

# MINUTES

## TURAKINA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 5 December 2024

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Venue:** The Anglican Church Hall, St George's  
State Highway 3  
Turakina

---

**Present** Mr Duran Benton  
Ms Linda O'Neill  
HWTM Andy Watson  
Ms Rachel Cvitanovich

**In attendance** Ms Mel Bovey, Manager - Heritage & Culture  
Mrs Deb Haworth, Minute Taker

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Forum</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confirmation of Order of Business</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....	<b>3</b>
7.1	Follow-up Action Items from Turakina Community Committee Meetings.....	3
<b>7</b>	<b>Chair’s Report</b> .....	<b>4</b>
8.1	Chair's Report - December 2024 .....	4
<b>8</b>	<b>Reports for Decision</b> .....	<b>5</b>
9.1	Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024.....	5
<b>9</b>	<b>Reports for Information</b> .....	<b>7</b>
10.1	Small Projects Fund Update - December 2024 .....	7
10.2	Funding Schemes Update - October 2024 .....	7
10.3	Consultation Tracker .....	8

## 1 Welcome

## 2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Stephens.

## 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 24/TCC/030

That the minutes of Turakina Community Committee Meeting held on 3 October 2024 **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 D Benton/Ms L O'Neill. Carried

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Turakina Community Committee Meetings

Mrs O'Neill said they were still following up on the signs. She feels he hasn't bought anything.

Mr Benton said if he doesn't turn up tonight, he will ring Mr Smith tomorrow.

Mrs Cvitanovich noted it might be a good thing if he hasn't at this stage. If he hasn't, it should be put on hold.

Mrs O'Neill said jumping forward to the Small Projects Fund, it includes the carry over, so there is certainly no funds out of that, that would have paid for these.

Mrs Bovey said she hasn't seen anything for payment and Mr Smith hasn't been to a meeting since he said he was going to get a quote.

Mrs Cvitanovich said they are thinking maybe he hasn't bought them in which case we could refund that one if he hasn't.

Mr Benton said if he definitely hasn't bought them they would do something after Christmas and he was going to suggest another picnic table near the toilet.

Mrs Cvitanovich thinks that would be of more use and she doesn't know that people will be really wanting the signs. If they are already bought, try and work with that but if not, we could discuss that.

**Resolved minute number 24/TCC/031**

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

Mr D Benton/Ms L O'Neill. Carried

## **7 Chair's Report**

### **8.1 Chair's Report - December 2024**

Mr Benton presented his verbal Chair's Report.

He mentioned the Broadband cabinet has been installed on the corner of Beach Road and the people who are still working on copper will notice a big difference in speed as he did. It is fibre to the cabinet but still copper to the houses in his area. He went from 2.7mg which is pathetic, up to 20 mg download.

Mrs Cvitanovich has installed Starlink. It is over a 100mg which makes a huge difference. In the event of an emergency it will be good.

Mrs O'Neill said it is interesting because all of Civil Defence is moving to Starlink rather than satellite phones.

Mrs Bovey noted it is sensible for rural areas certainly.

Mr Benton noted he will follow up with Mr Smith regarding the signs.

Mrs O'Neill asked if there was anything that came out of the mid meeting?

Mr Benton said we just need to confirm some things with Paul Chaffee for the Turakina Civil Defence Plan. There was a bit more discussion about the revitalisation of the stream.

Mrs Cvitanovich said she heard the group was going to kick in from about February from Harriett, she will come back to you all with that.

**Resolved minute number 24/TCC/032**

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

Mr D Benton/Ms L O'Neill. Carried

## 8 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024

The Report was taken as read and he wanted to highlight a few things. There was a report meant to go into this Report but he ran out of time.

The Chief Executive process is at final stages and he thinks Council would look to appoint someone before Christmas but it probably means they won't take the role until February March maybe.

Mrs Cvitanovich asked if they were happy with the applicants.

HWTM Watson said they got over 40 applications, that's after the absolute rubbish is cut out. With Wellington and the Corporates and the Government Departments being told, you can imagine there are a lot of people out of work looking for high power stuff.

Referencing back to page 19, the Gentle Annie Road. The last meeting he said this was a disaster in the making. He got the Ports of Napier, two Councils, Road Transport operators, KiwiRail and the Forestry's in the same room. He said from his point of view, he has them all there and he feels like he wants to lock the doors and not leave until they had a deal. 4 hours later they had a deal so those logs will end up going by rail but it will take a month to set the infrastructure up for it. But it is only a deal for a year so this issue will resurface and he is in talks with NZTA and the two Councils now for long term solutions. That is a win.

HWTM Watson gave an update on Ratana.

The Duddings Trust announcements should be out before Christmas, the minutes have been approved, so people will know what they have got.

HWTM Watson talked last time about Local Water Done Well and the need to have relationships and the time frame ticking with that. Effectively we have reached the end of the time frame where all Councils are going through processes. We won't announce our preferred options until 12 December but he can say the general desire is to have as many people in the relationship within the Horizons region as we could. He can tell some specifics, for instance, these are Council decisions, Manawatu wants to try and go it alone. However they realise that is probably not going to be allowed but they are making that statement. Horowhenua's option is to try and go it alone but also in the same boat. Their second option is a relationship with Kapiti Coast and their third is Kapiti Coast, Palmerston North and Manawatu and Horowhenua, but Kapiti Coast don't want to be in bed with anybody other than Horowhenua. So with all the confusing messages, it looks as though we are likely to say first of all, we would like everybody in knowing that Horowhenua and Tararua will probably go elsewhere but it may end up being Whanganui, Ruapehu and ourselves. However that doesn't give you efficiency of scale. The Government has signalled very strongly that 200,000 connections are required to make it viable and so he suspects the Government will then step in and say we are telling you, you have had chances. Who knows how that is going to play out. The third tranche of legislation he has previously referred to, is due out potentially next week. He had heard rumours but he can't confirm its going to be the 9<sup>th</sup>. Buried in his other reports, he made comments

about the risks of price harmonisation that Government hadn't declared that. They have now said there will not be enforced price harmonisation. So you can form the entity and say Whanganui, Ruapehu and ourselves, form the separate entity and the entity says it is cheaper to provide most water solutions to Whanganui so they get a cheaper rate. Or equally they could say Marton and Bulls could get it cheaper than Taihape because of the difficulties in providing the service. The original move of price harmonisation to support rural Councils supported by metros is not playing out that way. That was Labour vision, National have now said no. We are still waiting for legislation, for the standards of disposal. What quality of waste water can you put into the waterway for example. That will overflow into those quality standards indirectly into farming we think.

In terms of the performance of the sectors, agriculture has lifted a little bit. Still not fantastic in his view and he suspects farmers aren't rushing out to book their month's holiday in Europe on the basis of it.

Mrs Cvitanovich said from a dairy farming perspective, they are probably doing better.

HWTM Watson noted there has been \$12 million cut out of the roading budget and how it is playing out, 3 Councils spoke of roading and a Mayor said they had a woman in their office who had fallen over and smashed their shoulder on the footpath, three of them in a row said the same deal. We can't service our footpaths. There is a road at the top of Turakina Valley where a huge slump has occurred and he can't guarantee they can get access to their farm and a separate house. Potentially that slump could cost a million dollars plus. Forestry that has been harvested, the road has then slumped, the consent between Horizons and the contractor that milled, both pointing the stick at everybody else. But Council still has a role in trying to maintain an access, but at what stage do you say we can't, as a District, afford to spend a million dollars servicing one or two properties. That sort of situation is going to get worse.

HWTM Watson said he is happy to take an questions around any of the reports, he said the Reports are long but you can pick and choose what you want to read.

Mrs Cvitanovich said as they have said it before, they appreciate the effort that does go into his Reports.

Mrs O'Neill said when you see the calendar and how much he is doing, then see the lengthy report that goes with it, you are communicating with us.

HWTM Watson said all he can do is tell the story. The last thing, Merry Christmas.

Mrs Cvitanovich asked if there was much interest from the communities at the Local Water Done Well meetings?

HWTM Watson said there was no interest, he held meetings with two in Marton, two in Bulls, two in Taihape. Other than staff turning up, the total number of people engaged was 12. All he can do is say this is the decision making process. It will be different in consultation in February March 2025 and the proverbial will hit the wall when people get three bills in their letterbox. For Council to set up a CCO alone, or with very small numbers, the set up costs are high. There will be no efficiency.

Mrs Cvitanovich asked if the Government doesn't like what everyone decides, going alone or end up more coming in, does HWTM Watson have a gut feeling, does he think there is a set plan there now of how many you have to come with, any thoughts? Or are they going to come in and tell you.

HWTM Watson said that is what the Government absolutely wants to do however having the courage to do what they want to do. You have to think they are looking over their shoulder, Labour got thrown out because of this. This could all go pear shaped for them where they have 20 or 30 different entities and if that is the case they may hope that over time aggregation happens. International evidence tells you that when you set up water entities, over time they get bigger and bigger, so you start setting up lots of them now there is one. There will be pain in this space.

**Resolved minute number 24/TCC/033**

That the Mayor's Report – 28 November 2024 be accepted.

HWTM A Watson/Mr D Benton. Carried

## 9 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Small Projects Fund Update - December 2024

Mr Benton said they had covered this, there is \$2,000 in there and they want to do something meaningful with it.

#### Committee Recommendation

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

Ms R Cvitanovich/Ms L O'Neill.

### 10.2 Funding Schemes Update - October 2024

Mrs Cvitanovich said she had finally completed the Whangaehu Hall Acquittal Form for the funding received from Council for the Community Initiatives Fund. It has taken a while and it was good to do it because there was actually stuff in there that they did learn and there was some good info, some things did go well and some things didn't go well, it's the truth about the project.

Mr Benton said things like that can also help you as well.

Mrs Cvitanovich said Council was very good about it as it has been dragging on, it was a long process for one reason or another, around the legality of that particular bit of land. She was getting quite worried about it but when she had a look, it just had the Report was pending. To be fair Council had been pretty good and they didn't feel hassled to get it done. They have been able to finish the project and get it done without having to feel they were under pressure because they hadn't done it yet.

**Resolved minute number 24/TCC/034**

That the Funding Schemes Update –October 2024 be received.

Mr D Benton/Ms L O'Neill. Carried

**10.3 Consultation Tracker**

**Resolved minute number 24/TCC/035**

That the report 'Consultation Tracker' be received.

Ms L O'Neill/Mr D Benton. Carried

**The meeting closed at 7.25pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Turakina Community Committee held on Thursday 13 February 2025.**

.....

**Chairperson**