

MINUTES

TURAKINA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 3 October 2024
Time: 7.00pm
Venue: The Anglican Church Hall, St George's
State Highway 3
Turakina

Present	Ms Linda O'Neill Mr Duran Benton HWTM Andy Watson Ms Rachel Cvitanovich Mr Ian Stephens
In attendance	Ms Melaine Bovey, Manager – Heritage and Culture Mr Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor Mrs Deb Haworth, Minute Taker

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1 Welcome

2 Apologies

No apologies were received.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflict of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

Mr Paul Chaffe will present the 11.1 Turakina Emergency Response Plan Item at the beginning of the meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Amendment:

That the word Council replaces the word Committee at the end of paragraph 1 in Item 11.4

Resolved minute number 24/TCC/024

That the minutes of Turakina Community Committee Meeting held on 8 August 2024 **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.

Ms L O'Neill/Mr I Stephens. Carried

7 Follow-up actions

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Turakina Community Committee Meetings

Item 1- Signage

Mr Benton undertook to follow up with Mr Smith about whether these had been purchased and when these will be put up.

Resolved minute number 24/TCC/025

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Turakina Community Committee Meetings' be received.

Ms R Cvitanovich/Ms L O'Neill. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - October 2024

Mr Benton said the broadband cabinet he talked about at the last meeting is not quite up and running yet, it is all tied in with the new Fibre which Chorus extended to the Beach and they have been getting this done first. It is happening for the village and whoever is fed off the cabinet from the corner of Beach Road.

Resolved minute number 24/TCC/026

That the verbal Chair's Report – October 2024 be received.

Mr D Benton/Ms L O'Neill. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024

Marton Pool

His Worship the Mayor provided an updated that the Marton pool will be closed for the summer season. This came down to the operators not being confident about whether they could open safely. This will be very expensive and he is in discussion with members of the community who have said they want to contribute to the funding.

HWTM Watson responded to questions that this is Council owned, but very expensive to operate. The Prime Minister has been very direct saying the four wellbeing's are out, and that Council should only be spending money on the essentials. Council will review the current capital works programs and hopefully find some savings.

Chief Executive

Council are advertising shortly for a new Chief Executive to replace Kevin Ross.

Regional Economic Growth Summit

The regional summit was hosted by Council with the Mayors from across the region and with Minister Jones. He got a concession out of Minister Jones and he publicly agreed he would arrange Minister Potaka and himself to discuss infrastructural needs at Ratana. Council are doing a very

expensive waste water program there and that may be a way of taking some of the pressure off. There have been applications from Ratana in terms of their buildings, they have been promised things for a very long time and every year all the politicians go there, but you will find there will be some announcements from the Prime Minister to significant capital spends in Ratana.

Local Water Done Well

His Worship the Mayor will be arranging public meetings in Marton and Taihape, not to say this is what we are doing, but to say this is the process we have to go through with Government.

Council will consult with the wider community early next year around our preferred option. That then goes to Wellington and they may or may not approve it. In December, the third tranche of legislation will be released by Government. It is messy and the timeframes are tight because the government wants to deliver this within this government term.

HWTM Watson said that stormwater won't be in it as a right however as you set up the entity that delivers water and drinking water, Council is then still responsible for stormwater, the Council could go to the entity and say we would rather you deal with stormwater as well. The entity as a Council cost and function to provide that service. Some of that makes sense because you won't have the staff because that staff have left to become part of the entity. Then the complications of rural water schemes, under Labour he knew far more how that may work, that is yet to be clarified under National.

Resolved minute number 24/TCC/027

That the Mayor's Report – 26 September 2024 be received.

HWTM A Watson/Mr D Benton. Carried

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Turakina Emergency Response Plan

Mr Chaffe said given the area, there are already two community response plans in play, Kauangaroa have worked on one with Whanganui District. Koitiata have a plan and had that for a number of years which is based around the Fire & Emergency NZ fire force that is down there.

Turakina itself doesn't face many challenges the main risk would be the road, a transportation accident causing a chemical spill or something like that. It is out of a tsunami inundation zone, out of the flood plains, nowhere near a recognised fault line. Other than that you would be looking at isolation so when Whangaehu floods you won't be able to get to Whanganui. An event in Whangaehu is probably going to affect Turakina, it doesn't close the road but closes the lower valley. It does significantly affect farm land up in Turakina, but then if that kind of event there may be a low spot filling with water so surface pooling not flowing so you're probably not going to be able to get to Bulls, fingers crossed you can get to Marton but know it comes down the stream, crosses the road and off the farmland past the shearing sheds. It doesn't close the road ever but it does create a surface issue with the water going over the road. So there is potential to become isolated from Marton. In saying that, part of the community response plan is knowing your risks.

Mr Chaffe said what they do with that strategic level is when things look like they are warming up, there is a contact group and he starts emailing, ringing or talking to people.

Mr Chaffe said Monica at Council is an GIS information specialist, she creates maps, she can get the latest flood levels from Horizons and put them on a map and drill down to individual farms.

Mrs Cvitanovich it would be good to show people what it means. It is a concern they have, they are quite transient at times with staff coming in and out and it's the new people who don't fully understand. You are probably never going to be able to make the ones in the Village evacuate when they should but she feels that at least if they try to get the information, they have done everything they can.

Mrs Cvitanovich is going to try for this meeting with Mr Chaffe and they can get a one page flyer they can put out to the community.

HWTM Watson said that Council can get things printed.

Mr Chaffe said if the community committee wanted to be the conduit for information, that's not a problem. He will include the committee into the emails he sends out. There is always the risk it will be a false alarm, so he tries not to put them out, if he does, you have to go with it, as he has no other options. Half an hour after the last one, he put a stand down notice out, that happens.

Mrs Cvitanovich asked if you did declare an emergency, that could come through, it would kick in and we would ring.

Mr Chaffe said it would go to all the contacts, there are a few key people, they start telling their contacts, we rely on networks.

Mr Chaffe said one important aspect is it is the community helping the community, there is a common misconception that Civil defence is a great big army of volunteers that are going to come and save the day.

Mr Chaffe said there are politics involved out of central government. It's easier if they call the school a Welfare Centre, they don't officially activate it, open and use it as it brings complications. But if the community want to gather there and share information this is not a problem. If the school wants to put its hand up to have an aerial installed and we can put a Civil Defence radio in there, that is cool too. Try to keep it informal, not formal. If Mayor Watson declares, the Ministry of Education close all the schools so are you allowed in there or not. Then the moment he lifts the declaration, regardless of whether or not you are still effected, the school wants to open but you are using it as a welfare centre.

Mr Benton asked if it would be appropriate to have a chat with the Principal to find out what her thoughts are on it.

Mr Chaffe said remembering to he doesn't have an army of volunteers to come and staff it, open it, it's the community utilising a community facility to support the community. He can give training, point you in the direction of online courses. Mr Chaffe said everywhere is different. Now is the time to strike because there is a little bit of funding on a project where they have updated their entire radio network and in there he could buy and install a radio in this financial year.

Mrs Cvitanovich asked if they could have radios at each end of Whangaehu or not, because at the moment all they are going to get is one is going to the Hall if you need to. There's not actually one there and in a major event, you are not going to have much time.

Mr Chaffe said Kauangaroa have got one so they could talk out, the Marae has one but that is not ours and this talks to Whanganui.

Mrs Cvitanovich said Whangaehu have a good set up but that is their own but unless some of them can get up there and say they need some help, they are stuck, cut off, isolated and if they need 111, that's one of the things they are trying to say, they have no method of communication. So it's all very well to look after themselves but if they need anything more, they have not got radios at all. In Whangaehu they know they flood, they do want something.

Mr Chaffe said it gets back to network to network, he can't put radios everywhere but if you have an existing radio network, could they put one where his one is, then their network could talk to his network

Mrs Cvitanovich would like to have another conversation about that because it is major thing and that is how people feel and they are still no further forward and know that a radio may get to the Hall, it's not going to help any of them at either end if they are majorly cut off and in trouble. They have to look at what's there and try to figure how they can work it out.

Mr Benton thanked Mr Chaffe for his attendance at the meeting.

10.2 Funding Schemes Update - October 2024

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 24/TCC/028

That the Funding Schemes Update – October 2024 be received.

Mr D Benton/Mr I Stephens. Carried

10.3 Small Projects Fund Update - October 2024

Mr Benton said they need to see where Mr Smith was as his understanding as he had bought the signs. The fund is sitting at just over \$2,000 at the moment.

Resolved minute number 24/TCC/029

That the 'Small Projects Fund Update – October 2024' report be received.

Mr D Benton/Ms L O'Neill. Carried

11 Discussion Items

11.1 Reporting of Roading Issues

Mr Benton said this is reported by the fix it forms.

HWTM Watson said the challenge is there are roads in the region that service minimal number of people and the cost to repair them are huge.

Mrs O'Neill noted on SH3 where that wire has gone, outside Dudding's Lake, it is appalling. She would like to get from Turakina to Palmerston North and that road is really rough. This sits with Central Government who are responsible for SH3.

11.2 Proposed Community Initiative- Revitalisation of Kahuraponga Stream

Mrs O'Neill spoke to the Rangitikei River Catchment collective which is about farmers being committed to the rivers that run through their properties. She was trying to get interest in it, as one of her passion's is beautifying Turakina so when you drive through you think this is a lovely little village and so we talked about how we could engage community members in the revitalisation of the Kahuraponga Stream from the village upwards. Mrs Cvitanovich is involved with the RCC for the Whangaehu.

Mrs Cvitanovich has driven to the Turakina village every morning since and thought we could paint this bridge and make that look nice, so it was a nice entrance into the village. Can see you are looking to raise the bar and make it look nicer. You would never know there is a stream in there, you can't see anything.

Mrs O'Neill is going to pursue that from the farmers along the stream but at some stage it would be nice to engage the community.

Mr Benton said if you were looking for direction, would it be best to go to Horizons for a start.

HWTM Watson said the Rangitikei Catchment Collective is not Horizons but if there is work being done on a stream, you need to engage with Horizons Regional Council, not Rangitikei District Council.

Mrs O'Neill said she thought they could help with the direction, she didn't intend to imply it was Horizons.

Mrs Cvitanovich said the catchments are meant to be community driven, so for the people right there, it's for them as well and they get involved with the Catchment for that and some momentum going.

Mr Stephens said one of the things they talked about was whether the Council could help with advertising with what they were doing, a leaflet drop.

HWTM Watson said this was set up and powered by people like Roger Dalrymple and they have paid staff and administration who can do these sorts of things. A lot of it is water monitoring, long term improvements and over time are improving the awa.

Mrs O’Neill we were proposing it wasn’t water monitoring so much as species monitoring, counting species and looking at that. She knows Mr Redmayne at Tunnel Hill has done a lot for the part of the stream that runs through his place. Its baby steps at the moment but she liked the idea.

Mr Benton said even if it’s only the section from behind the pub to across the road to start with.

Mrs O’Neill said there are trees that were planted and purchased through the Small Projects Fund along with the picnic tables.

Mrs Cvitanovich said there is a meeting in the first week of November and Mrs O’Neill asked if she could get an invite. Mrs Cvitanovich said yes. They have three years of water testing results, its gone very quickly so they have data so they can have a meeting and look at it.

Mr Benton asked if Mrs Cvitanovich could make first point of contact then Mrs O’Neill and he can go from there.

Mrs O’Neill said a get together in their woolshed is probably how they will try to engage people so part of it was using small project fund to hire a projector to show images.

Mrs Cvitanovich said Mr Dalrymple came with all of that and talked them through it so they can help with that.

HWTM Watson said there was also the Bonnie Glenn meeting that Cr Wilson has been going to.

Mrs O’Neill said she is passionate and when you look at it every day, you need to do something about it.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Turakina Community Committee held on 5 December 2024.

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Chairperson