

MINUTES

TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2026

Time: 5.40pm

Venue: Kokako Street Pavilion
2 Kokako Street
Taihape

Present Mr Peter Kipling-Arthur
HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Jeff Wong
Ms De-Anna Green
Ms Melanie Pera
Mrs Gill Duncan
Cr Diana Baird

In attendance Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager
Ms Sheryl Srhoj, Administration

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1 Welcome / Prayer

Ms Pera opened the meeting at 5.40pm with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

No apologies received.

3 Public Forum

- Paul Keenan outlined his proposal to introduce a cleanfill solution that could be modelled in the Rangitikei Northern Ward. He proposed to source, certify and run cleanfill sites at multiple locations around the network that would comply with all requirements. The benefits of such sites would be that the cleanfill material would only need to be transported the minimal distance, therefore minimising the carbon footprint and in turn would provide a cost saving to the ratepayer.
- Memory Lyon and Te Whaiwhaia Ritchie, Co-Leaders of Te Kāhui Ako o Mōkai Patea were seeking feedback from the Board regarding their proposal for a series of cultural art panels to be installed within the central CBD. The panels' art work would be designed from the illustrations of the children's story book Te Haerenga o Tamatea Whenua – The journey of Tamatea Pokai Whenua. This book which is written by local kaumatua Rihari Steedman and Te Kāhui Ako o Mōkai Patea is well loved and familiar with our young people.
- Michael Andrews, along with Lulu Simi and Paul McKay, spoke on behalf of the Taihape Response Group. They advised that the group was currently working on a welfare plan which would be put in place in the event of a future civil defence event. They acknowledged that there had been a number of learnings from the recent weather event.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Mr Kipling-Arthur declared a conflict of interest regarding the tabled item from the Taihape Museum and Historical Society.

Ms Pera declared a conflict of interest in regard to the presentation from Memory Lyon and Te Whaiwhaia Ritchie.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

The Chair agreed to take the tabled item from the Taihape Museum and Historical Society under Item 9.5 - Small Projects Fund Update – June 2026.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

The Chair asked that the 15 April 2026 minutes be amended to record that Ms Green had opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/021

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 15 April 2026 as amended 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.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms D Green. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings

Undertaking:

The Board requested that an updated report be provided.

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - June 2026

The Chair took her report as read.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/022

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

Mrs G Duncan/Mr P Kipling-Arthur. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager

The Northern Area and Property Manager provided a verbal update to the meeting. The following activities were noted.

Shop Local Campaign

Bag design and colour options for the Taihape Town shopping bags were tabled with members choosing the icon gumboot design on a yellow bag. The bags would be distributed later in the year as part of the annual "Shop Local Campaign".

Taihape Youth Update

Pink Friday – Anti Bullying

The Lobby – alongside Taihape Health and Heartlands – supported Pink Friday Anti Bullying with rangatahi helping decorate mini cupcakes and by providing a free BBQ and cupcakes to our community.

Youth Week

The Lobby hosted a school event with 22 rangatahi participating in fun activities. Four local Kura were supported with resources to provide fun events throughout the week. This initiative was also supported by Sport Whanganui and Heartland Services.

Butchery programme with Taihape Area School Agricultural Class – Processing a Pig, a Deer and a Mutton

The Lobby worked alongside Taihape Area School and facilitated with Tussock Meats in Waiouru, who came down and helped the rangatahi through the process of breaking down the carcass into different meats and rolling roasts with the mutton. The rangatahi will process the meats through their hospitality class. This is going to be sustained through the school moving forward.

Learner Licensing

The Lobby worked collaboratively with Mayors Task Force for Jobs to support our rangatahi coming through the Lobby with Licensing. It has been confirmed that Taihape Area School students will receive Literacy credits when completing their learner license.

Disc Golf

There has been positive feedback received from the local community along with travellers who have been providing feedback through their local Disc Golf pages.

Three local schools have been utilizing the course with others within the wider district, intending to utilize the course in the future. An interschool competition to be planned for the end of year with support from Sport Whanganui and Disc Golf NZ.

Emergency Management

Three members of Taihape Community Response Group have formed a working group to create an Action Plan that supports the Taihape Community Response Plan. Paul Chaffe had a meeting with the full Taihape Response Group last week and in July, will provide them a 2-hour session on CDEM basics including CIMS (Co-ordinated Incident Management System), which is NZ's official framework for managing emergencies and incidents of all scales and ensures different responding agencies (such as emergency services, councils, and private organisations) can communicate and work together seamlessly during a disaster or crisis.

Taihape Grandstand Restoration Programme

The committee is currently considering Offers of Service.

Hautapu River Park Bridges

The Hautapu River Park Collective intends to have bridges one and five useable by mid-September.

Taihape Town Hall Banner

Ms Duncan advised that she had received an email from the Taihape Community Development Trust requesting that the Taihape Town hall banner lines that run across the main street be reinstated as part of the town hall upgrade.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/023

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

Ms D Green/Ms M Pera. Carried

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

The report was taken as read.

The Board is to arrange a “Taihape Talking Table” to engage with the community regarding this matter.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/024

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

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms D Green. Carried

9.3 Taihape Community Board - Officer Analysis of Submissions

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/025

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

Ms M Pera/Mrs G Duncan. Carried

9.4 Taihape Community Board Workshop

Ms Pera spoke to the Taihape Community Board Workshop report. She agreed to draft a letter to Council requesting that in the new triennium, Taihape Community Board members be invited to attend the northern marae tours.

Mr Kipling-Arthur advised that it had been determined that Council was responsible for the AED unit currently outside of Taihape New World. It was suggested that an AED unit be purchased for the Ngā Awa Block. These items are to be discussed further at the Board’s next workshop.

There was further discussion on the need for a cost effective toilet at the Taihape Cemetery along with the availability of a water source by the Dixon Way entrance. It was suggested that Chris Bennett be invited to the Board’s July workshop to speak to these items.

Mr Kipling-Arthur is to follow up with Taihape Engineering regarding the replacement of the Achilles corner flagpole.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/026

That the item Taihape Community Board Workshop be received.

Ms M Pera/Ms D Green. Carried

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - June 2026

The Board discussed the funding request of \$986.00 from the Taihape Museum and Historical Society. The funds were required to purchase basic tools and materials which would enable the volunteers to undertake maintenance on the number of the museums tractors and stationary engines. In the past this work had been undertaken by retired farmers who had used their own tools.

It was suggested that this would be a great initiative for our rangatahi and there was the potential to work in with Taihape Area School.

There was some concern that this potentially wouldn't be a one-off request, noting that some of the funds were targeted for consumables.

The Board agreed to support this funding request on the condition that the vehicles were made available for public events such as the Christmas Parade and other community events.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/027

That the Taihape Community Board approves payment of \$986.00 to Taihape Museum and Historical Society to purchase basic tools and materials and that this be funded from the Small Project Fund.

Ms D Green/Mrs G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/028

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

Mrs G Duncan/Ms D Green. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/029

That the Taihape Community Board does recommend to Council to carry forward earmarked funds of \$190.00 for the rural workshops and \$986.00 to the Taihape Museum and Historical Society.

Ms M Pera/Ms D Green. Carried

9.6 Mayor's Report - June 2026

HWTM took his report as read. He wished to acknowledged Elizabeth Mortland who had been awarded a King's Service Medal for her service to the Taihape community.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/030

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

Mrs G Duncan/Mr P Kipling-Arthur. Carried

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Member moving out of Taihape Ward

Mr Kipling-Arthur will be shifting out of the district but will continue to represent the Taihape Ward. Board Members were supportive of this decision.

10.2 Taihape Town Improvements

Members noted that they had enjoyed the Taihape walkabout with Council's Economic Lead. Mr Kipling-Arthur is to source further information regarding the Taihape rose garden and Achillies Corner with a view to install a story board in this location.

Ms Pera closed the meeting at 8.00pm with a Karakia.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taihape Community Board held on 12 August 2026.

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Chairperson