

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**OF THE WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD IN THE WAIHEMO SERVICE CENTRE, PALMERSTON
ON MONDAY, 7 JULY 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Heather McGregor, Cr Jim Thomson, Member Tanya Bell, Member Paul Roy, Member Carol Watson, Member Kerry Stevens

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Gary Kircher
Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)
Joanne O'Neill (Director Strategy, Performance and Design)
Arlene Goss (Governance Services Lead)

VISITORS: About 10 members of the public including:
David Robertson
Chris Wells
Andy Clare
Maria Barta
Hamish McFarlane
Vanessa Barsby
Sean Allison
Julie Teraki
Cliff Day
Taranaki Smith

MEETING OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 6pm and welcomed everyone present.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

David Robertson introduced himself. He owns land on Puketapu and has previously been negotiating to sell this land to Council to provide public access to the summit.

Mr Robertson tabled some estimates from three local real estate agents and said the amounts they estimated were the price that he wants from Council for the land.

He asked what was going on, as negotiations had stopped.

Member Kerry Stevens and the Mayor responded. They said the real estate agents' estimates were made on the assumption the land was a lifestyle block. Council had employed an independent valuer who valued the land as "rural use", and this valuation was much lower. Council could not use ratepayers money to pay the amount wanted by Mr Robertson when an independent valuer had valued the land at a much lower value.

Council also owns a paper road across a different part of Mr Robertson's land and after negotiations broke down the community board had instructed staff to peg this out as a possible alternative to buying the original parcel.

Mr Robertson said he was not hard to get along with, he just disagreed with the price. He was mystified why it had taken so long to come to a decision. He wanted this to be resolved at the community board meeting.

The Mayor said a public community board meeting was not the right forum for negotiation over the land. He suggested a more private negotiation take place. Mr Robertson wanted to re-start negotiations. He asked for his documents to be distributed to members of the board. (This happened after the meeting).

Member Kerry Stevens asked Mr Robertson if he was willing to work with an independent mediator to see if there was any way the two parties could reach a compromise. Mr Robertson replied that he was present at the community board meeting to negotiate a deal. He did not agree or disagree to work with an independent mediator.

The Mayor and chief executive agreed to assign a staff member to speak to Mr Robertson further following the meeting. Member Kerry Stevens asked for an independent mediator to be appointed.

Following this matter, Chris Wells spoke in support of his application for funding to buy a gazebo for the East Otago High School Park Run.

He said the Park Run event did not charge anyone to participate and relied on the generosity of supporters like the community board for funding. He would like to buy a gazebo to improve the safety of participants and volunteers, who stand outside for hours. A gazebo would provide them with shelter.

The chairwoman thanked Mr Wells for speaking and a decision was made on this matter later in the meeting.

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2025

Cr Thomson asked that the minutes reflected that Cr Hopkins attended the Anzac Day ceremony in Hampden, not him. His name was also spelt incorrectly and he asked for this to be corrected.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/002

Moved: Member Jim Thomson

Seconded: Member Tanya Bell

That the Waihemo Community Board confirms the Public minutes of the Waihemo Community Board Meeting held on 12 May 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting, with the changes noted above.

CARRIED

5 DECISION REPORTS

5.1 LINCOLN STREET RAIL CROSSING, HAMPDEN

The purpose of this report was to get Community Board advice and support to make Lincoln Street one-way. KiwiRail and the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association have identified a safety concern at the Railway crossing on Lincoln Street, Hampden, and have suggested Lincoln Street be made one-way.

The chairwoman said this would be favourable for the Hampden community, especially at busy times.

Cr Stevens said there was time available between this meeting and when the recommendation goes to council. This time should be spent notifying the community so they can contribute their views before the council meeting, particularly the residents of that street.

The busy time of the tourist season was probably not going to kick in until summer so there was time to do this. The Mayor asked if the roading subcommittee should consider this when it meets next.

The community board agreed to pass the resolution, noting that public submissions would be called for.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/003

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Mrs Carol Watson

That the Waihemo Community Board recommends:

That Council:

1. Approves making Lincoln Street one-way where it crosses the rail lines to alleviate safety concerns.

CARRIED

5.2 HAMPDEN WASTEWATER INVESTIGATION FUNDING

This report followed earlier discussions with the community board at a workshop regarding a budget that was allocated to investigate a wastewater system in Hampden.

The community board expressed disappointment that this situation had occurred. They had asked for a report because they didn't know that one already existed. The purpose was to provide costs to the Hampden community so they could be consulted.

The recommendation to not proceed and repay the loan was the right thing to do.

The Mayor believed the loan had not actually been taken out, so there was nothing to repay. This resolution was a technicality more than anything.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/004

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Mrs Tanya Bell

1. That the Waihemo Community Board:

Accepts that the 2022 Waugh report meets the requirements of the board's request into understanding the financial implications of a Hampden wastewater system and that no further funds are required to be spent for this purpose.

2. That the Waihemo Community Board recommends to Council:

- a) That the loan-funded amount of \$40,000 originally set aside for a study into a Hampden wastewater system be repaid.
- b) That staff communicate (or consult) with the Hampden community on the cost of developing a reticulated wastewater system.

CARRIED

5.3 DISCRETIONARY FUNDING REQUEST - PALMERSTON PARK RUN

The community board supported this request but asked Mr Wells for a commitment that the gazebo would remain in the school community if the Palmerston Park Run was to fold. Mr Wells agreed.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/005

Moved: Mr Paul Roy

Seconded: Cr Jim Thomson

That the Waihemo Community Board:

1. Receives the attached correspondence from Chris Wells, Palmerston Park Run.
2. Approves a grant to Chris Wells of \$1,040.34 to purchase a Hercules Pop Up Gazebo, from the Board's discretionary community grants account.

CARRIED

6 MEMORANDUM REPORTS

6.1 BUILDING CONSENTS ISSUED IN THE WAIHEMO WARD DURING APRIL AND MAY 2025

The purpose of this report was to provide board members with a list of building consents issued in the Waihemo Ward during April and May 2025.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/006

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Mrs Carol Watson

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

6.2 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson's shared her report with board members and the public.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/007

Moved: Mrs Heather McGregor

Seconded: Mrs Tanya Bell

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information

.CARRIED

6.3 FINANCIAL REPORT TO WAIHEMO COMMUNITY BOARD (JULY 2025)

This report updated the Waihemo Community Board on financial matters and activities within the Waihemo ward.

CCTV camera - The chairwoman noted that the amount spent on CCTV cameras was different in the reports to the May meeting and July meeting. Jo O'Neill said advice was sought for a location

for the camera. This advice was paid for, but the site could not be used. The cost of moving the camera was about \$12,000. The chairwoman asked who was going to be pay for that.

There has been further communication with the company who gave the advice, asking them to contribute to the cost. The chairwoman called for a report to the next meeting on this matter.

Copinsha Street footpath – The top of this footpath was washed out in the October flood event and had not been repaired. This matter would be raised with the locality officer. CRMs have been lodged.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/008

Moved: Mrs Carol Watson

Seconded: Mr Paul Roy

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

.CARRIED

6.4 CORRESPONDENCE

The purpose of this report was to present correspondence that has been received by the Board Chairperson. Correspondence to this meeting was from:

1. **Hampden School Board of Trustees.**
2. **Jean Hesselin.**

RESOLVED WCB 2025/009

Moved: Mr Kerry Stevens

Seconded: Mrs Carol Watson

That the Waihemo Community Board formally receives two items of correspondence.

CARRIED

6.5 COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS AND WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cr Thomson said he attended a meeting with the Palmerston Squash Club. A proposition was put to the club that they could buy the club (building) for a nominal fee and would then be responsible for paying rates, insurance and maintenance. They have since had a meeting and agreed to this.

He thinks this would be a good outcome for both the council and the club. They would buy the building but council would own the ground and charge a ground lease.

The chair agreed that this would be a good solution. The members passed a resolution on this matter below.

Cr Kerry Stevens also apologised for not providing a written report. He wanted to congratulate the staff on preparing the agenda for the meeting, as he was pleased to see the board having a say on local issues.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/010

Moved: Cr Jim Thomson

Seconded: Mrs Carol Watson

That the Waihemo Community Board supports the initiative with the Palmerston Squash Club as outlined by Cr Thomson above.

ICARRIED

6.6 COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT - LINKS TO COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PAPERS

The purpose of this report was to provide links to final agenda papers and any related attachments from recent council meetings for the information of community board members and their ward communities.

The Mayor took his report as read. A decision on the water services delivery plan was being made tomorrow by Council. This would be a challenging meeting.

He noted that rural water schemes were considered as the fourth water and would be treated differently if council went into a CCO.

Waitaki District Health Services Trust was funding a health shuttle from Oamaru to Dunedin, with contributions from other organisations.

The overall cost of Project Reclaim was brought down to \$13 million, with \$3 million coming from central government. A report was coming from staff looking at what to do with Beach Road.

The chief executive then noted that his report was a performance overview of the organisation. It also outlined progress with the chief executives KPIs. He highlighted customer service improvements as a result of transformation. A customer service portal was coming in the future.

Elections were coming up and work was underway on this. Orange voting bins will be around the district to take votes.

The chairwoman thanked them for their reports.

RESOLVED WCB 2025/011

Moved: Mr Paul Roy

Seconded: Mrs Tanya Bell

That the Waihemo Community Board receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

7 MEETING CLOSE

The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

TO BE CONFIRMED at the Waihemo Community Board Meeting to be held on Monday, 8 September 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON