommendation**

If needed:

**11 Open Meeting**