

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE WAIRAKEI COMMUNITY HALL, KAURI ROAD, WAIRAKEI
ON THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2024 AT 11.00AM**

PRESENT: Cr Kylie Leonard (In the Chair), Mr Patrick Hart, Cr Danny Loughlin, Mayor David Trewavas, Mr Mark Wynyard, Cr John Williamson

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (J Gardyne), Infrastructure Manager (R Stokes), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts), Communications Advisor (R Watts), Community Engagement Advisor - Northern Taupō District (C Dredge), Committee Advisor (N Turnbull)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: 6 members of the public

1 KARAKIA

Cr Kylie Leonard opened the meeting with a Karakia, and Cr Danny Loughlin closed the meeting with a Karakia.

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TERR202405/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Mark Wynyard

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the apology received from Ms Evelyn Forrest be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 29 FEBRUARY 2024

TERR202405/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the minutes of the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting held on Thursday 29 February 2024 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/02 above.

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Ms Rachael Canning - Wairakei Village Community

Ms Canning introduced herself to the group and spoke about the Department of Internal Affairs Small Initiative Community Led Development Funding applications that the Wairakei Village Community were applying for. She thanked the Community Engagement Advisor- Northern Taupō District for the assistance in forming that application. She noted that the funding was for the benefit of the community and would help with efforts to improve the village for residents. The funding would also enable the community to acquire various equipment for events such as marquees, BBQs and storage including a covered trailer.

Ms Canning spoke about the surveys that were conducted within the community in 2023. The surveys provided information to help understand the aspirations of the village community such as the need for improvements to the physical appearance of the village entrance environment. Engineering and design work would be required for that project which Ms Canning was working on a second application for funding for. A third funding application was for Cyclone Gabrielle recovery which included restoration of areas along State Highway 5 which had been granted. Ms Canning advised she had made contact with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) regarding the land that the pine trees along State Highway 5 sat on that was extended land owned by Department of Conservation (DOC), to assess further requirements including whether the restoration work aligned with Iwi and Hapū objectives. The project could be a profit making venture for logging companies, but Ms Canning was in touch with a project manager to assist in working through the project and those variables and opportunities.

Members advised Ms Canning of various local organisations that could potentially assist with the project work such as NZ Forest Managers, Contact Energy Community Engagement Team, and the Waikato River Authority. Ms Canning mentioned that any resources available from Council would be very much appreciated. The Chief Executive advised Ms Canning that Council had a funding team who would be suitable to contact for further assistance.

TERR202405/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives comments from members of the public.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/03 above.

5.2 ITEMS OF INTEREST

Transport Update

The Infrastructure Manager introduced himself and provided an update on the visibility issue of the LED street light on the corner of Broadlands Road and River Road. He explained that LED lights were the only approved compliant light available to buy but that the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) had high pressure sodium lights they were replacing that Council was seeking to obtain to install on River Road to try and improve visibility of the intersection position.

Community members had advised the Infrastructure Manager of visibility concerns about the White Road turn off outside PermaPine where children get off the bus. Parents doing U-turns when picking kids up from the bus had little visibility of trucks coming from the north. The Infrastructure Manager explained that the PermaPine Site Manager had trimmed back the trees in effort to improve the visibility, but Permapine wanted to avoid having to move back the fence any further. The Infrastructure Manager advised members that he would be in touch with the PermaPine Site Manager to discuss potentially getting more of the hedge behind the fence trimmed back to further assist in increasing visibility for drivers. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

The Infrastructure Manager provided an update on the Broadlands Road landfill intersection visibility issue mentioned by the community at earlier meetings. He advised that designs for a entrance advisory sign 200-300 metres up the road had been priced and accepted and would to be installed soon. In regards to there being no deceleration slip-lane into the landfill the Infrastructure Manager advised members that it was not a current project in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP). He further advised that Council was about to consult on the draft LTP 2024-34 and he suggested that if this was a priority of the local community that they use this process to submit as a group to council.

Community Engagement and Development

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District introduced herself to the group. She provided an update on recent events in the Wairakei, and River Road communities.

She mentioned that applications for the Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community Grants had closed in April, and the Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community Grants Distribution Committee meeting was to be held on Thursday 9 May 2024 at the Taupō District Council Chamber. She thanked the groups that had applied.

She congratulated the River Road Collective Group for recently being granted funding from The Department of Internal Affairs Small Initiative Community Led Development Funding. This was a great achievement that would assist the Collective Group in various projects such as acquiring benches down at the reservethat needed to be replaced.

She reminded the group about the Long-term Plan consultation events occurring in June and July and encouraged the group to make their submissions and provide feedback to Council. She advised the group that there would be a workshop on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 in the TDC Council Chambers where information would be provided on the LTP process, engagement events happening, and there would be an opportunity to ask questions of the Policy and Community Engagement Teams.

TERR202405/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor David Trewavas

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the Items of Interest information provided.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/04 above.

5.3 MEMBERS' REPORTS

The Chief Executive introduced herself and spoke to the group about the upcoming LTP process. She explained how TDC is required to conduct the process outlined by central government legislation, and that the LTP gives the Taupō community indication of what Council is working on. She explained that Elected Members would be meeting in May to approve the budget for auditors. She mentioned that Council's focus was to prioritise essential work needed in the community such as waste water projects and maintaining infrastructure.

In answer to a member's question regarding rubbish bin boundaries being extended to rural areas, the Infrastructure Manager advised that comparisons of the current levels of service were being undertaken, and while areas like River Road had a bag collection service, a bin service may not be viable for contractors. Members asked the Infrastructure Manager to look further into the services as the rubbish collection was a relationship between Council and ratepayers, not ratepayers and the contractors.

In answer to a member's question about why TDC had GPS speed monitors on fleet vehicles, the Chief Executive explained that it was mainly due to health and safety and ensuring the Council staff arrived to their destinations safely, and in cases of emergency staff could be located in a timely manner if needed.

The following members reports were received:

Mr Mark Wynyard and Mr Patrick Hart

- Noted that there had been an increase in road works on rural roads that were taking weeks to complete. There seemed to be a delay in completion of road works, causing disruption to travellers.

TERR202405/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the reports from members.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/05 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 12:23pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group Meeting held on 4 July 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON