

Kāwhia Community Board

MINUTES

27 May 2022

1.00pm

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM
and will be livestreamed to Council's YouTube channel.

Members of the Kāwhia Community Board

Board Member DM Walsh (Chair)
Board Member K Briggs
Board Member G Good

Board Member H Whiu
Councillor C Jeffries

For all meeting queries, please contact Council's Manager Governance (governance@otodc.govt.nz)

Kāwhia Community Board

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Kāwhia Community Board held via the Zoom meeting platform on Friday, 27 May 2022 commencing at 1.04pm.

Tanya Winter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

31 May 2022

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PRESENT

Chairperson D Walsh, Board Members K Briggs, , G Good and Councillor C Jeffries.

IN ATTENDANCE

A Loe (Group Manager Regulatory & Growth), B O'Callaghan (Manager Finance), N Gower (Group Manager Strategy & Community), J le Fleming (Acting Manager Services), and K King (Governance Manager).

APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was received from Board Member H Whiu.

RESOLVED: That the Kawhia Community Board receive and accept the apology for non-attendance from Board Member Whiu.

Board Member Briggs | Chairperson Walsh

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public had requested to be heard.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – KĀWHIA COMMUNITY BOARD – 29 APRIL 2022

RESOLVED: That the open minutes of the Kāwhia Community Board meeting held on 29 April 2022, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Board Member Briggs | Board Member Good

CHAIRPERSON'S VERBAL REPORT

Chairperson, D Walsh commented on the economic forecast and the level of rates increase for the Kāwhia community under the draft Annual Plan 2022/23 due for adoption by Council in June. He queried the rationale for continuing to undertake the capital works programme developed before the economic impacts of COVID were clearly understood. He noted the impact of the overall increased cost of living on those already struggling financially.

Mr Walsh commented on the installation of water meters and the community perception that this would mean water charging would commence over the short to medium term.

Mr Walsh also advised he would be standing down as a community board member at the end of the current term, being October 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Kāwhia Community Board receive the verbal update from Chairperson, D Walsh.

Board Member Briggs | Board Member Good

ITEM 78: FUNDING FOR KĀWHIA ENTRANCE SIGN RESTORATION

Council's Group Manager Strategy & Community, N Gower highlighted the executive summary of her report noting the Board had informally discussed financially supporting the restoration. This report was seeking formal confirmation for the project, being three components with a total cost of up to \$5,219. Ms Gower noted the use of a hiab may not be necessary which would reduce the overall cost. This would be determined at the time of removal/re-installation.

Councillor Jeffries advised Board Member Whiu had indicated her support for the staff recommendation however she was unable to attend the meeting to do so formally.

RESOLVED: That the Kāwhia Community Board approve funding of \$3,125 towards the Kāwhia entrance sign restoration from the Kāwhia Community Board Sundry Grant 2021-2022 fund.

Chairperson Walsh | Board Member Briggs

BOARD MEMBERS' UPDATE

Wandering stock

Board Member Good advised the recently installed traffic calming measures supported by the Board had seen an issue with people attempting to avoid the humps by driving over kerbs/grass verges etc. He noted Council had arranged for additional measures to ensure resolution of the issue. Mr Good also commented on a recent stock incident. The process discussed at the previous Board meeting was actioned with Board Member Whiu liaising with James Mahara. The stock in question, either a horse or cow, was not identified at this time and the matter remains unresolved. Mr Good noted the effectiveness of the communication process itself.

Annual Plan and cost of living

Board Member Briggs endorsed the Chairperson's comments in his update earlier in the meeting. He noted overall activity within Kāwhia had been extremely low and attributed this to the increased cost of living. He commented on the impact of the current proposed rate increase on people who are struggling.

Mr Jeffries commented on the increase in living costs and the supply chain failures affecting the building industry. He noted construction firms were starting to fail across the country.

He advised the rates increase was as indicated in the Long Term Plan and the Board would need to make a recommendation to Council before the Annual Plan adoption in June. He noted if the Board make a

resolution to Council then an indication of which projects in the Kāwhia ward to delay or discontinue should be included. He noted a main driver of the rates increase was the extensive programme to upgrade the water reticulation network which is currently 50-60 years old. Additionally Aotea had issues with the seawall which needed to be addressed. In response to a comment, he advised his rates bill would go up by \$5-6 per week under the draft Annual Plan.

In response to a comment, Mr Jeffries noted the Long Term Plan consultation process included public meetings and reflected the public's requests at the time. Mr Walsh commented on the issues experienced during the consultation process and Mr Jeffries advised Council had acknowledged the concerns making adjustments to any future consultation processes.

Water meters and charging

Councillor Jeffries spoke on the water meter installation noting Council was installing the meters to resolve the large water loss within the network. One major leak was already discovered that was not visible from the street.

Board Member Briggs commented the community were aware the original intention by Council was not to charge for water but noted the current Council dissolves in October and the incoming Council may have a new approach. He noted that to say there will be no water charges was unrealistic in the long term.

Councillor Jeffries responded by noting that charging for water use may benefit some people with lower water usage. He commented the argument for water charging was to make a fairer distribution of costs across users with those who wanted to use large amounts of water over the summer months being charged. He noted the Board could lobby the incoming Council and that there was different ways to charge water including a standard fee across all properties with user pays above the set limit.

Council's Group Manager Regulatory & Growth advised no one has free water as it is in the rates invoice as a lump cost. He noted one of the consent requirements for new consents from Waikato Regional Council was for users to have water meters. He commented that Council wanted to understand the efficiency of the existing infrastructure and reduce water leaks. He reminded the Board of the water supply issue experienced over the summer and the need to reduce water loss with water meters being a tool to identify leaks.

Council's Acting Services Manager, J le Fleming advised on the effectiveness of water meters to identify leaks noting the large water leak mentioned earlier meant the spring was running for two hours per day unnecessarily. The other eight leaks identified were not large however also contributed to the water loss. In response to a query, Mr Loe confirmed Ōtorohanga township had water meters and users were being charged for water.

Te Papa o Karewa

Chairperson Walsh spoke on his understanding that the tree was owned by the Kingitanga since the 1980s. He commented that if Council didn't own the tree then ratepayers should not have to pay for the structure planned to be installed to address the potential limb fall. Mr Loe stated Council had a duty as a roading authority to keep the thoroughfare open as an initial priority and cost sharing arrangements could then be discussed. Councillor Jeffries noted there was a possibility for funding from Pouhere Taonga (Heritage New Zealand).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.52pm.