

Minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Incorporated Society meeting held at the Tararua District Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on 2 April 2025 at 7pm

1. Present

- 1.1. Committee Members: Ali Romanos (Chair), Raylene Treder (Deputy Chair), Marie Kissick (Treasurer), Ingrid de Graaf, James Devoe, Anaissa Mandal and Sanam Asalmani.
- 1.2. Tararua District Council Representatives: Cr Alison Franklin
- 1.3. Members of the public: Nil

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Georgina Morrison (Secretary).

3. Conflicts of Interest

- 3.1 Raylene Treder will sustain from voting in the discussion regarding the Youth Centre.

Carried

4. Notification of Items not on the agenda / General Business

- 4.1. Ali Romanos attended the Tararua Sports Awards Judging at the Woodville isite on 11 March as the representative of Explore Pahiatua.

Stage

- 4.2. Agreed by the committee to obtain funding to purchase a portable stage that will be available for the community to use. Raylene to apply to ECCT for \$10,000 and Explore Pahiatua will pay the balance dependent on what funding is approved. Bush Multisports Trust have offered that once the stage has been purchased it can be stored in the storage shed. Once funding is obtained the finer details will be discussed with Bush Multisports. In addition, the Committee will consider hirage charges for local organisations. The issue of insurance (including public liability) will need to be considered, too.

ANZAC wreath

- 4.3. Cr Franklin talked about the Committee laying a wreath at the Pahiatua ANZAC day – committee agreed to lay a wreath. Ali Romanos will lay this on behalf of the committee. Resolved to purchase wreath from Thicket (Ali Romanos abstained). Raylene will coordinate with Sarah Romanos to have the wreath made.

Cycle/Walkway

- 4.4. **Action:** Ali Romanos is to find a suitable contractor to get a quote from to spray and then remove the blackberry that is encroaching the pathway from the town bridge to the clay rocks. Horizons currently have grants available for this type of community work. Raylene to provide details of the fund to Ali Romanos.

- 4.5. Ali Romanos to arrange a meeting with Gerry Parker and Don Cameron to discuss the proposed track to the Mangatainoka Reserve. Planning work was completed previously of which Gerry was an integral part.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

An amendment to the 5th March 2025 minutes – Marie Kissick was an apology for this meeting and wasn't in attendance.

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua meeting held Wednesday 5 March 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

6. Matters Arising

- 6.1. Ali Romanos contacted Jerry Parker to have a cycle/path way meeting, unfortunately Gerry couldn't make the meeting. Ali to follow up and, as above, hopefully include Don Cameron in such meeting. **Action:** Ingrid to provide Ali with Don's details.

7. Correspondence

7.1. Inwards

- Tararua District Council:
 1. Updated Grants page now links to extra funding options
 2. Waste-Ed recycling event invitation
 3. Local Water Done Well event
- Requests for Funding Application Forms
- Requests for Funding
 1. Pahiatua Golf Club AED
- Buy A Block for Swimming Pool
- Jamie Coombes – Trophy Engraving
- Susan Hutt – Traffic suggestions
- MP Mike Butterick
- Submission for the Youth Centre – Outer City Mission
- NZTA – Work to be completed on Mangahao Road
- St Johns – AED information updated

7.2. Outwards

- Susan Hutt re Traffic 'calming' devices
- Pahiatua Golf Course informing them the date of the meeting
- Maxine Walshe – Review of the pedestrian crossing on Main Street

- 7.3. The Committee reviewed the grant application submitted from the Pahiatua Golf Course for an AED and it was decided that they should apply to the Bush Charitable Trust as they are a

health-focused organisation. If unsuccessful with Bush Charitable Trust, then they should come back to Explore Pahiatua. **Action:** Raylene Treder to email the Pahiatua Golf Club to inform them of the decision made.

That the inwards be received and outwards noted.

Carried

8. Tararua District Council Report (Cr Alison Franklin)

8.1. Written report

Council Report to Explore Pahiatua – 2nd April 2025 Cr Alison Franklin

Update on Main Street Beech Tree

The remainder of the Beech tree in Main Street opposite Colliers, is due for removal in April after an extensive report from Tree Smart who recommended that the tree be removed for safety reasons. The delay has been a result of the anticipated impact on Pahiatua as trucks over 30 tonne were diverted from the Saddle Road to the Pahiatua Track during the work on the Te ahu a Turanga roundabout at Woodlands Road. Whilst this detour was being used, it seemed counter-productive to arrange traffic management for this tree to be felled. Public notification about the tree's removal will take place closer to the scheduled date once that is set.

Harvard Park

The work to upgrade Harvard Park to meet compliance levels has been completed. This included adding new bark to the playgrounds to achieve a safer fall impact. Also good to see also that the plane and toilet block were cleaned during this upgrade.

S17a Review – Swimming Pools

S17a Review was held but the Pahiatua Swimming baths were not included in the Review. I have picked up an anomaly in the Pool's attendance figures which I plan to raise at Wednesday's CDWB meeting in Dannevirke.

Contestable Fund Round 2 opened today, 1st April, and will close on 30th April with recommendations to be presented for decision making at Council on 24th May. Adjustments have been made to the criteria of the last fund.

Local Water Done Well

Our comms team has spearheaded several initiatives to support LWDW and have developed a shared workspace and developed collaborative materials for Tararua, Carterton, Masterton and SWDC. They've also created working documents to help comms teams to produce joint arterial and information.

Freedom Camping By-Law A Freedom Camping ByLaw

Facebook post generated significant engagement. The pre-consultation Survey reached 14,000 people and was viewed more than 28,000 times which prompted media coverage which created further public discussion. As is always difficult with By Laws of this nature,

policing the rules can be a challenge. TDC made the decision to encourage Freedom Camping to enable families who otherwise couldn't afford a holiday at the beach, for example, the opportunity to freedom camp legally. Akitio Beach is a classic example where the population explodes in the Summer holidays. Sufficient water is the greatest challenge – campers are encouraged to bring their own water to ensure the limited supply to the ratepayers and residents of Akitio, is protected.

Social Media

“Rules of Engagement” Inline with many other Councils across New Zealand, TDC has developed “Rules of Engagement” that are available on the FB page. These are permanently “pinned” as a creature post for ease of access. This has also been published on the TDC Website in the “Contact Us” section. Since the Rules were introduced, there have been several breaches. The individuals concerned have received written warnings and their posts removed. Whilst some may consider this as being against freedom of speech, it is the only mechanism Council has to be able manage misinformation and/or, harassment. In addition to this, the Comms team has created a “Compliments and Complaints” page on its website offering a clear and structure way for the public to provide feedback or report any issues. The Rules of Engagement also apply to this new Website page. A full report on activities across the Website and Facebook page is presented to Council at each CDWB Meeting.

Reserves Management Plan

At last week's Council Meeting, after several hours of discussions, Councillors recommended a couple of minor changes and approved the draft of the Tararua District Reserve Management Plan for Public Consultation. A Hearing Panel was chosen, comprising, Mayor Tracey, Crs Scott Gilmour, Peter Johns, Steve Wallace, Naioma Chase, Mike Long and Sharon Wards. Their role will be to hear the submissions, consider the extent to which objections and comments should be allowed or accepted, or disallowed, or not accepted, and make recommendations to Council with the final decision to approve the final RM Plan will remain with full Council.

That Cr Alison Franklin's Council Report be received.

Carried

9. Financial Report (Marie Kissick)

9.1. Current status

The balance of the main account is \$74,410.86

The balance of the Business Group account is \$1,157.31.

9.2. Invoices to be approved for payment on 20 March:

	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	De Lesseps Media Ltd	Bush Telegraph Feature	\$1,077.68
2.	Mitre 10	Community Garden Materials	\$10.98
3.	Mitre 10	Dog Park – grasses and materials	\$51.02

	Payee	Description	Amount
4.	Trophy Specialists and Engravers	Engrave Christmas Parade Trophies	\$82.00
5	Nova Energy	Youth Centre – power (due 4 April)	\$86.49
6.	Laura Draws NZ	Community Garden Mural (to come out of grant)	\$2,000
7.	Emma Elliott Reimbursement	New World – Seedlings, morning tea for the working bee	\$23.70
		TOTAL	\$3,331.87

9.3. Invoice since last meeting for retrospective approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
CC Elliott	Ply for Community Garden Mural	\$150.30
Ruahine Property Management	Concrete work for Dog Park	\$2,748.50

9.4. As a reminder, the following amounts are tagged funds:

	Project	Amount
1.	Harvard Playground	\$20,000.00
2.	Carnival Park (originally \$9,289.33 but reduced by \$1,736.25 for Jan invoice, \$985 for seedlings, \$1,471.25 ABC invoice June, \$1,000 tree removal June.)	\$4,096.83
3.	Bush Telegraph Advertising (less payments since 1 August)	\$1,525.44
4.	Community Garden remaining infrastructure works	\$ 181.70
5.	Community garden operating costs for year ended June 2025	\$707.99
6.	Community Garden Mural (reflecting \$2,300 grant received) To be used for invoices above.	\$2,300.00
7.	Lawnmowing for Polish memorial (until Nov 2025)	\$1,200.00
8.	Discretionary funding originally \$7,507 (less \$1,700 for Pahiatua Painting and Sculpture Group, \$750 for Toy Library, \$1,000 for Pahiatua Shears, \$1,555 Children’s Day)	\$2,502.00
	TOTAL	\$32,513.96

Action: Marie Kissick to send in the accountability to Waireka Community Trust for the completion of the Rotary Dog Park.

That the financial report from Marie Kissick (Treasurer) for the preceding month be received and identified invoices approved for payment.

Carried

10. Portfolio Reports

10.1. Pahiatua Districts Business Group (PDBG) (Ingrid de Graaf)

- As per report (**annexed**).

10.2. Explore Pahiatua Marketing (Ingrid de Graaf)

- As per report (**annexed**).

10.3. Carnival Park (Karolyn Donald)

- As per report. (**annexed**).

10.4. Swimming Baths (Karolyn Donald)

- As per report (**annexed**).

10.5. Community Garden (Emma Elliott)

- As per report (**annexed**)

10.6. Swimming Pool (Raylene Treder)

- As per report (**annexed**)

10.7. Rotary Dog Park (Raylene Treder)

- As per report (**annexed**)

10.8. Road Safety Committee (Marie Kissick)

- As per report (**annexed**).

10.9. Civil Defence (Georgina Morrison)

- Ongoing

10.10. Harvard Playground Upgrade (James Devoe)

- As per report (**annexed**)

10.11. Youth Centre (Ali Romanos)

- As per report (**annexed**).
- Discussion was held regarding the consultation held on the Youth Centre and the one submission received.
- Committee resolved we would now sell the building.
- Ali Romanos to discuss options for selling the building with Property Brokers Pahiatua.

Next meeting date: 7 May 2025 at Tararua District Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua

Meeting Closed at 8:38pm.

Ali Romanos (Chair): _____

Annexures

PDBG (Ingrid de Graaf)

- BA5 at PBP Screenprinting only attracted 2 people despite extensive advertising (it was a great BA5, Dallas was an excellent host, so this is a huge shame!)
 - BA5 for Crystal Blue Waterblasting on 16th April (will only go ahead if decent numbers register) – to be advertised shortly
 - Planning to do a questionnaire to see what businesses want from the PDBG – include a ‘carrot’ to answer? – is it better to a physical or online survey? Still feel like it would be good to have another passionate person onboard with the PDBG, mainly for ideas ... very hard bouncing ideas off yourself! Would like to get the PDBG humming but I’m stuck on where to begin!
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Marketing (Ingrid de Graaf)

- Have caught up with Anaissa to do a Facebook handover (agreed to work together for the time being)
- Sarah Romanos has granted Facebook access for Anaissa and Sanam
- March Bush Telegraph – Youth Centre building consultation
- Ideas for use of April Bush Telegraph
- Facebook: posted regarding Youth Centre consultation, posted regarding BA5, posted regarding ‘Waste-Ed’ workshop, posted regarding ‘Water you Reckon’ consultation.
- And drumroll please ... with the help of James, the Polish Memorial sign has been installed!

Community Garden (Emma Elliott)

- As we move into Autumn, plans for Winter are being discussed. Growing beds that get little winter sun will be rested and soil improvements made to beds that remain heavy with clay. Working bees will be reduced to one per month in April.
- In March we collaborated with Tararua Community Services, Hamua Ora Heartlands, Pahiatua Help N Hand and Palmerston North Women’s Refuge to run a burger night at the garden. It was well attended by Pahiatua community including garden volunteers. The lettuce, tomatoes, and white cabbage and onions for coleslaw were all grown in the garden. The meat for burgers was supplied by WaiWaste Food Rescue and buns sponsored by New World.
- Our fresh produce continues to be shared with neighbours to the garden, with volunteers at working bees, with attendees to our beginner garden sessions and with Pahiatua foodbank.

All bar three pumpkins were harvested early by fence jumpers and discussions at this week's working bee will centre around planning for an alternative growing space for pumpkins next summer. This will enable us to grow better volumes without the threat of picking too early as the alternative growing space will not be open the public.

- March's beginners gardening session attracted just seven people. REAP Wairarapa have not replaced the coordinator for Eketāhuna and Pahiatua so advertising by them was reduced. I will endeavour promote the last session, to be held on Sunday 13 April, better.
- Our Creative Communities funded mural has been started by artist Laura Cannon. I have shared her process of designing the mural on our Facebook page. Laura has provided her invoice for payment. We hope to have a mural reveal event in June.
- With 31 March 2025 being end of the third quarter, our budget of \$2k is 65% spent at \$1292.01, leaving \$707.99 remaining. To date, 52% was spent on seeds and seedlings, 33% on hardware like garden stakes and mural sundries and 13% on compost, potting mix etc.
- I have tagged the last of our infrastructure funds \$181.70 for guttering at the rear of picnic shelter, boysenberry vine supports and propagation shed within the verandah of the existing tool shed. No doubt this project will also eat into our \$2k budget.

Swimming Pool (Raylene Treder)

- Expressions of Interest for the pool has been advertised by TDC this will be open for 15 Working Days.

Rotary Dog Park (Raylene Treder)

- Seating has been installed, signage up and agility equipment completed. Planting of grasses will be completed over the next couple of months when the ground isn't so hard.
- As part of the MOU Explore Pahiatua has with the Tararua District Council we are required to complete the spraying of the park and lime track.
- Can I please suggest that we get the Bush Multisports caretakers to spray quarterly/six monthly as per needed to keep this looking tidy. Cost would approximately be per spray \$100-\$150

Harvard Playground Upgrade (James Devoe)

- Rayleen and I had a meeting with Andrew, the playground designer, to discuss upgrading some of the equipment at the playground. He's taken our ideas and will create a few design plans, which he'll present to us in 4-5 weeks.
- Our main idea is to replace the old monkey bars near the plane with obstacle course-style equipment. We also plan to swap out one of the existing swings for a basket swing to add more variety and accessibility to the playground.

Stage

- We have decided to opt for a portable stage instead of building a permanent one for several reasons. First, being so close to the road, it's likely that the NZTA will need to get involved, which could complicate matters and cause delays. Additionally, building a stage might be more expensive.
- We have communicated with both dance teachers in town (Kate and Louise), and they both agree that a portable stage is a much better option. A portable stage can be set up wherever needed, providing greater flexibility. It will benefit the community by being available for various events, and schools can also use it, making it far more beneficial than a permanent stage in a fixed location. Bush Multisport has also agreed that, if we proceed, they will be happy to store the stage at their storage facility. Attached are three quotes. The first quote is for a 4x3m stage, but we would need 2 of these as one won't be large enough. The third quote is significantly more expensive for a stage only 600mm wider than the middle option. We are leaning towards the middle quote as it offers a good balance between price and size.
- Keen to hear your guys' thoughts on this, the other questions that were asked were if we are keen to hire the stage out etc and what would the cost be

Treasure Carnival Park (Karolyn Donald)

- Carnival park scenic reserve - northern fence line replaced and paid for by doc. Vegetation cleared along this boundary. Pines trimmed and removed on North western corner where they posed a health and safety risk also paid for by doc. All these works now complete.
- Several wasp nests found and dealt with.
- Weed management continues.
- Kanuka and manuka saplings now being cared for by camp custodian until Pines are removed. Fund raising to remove these Pines now begins in earnest.

Pahiatua Swimming Pool (Karolyn Donald)

- Pools - closed mid March after a slow start but steady rest of the season with numbers matching previous years overall.

Youth Centre (Ali Romanos)

- We received one 'submission', which was in fact more an expression of interest to purchase the building.
- There were two attendees at the consultation meeting (from the same party) – the same people who submitted the above.

Road Safety (Marie Kissick)

- I have contacted Senior Constable Maxine Walshe to ask her to carry out a review for the need for a pedestrian crossing at the southern end of Main St. I have also emailed Susan Hatcher-Hutt about her concerns around Tyndall St.