

Minutes of a meeting of the Maitara Community Board, held at the Maitara Elderly Citizens Centre, McQueen Avenue, Maitara, on Monday 10 March 2025, at 5.30pm.

Present Nicky Coats (Chairperson), Cr Phillips, Laurel Turnbull, Darren Matahiki and Steven Dixon.

In attendance His Worship the Mayor (Mr Ben Bell, from 5.52pm), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Keith McRobie), Rooding Asset Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Governance Manager (Susan Jones), Principal Rooding Engineer (Mr Henri van Zyl), Corporate and Governance Manager (Mrs Amanda Drew), Facilities Administration Officer (Mr Neil Mair), Gemma O'Neill, Places and Spaces Lead, Active Southland (item 2 only), Steve Gear, General Manager Active Young People, Active Southland (item 2 only).

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steven Dixon, seconded by Laurel Turnbull, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Maitara Community Board held on Monday 27 January 2025, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as a true and complete record.

2. PRESENTATION FROM ACTIVE SOUTHLAND (SC3749)

Mrs Gemma O'Neill, Places and Spaces Lead and Steve Gear, General Manager Active Young People with Active Southland, were in attendance and provided an update on the organisation's intent on working with the Maitara community in the future. In 2023, consultation with the community had revealed a number of opportunities, some of which had been taken up by community organisations. Sport New Zealand, as part of its 2024-2028 Strategy would have increasing focus on supporting priority geographic communities to have equitable access to physical activity that contributed to not only their own wellbeing, but that of the community. Like all Regional Sports Trusts in New Zealand, Active Southland would be taking a strengths based, evidence led approach to supporting individuals and support groups in the community. It would be a partnership.

L Turnbull asked what Active Southland offered for the older community. There was no pool and some could not afford to travel to Gore to swim. She said the seniors in the community were missing out. Mr Gear agreed and said while Active Southland

had traditionally been focused more on young people, the strategy did encourage a focus on the whole community. L Turnbull added the Community Centre had been built several years ago, but the Council charged too much that people could not afford to hire it. Mr Gear said there was a lot of strength and knowledge in the community amongst the senior members.

In response to the Chairperson, Mrs O'Neill said there was a Health Coach who worked across the Gore Medical Centre and Gore Health practices. The organisation was able to send staff to communities to help out with opportunities that may be identified.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Laurel Turnbull, seconded by Darren Matahiki, THAT the Board receive and note the report.

The Active Southland representatives departed the meeting at 5.45pm

3. TULLOCH PARK UPDATE (SC1570)

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised contractors were working to have the splash pad project completed by 19 March. It was hoped to have the official opening on 29 March. Eastern Southland Basketball was going to run a mini tournament on the day.

The contractors were connecting water and wastewater services on 12 March. Three seats from the Streets Alive project would be installed on the grass area. In terms of the opening event, the Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa funding received from Active Southland would cover the basketball tournament with basketballs and drink bottles to be given away. Food was not covered but perhaps a BBQ could be provided.

The Chairperson had been in touch with the National Public Health Service and it could provide Smokefree branded gazebos etc to use on the day. The organisation was keen to be involved. Representatives from the Y could also be involved.

The Chairperson asked about sunshade options. The Manager said there was no current budget for sunshade. Something permanent could be a significant cost. The one at Queen's Park was vandalised often. He thought it may cost about \$5-10k for suitable sunshade and there would need to be further investigation about options. There would be a security camera installed.

The Roading Asset Manager suggested there may be an opportunity for corporate sponsorship for sunshade.

His Worship now attended the meeting from 5.52pm.

Discussion ensued about potential local sponsors who could be approached to gauge interest in funding sunshade.

Cr Phillips acknowledged the work of the Parks staff for the work they completed at Tulloch Park in advance of the national Fire Brigade event held recently. The Park had been presented in an excellent condition. The Parks Manager said the Facilities Administration Officer had also been involved. His Worship also acknowledged the work put into the splash pad project to date. It would be a great asset.

4. COSTER PARK CAMPERVAN DUMP STATION (SC0613)

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised the cost of shrub planting and a post and wire sheep fence around the dump station could be met from the Parks operations budget. The cost would be under \$1,000.

An image of the finished plantings and fence was tabled at the meeting. Camellias had been suggested.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Steven Dixon, seconded by Laurel Turnbull, THAT the suggestions of the Parks and Recreation Manager be progressed, noting the cost of a post and wire fence and plantings around the dump station would be met from the parks operations budget.

The Roding Asset Manager tabled an image of a sign to be installed to ensure trucks and trailers did not park near the dump station. Because the parking area was unsealed, there would be no markings. It was proposed to have a ten metre strip parallel to the river to enable vehicles to manoeuvre around the parking area. D Matahiki did not think there was enough room. The Manager said while the signage was not enforceable, he suggested trialling his proposal and if that did not work well, then perhaps a couple more signs would be required. In response to L Turnbull, he was in discussions with NZTA about the position of the signage on Bridge Street. He acknowledged the existing sign was difficult to see coming over the bridge. L Turnbull said there was a tree obscuring it. The Manager said options were being discussed with NZTA. The Chairperson asked if it would be better directing people down McQueen Avenue. The Manager agreed that was another option for discussion. The Facilities Officer said Senior Citizens used the parking area on Fridays and they would need to be consulted. The Chairperson noted the dump station was being well used.

5. ENTRANCE SIGNS (SC2696)

The Parks and Recreation Manager provided an update to the Board on its request for the trees to be removed from the northern entrance sign area. Images for the proposed plantings were tabled at the meeting. He expected the work to be completed within three months.

6. RESIGNATION OF MEMBER (SC3537)

A report had been received from the Governance Manager advising that the resignation of Colleen Lieshout as a member of the Matura Community Board had been received on 23 February 2025. The resignation took immediate effect.

Section 117 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 outlined the process in the event of an extraordinary vacancy arising in a community board. If a vacancy occurred 12 months or less before the next triennial general election, the Board was required to determine by resolution that the vacancy would be filled by the appointment by the Board of a person who was qualified to be elected as a member, or that the vacancy was not to be filled.

The first unsuccessful candidate at the 2022 election for the Matura Community board was Constance Waihape. The Board could determine to appoint Ms Waihape, subject to her agreement. There were four scheduled Board meetings remaining until the 2025 elections.

S Dixon said Colleen had done a lot of work for the Board. The Chairperson added she was still an active member of the community and was happy to help if needed.

Steven Dixon recommended THAT the Board

- a) receive and acknowledge with regret the resignation of Colleen Lieshout with effect from 23 February 2025; and**
- b) note that due to the next Local Government elections being less than 12 months away, in accordance with section 117 (3)(a) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, that the vacancy not be filled.**

The recommendation was seconded by Darren Matahiki.

D Matahiki asked what the protocol in filling the vacancy. His Worship advised the Board's recommendation would need to be approved by the Council, approach the person and get their agreement. They would then need to be sworn in which may not happen until July or August.

His Worship said he thought the Board could struggle to get someone on board for about two months. Cr Phillips thought the Board would be remiss not to approach the highest unsuccessful candidate.

Laurel Turnbull moved as amendment THAT the Board

- a) receive and acknowledge with regret the resignation of Colleen Lieshout with effect from 23 February 2025; and**
- b) that in accordance with section 117 (3)(a) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, that the highest unsuccessful candidate from the 2022 Matura Community Board elections, Ms Constance Waihape, be appointed to fill the vacancy, subject to her agreement.**

The amendment was seconded by Nicky Coats.

The amendment was put and it was carried. It then became the recommendation, was put and it was carried.

Cr Phillips thanked the 3 Waters staff for the work done on the water treatment plant. It had secured the future of the supply for Mataura and had been an excellent job completed.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 28 April 2025, at 5.30pm

The meeting concluded at 6.34pm