MINUTES

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: **Wednesday, 12 August 2026**

Time: **5.30pm**

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

Present	Mr Peter Kipling-Arthur Cr Jeff Wong Mrs Gill Duncan Cr Diana Baird
In attendance	Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager Ms Sheryl Srhoj, Administration

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1 Welcome / Prayer

Mr Kipling-Arthur provided a brief welcome to those present and opened the meeting at 5.30pm.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/031

That the apologies from Ms De-Anna Green, Ms Melanie Pera and HWTM Andy Watson be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Mrs G Duncan. 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 was no change to the Order of Business

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/032

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 10 June 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.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Mrs G Duncan. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings

Cemetery toilets and handwashing facilities

It was agreed that this item be discussed at a further workshop with Chris Bennett in attendance.

The Northern Area and Property Manager is to follow up with the Parks and Reserves Manager regarding the timeline for the water line replacement at the Taihape cemetery as potentially hand washing taps could be installed as part of this work.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/033

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

Mrs G Duncan/Mr P Kipling-Arthur. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - August 2026

The Chair spoke to her report. She noted that the earlier presentation from senior Taihape Area School students had been well supported.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/034

That the Chair's Report – August 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.

Hautapu Bridges

All five bridges have now been built. The Certificates for Public Use have been placed on each bridge. Frame Group have completed the final engineer's inspection. Friends of Taihape are awaiting documents for the final Building Consent inspection which is booked for 18 August 2026.

Taihape Grandstand

Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee have committed to a Review and Reset that will allow for a more concise way-forward report and action plan. It would identify the viable project scope, core risks and evidence gaps, realistic funding position, and key decisions required from Council and Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee. The Group have been successful in receiving a $75K grant from the Four Regions Trust.

Taihape Town Hall

A detailed design is in progress with a building consent application expected to be lodged this month. There has been one pre-consultation with Council's building team to understand the expectations with regards to the building consent application. The Design team is currently resolving a few noise concerns that were presented in the acoustic report.

Parks

The picnic tables at Gumboot Park and Memorial Park have been refurbished. The courts at Memorial Park have been cleaned and water blasted. There has been new mulch added to the playground.

The Parks Team have engaged Department of Corrections, on a weekly basis, to help with the following tasks within Memorial Park:

- raking mulch areas in playground
- litter collection from grandstand and netball courts
- sweeping up debris from these sites.

Youth

The recent holiday programme in collaboration with Ruapehu R.E.A.P was successful with both parties keen to work together on a regular basis.

The 6-week golf programme alongside GolfNZ has commenced. This has been extremely successful with students attending from various schools including Taihape Area School, Mataroa, Waiouru, St Josephs, and Taoroa. Council's Tamariki Rangatahi Engagement Officer is currently looking into ways of sustaining this collaboration.

Assistance has been provided to Taihape Area School students with preparation/study for their learner licences along with VTNZ, who are assisting rural schools that are geographically challenged to sit their licences at their school.

There has been positive feedback received from members of the public who had noted that there seemed to be a lot of roading workers out and about in the community undertaking various tasks such as weed spraying, and street maintenance etc.

The Northern Area and Property Manager to pass this feedback onto Council's Roading Transport Manager.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/035

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

Cr D Baird/Cr J Wong. Carried

9.2 Mayor's Report - July 2026

The Chief Executive advised that Council had approved all remits. Mrs Gordon provided members with an overview of the recent Memorandum of Understanding that Rangitīkei along with Tararua, Manawatū, Ruapehu and Whanganui District Councils had signed and submitted to the Government as part of the Simplifying Local Government Reforms.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/036

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

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Cr J Wong. Carried

9.3 Funding Schemes Update - August 2026

The Northern Area and Property Manager advised that Council's Funding Specialist was hosting a Funding Roadshow which was to be held at Te Matapihi on 30 September. Various funding organisations such as Sport Whanganui would be attending.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/037

That the Funding Schemes Update – August 2026 be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Cr D Baird. Carried

10 Discussion Items

10.1 NZTA Speed Change Submission

The Chair acknowledged RDC's Corporate Planner for her work on this submission.

It was suggested that members also submit individual feedback.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/038

That the Taihape Community Board approves the drafted feedback submission to be submitted to NZTA regarding the speed limit change proposals for Taihape South and Winiata Marae.

Cr D Baird/Mrs G Duncan. Carried

10.2 Community Gardens

There was no decision made. It was agreed that this item be discussed at the Board's next meeting.

10.3 Taihape Museum Request for Payment

There was no decision made. Mr Kipling-Arthur is to request that The Taihape and District Historical Museum Society provide Taihape Community Board with an invoice for the research that they had undertaken on the Achilles story. This matter is to be deferred until the Board's next meeting.

Achilles Corner restoration and Plaque Project

Mr Kipling-Arthur provided an update on the Achilles Corner Restoration and Plaque Project. He would source prices for a new flagpole and discuss designs etc. in collaboration with a local RSA representative.

The Chair advised that funding was available to purchase materials for the picnic tables which Taihape Area School students would construct. These would then be put in place at a site on Achilles corner. The Chair also noted that she had been approached by locals who wished to contribute to this project.

It was agreed that this item be discussed at the Board's next workshop in order to finalise details and costings.

The meeting closed at 6.07pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taihape Community Board held on 14 October 2026.

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Chairperson