

CONFIRMED MINUTES

**OF THE AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD IN THE KUROW COMMUNITY CENTRE, 31 GORDON STREET, KUROW
ON MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 2:00 PM**

PRESENT: Member Calum Reid (Chair), Member Steve Dalley, Member Mike King, Member Alan Pont, Cr Brent Cowles

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Gary Kircher
Paul Hope (Support Services Director)
Allyson Wock (Governance Services Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:

Nicole Schofield, Public Forum, Agenda Item 6.1
Claire Foster (Commercial & Property Lead), Agenda Item 6.1
Paul Hayes (Assets Planning Manager), Agenda Item 6.2
Gary Wock (Assets Planning Officer), Agenda Item 6.2

MEETING OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 2:00pm and welcomed everyone present.

1 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED ACB 2025/022

Moved: Mr Mike King
Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the apology received from member Karen Turner (for absence) be accepted.

CARRIED

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Speaker Nicole Schofield

Nicole Schofield from the Hakataraamea Valley presented her project to restore the former Kurow School and establish it as a not-for-profit art school.

Ms Schofield tabled a one-page summary outlining the project's progress and support sought from the Ahuriri Community Board. This document is available as an attachment to these minutes upon request.

Ms Schofield advised that a trust was being established to receive the former Kurow School building.

When asked whether the trust would operate independently or under the Waitaki Valley Community Society Incorporated (WVCSI), Ms Schofield explained that during the first year of the project, she would work with WVCSI on a subcommittee for the project. This arrangement would provide support for managing funds under the relevant legislation.

Ms Schofield has been working with Heritage New Zealand and Council's Heritage Advisor to develop a conservation plan. She confirmed there was no intended change in the original use of the building as a school.

4 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

4.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2025

RESOLVED ACB 2025/023

Moved: Mr Alan Pont
Seconded: Mr Mike King

That the Ahuriri Community Board confirms the Public minutes of the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting held on 1 July 2025, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

5 DECISION REPORTS

5.1 AHURIRI MINOR IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET PRIORITIES

The report sought the board's agreement on priority projects for completion from the 2025/26 minor improvements budget.

Chair Calum Reid updated members on projects currently underway across the ward.

Projects considered for funding from the minor improvements budget included:

- Funding towards Waitaki Valley Community Society Incorporated's project proposal to install a sheltered seating area on the site of the overgrown ex-public toilet area in Kurow.
- A refresh of the Ahuriri Ward township Christmas decorations which had seen wear and tear. However, it was suggested that there might be depreciation funds available for this purpose.

Members agreed to meet within the next fortnight to set priorities and report back to officers.

It was noted that an updated community plan would assist with prioritising expenditure decisions.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/024

Moved: Mr Steve Dalley
Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board:

1. Approves three priority projects to progress from the Ahuriri minor recreation improvement budget.

CARRIED

6 MEMORANDUM REPORTS

6.1 FORMER KUROW SCHOOL BUILDING

The report provided the board with information and options for restoration of the former Kurow School building. Commercial & Property Lead Claire Foster spoke to the report and answered questions asked by members.

It was asked whether classifying the land as a historic reserve would enable a peppercorn lease instead of a commercial lease.

Ms Foster clarified that while it wouldn't be a commercial lease, any commercial activity would need to be acknowledged in the lease terms. She noted various rental arrangements could be considered. Given the substantial funding required for restoration, Council would likely consider a peppercorn rent arrangement with a 33-year lease term to provide the trust with better opportunities to secure funding.

Chair Calum Reid noted that relocating the building could allow the land to be sold to a commercial entity, reducing the burden on ratepayers. Ms Foster advised that the land is included in Council's current strategic land review. Disposal would remove Council's maintenance responsibilities but might not generate substantial revenue.

Ms Schofield asked about the possibility of the land being transferred to the trust in addition to the building. Ms Foster responded that this would require investigation and discussion with the Department of Conservation.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/025

Moved: Mr Mike King

Seconded: Mr Steve Dalley

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

RESOLVED ACB 2025/026

Moved: Mr Steve Dalley

Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board:

1. Supports the proposal to restore the former Kurow School building with the aim of establishing an art school within part of the building;
2. Requests a report to come back to the board on reclassifying the reserve as historic and gifting the building to a Trust with a building footprint 33-year ground lease at agreed rent with all outgoings payable granted subject to community approval and Council consents; and
3. Prefers a peppercorn rent.

CARRIED

6.2 WAITAKI VALLEY SCHOOL LEVEL CROSSING AND FOOTPATH CONNECTIONS FROM WHALAN LODGE

The report addressed the board's request for information on pedestrian safety improvements around the Waitaki Valley School.

Assets Planning Manager Paul Hayes and Assets Planning Officer Gary Woock spoke to the report and answered questions asked by members.

It was noted that funding for any option chosen would likely need to come from the Kurow amenity rate as no other budget was available.

Chair Calum Reid asked whether using a local contractor could reduce the cost of any minor safety improvements undertaken. It was acknowledged this could lower establishment fees but that Council's procurement process must be followed and improvements must comply with the design plan.

Mr Reid and member Alan Pont identified the priority aspects of the work as being the relocation of the crossing point and extension of the sight rail from Manse Road around the corner to Robinson Street.

The board agreed that there were some minor low-cost improvements that could be made to address these priorities.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/027

Moved: Mr Alan Pont

Seconded: Mr Steve Dalley

1. That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.
2. That the Ahuriri Community Board approves \$20k from the Kurow amenity fund for minor safety improvements relating to the road crossings, extended sight rails, and entrance way crossings, with the final approach to be confirmed by an onsite visit between the Kurow-based board members and officers.
3. That a report comes back to the board with costings on the complete footpath project.

CARRIED

6.3 CORRESPONDENCE

The report presented board correspondence on Waitaki District Council's 2025-34 Long Term Plan, the Kurow Island jet boat ramp, the car park resealing at the Omarama Hall, and community board delegations.

Chair Calum Reid advised that the correspondence relating to the Kurow Jet Boat Ramp was in response to issues caused by two new bridges being installed. Mr Reid has been in discussions with Gary Hawkins about the ongoing maintenance of the ramp and how this will be paid for. One of the suggestions is a QR code system which would allow payments to be made to a bank account for the island.

Member Mike King advised that MCM Contracting Ltd would commence work on the Omarama Hall carpark after mid-September. This work will address disability access into the hall.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/028

Moved: Member Mike King

Seconded: Member Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board formally receives the attached items of correspondence and considers officer comments (where available) and any actions in response.

CARRIED

6.4 COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

The report provided links to agenda papers and related attachments from recent Council Meetings and events for the information of Community Board members and their ward communities.

Mayor Kircher advised that Council are expecting a response in late September regarding whether the Department of Internal Affairs has accepted Council's Water Services Delivery Plan.

Chair Calum Reid commended Council's gifting of land to the Waitaki Valley Health Trust.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/029

Moved: Member Alan Pont

Seconded: Member Steve Dalley

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

6.5 BUILDING CONSENTS ISSUED IN THE AHURIRI WARD DURING JUNE AND JULY 2025

The report provided the Ahuriri Community Board with a list of building consents issued in the Ahuriri Ward during June and July 2025.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/030

Moved: Mr Mike King

Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT TO AHURIRI COMMUNITY BOARD (SEPTEMBER 2025)

The report updated the Ahuriri Community Board on financial matters and activities within the Ahuriri ward.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/031

Moved: Mr Steve Dalley

Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

6.7 COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS' AND WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The report shared updates from the Ahuriri Community Board Members and the Ahuriri Ward Councillor for the information of communities in the Ahuriri Ward.

Member Alan Pont reported on the Bright Fern Energy presentation he attended on 30 July 2025, where he asked about community funding opportunities. He suggested that the company could contribute to the community through initiatives such as installing solar panels on local schools and halls. Bright Fern Energy representatives advised that community funding requests would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Mr Pont also reported that at the Meridian Energy meeting he attended on 18 August 2025, volunteers poured approximately six metres of concrete at the beginning of the Kurow wetlands track and installed a handrail to make it more accessible.

RESOLVED ACB 2025/032

Moved: Mr Mike King

Seconded: Mr Alan Pont

That the Ahuriri Community Board receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

6.8 ELECTION UPDATE

The report provided an update on pre- and post-election matters.

Chair Calum Reid acknowledged Mayor Kircher's retirement. Mr Reid recalled working alongside Mayor Kircher for approximately nine years while on the Ahuriri Community Board. During this time, Mr Reid has found Mayor Kircher to be very engaging and open to having discussions, and he acknowledged the amount of time and effort that Mayor Kircher has put into the Ahuriri Ward. On behalf of the Ahuriri Community Board, Mr Reid thanked Mayor Kircher and wished him all the best for the future.

Mayor Kircher thanked Mr Reid for his kind words and expressed his appreciation for the working relationships he has had with the current Ahuriri Community Board members. He acknowledged the strength of the current board and commended the members' focus on achieving things for the communities of the Ahuriri Ward. He thanked the members and wished them all the best with their work going forward.

It was noted that member Alan Pont would be unable to make it to the Inauguration Ceremony in Oamaru on the evening of Wednesday 22 October 2025 and would need to be sworn in at the first Ahuriri Community Board Meeting of the 2025-2028 triennium which will be held on Monday 10 November 2025.

7 MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3:47pm.

CONFIRMED at the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting held on Monday 10 November 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON