

**Minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Incorporated Society meeting held at the Tararua District Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on 5 March 2025 at 7pm**

**1. Present**

- 1.1. Committee Members: Ali Romanos (Chair), Raylene Treder (Deputy Chair), Georgina Morrison (Secretary), Marie Kissick (Treasurer), Ingrid de Graaf, James Devoe, Anaissa Mandal (co-opted to Committee during meeting) Sanam Asalmani (co-opted to Committee during meeting)
- 1.2. Tararua District Council Representatives: Mayor Tracey Collis, Cr Scott Gilmore
- 1.3. Members of the public: Don Cameron, Ross Gillespie

**2. Apologies**

- 2.1. Marie Kissick (Treasurer), Cr Alison Franklin, Ric Cullinane

**3. Co-option to Explore Pahiatua Community Committee**

- 3.1. The Committee discussed the co-option of Anaissa Mandal & Sanam Asalmani.

**That Anaissa Mandal & Sanam Asalmani are co-opted as officers and committee members of Explore Pahiatua Inc.**

**Ali/Raylene**

**Carried**

**4. Conflicts of Interest**

- 4.1. Nil.

**5. Notification of Items not on the agenda / General Business**

- 5.1. Town stage.

**6. Confirmation of Minutes**

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

**Carried**

**7. Matters Arising**

- 7.1. Nil.

**8. Correspondence**

**Inwards**

- Tararua District Council:

- Grants available
- Notification of Freedom Camping Bylaw
- Notification of Mike Butterick MP visit
- Requests for funding application forms:
  - Bonnie MacShannon
- Requests for funding:
  - Ministry of Inspiration: Aquabots programme
- Toy Library Committee: Thanking Explore Pahiatua for grant towards new computer.
- Buy A Block re Swimming Pool:
- Susan Hutt re Traffic 'calming' devices along Tyndall Street. Referred to Council which, in turn, referred Ms Hutt back to Explore Pahiatua.
- GYMs newsletter with sporting information.

#### **Outwards**

- Nil.

- 8.1. The Committee discussed the grant application. The Committee agreed it was an interesting project but unfortunately not an appropriate fit within our funding criteria, given it (a) is a national organisation and (b) the regional event did not benefit an adequate proportion of Pahiatua's residents.
- 8.2. **Action:** Georgina to advise the applicant their grant was declined, and supply the Guru link to further funding sources.
- 8.3. **Action:** Ingrid to share the successful grants from this financial year on Facebook. Georgina/Sanam to list these on our website.

**That the inwards be received and outwards noted.**

**Carried**

#### **9. Tararua District Council Report (Cr Alison Franklin)**

##### **9.1. Written report**

###### *Meeting with Minister Mark Patterson*

NZ First Minister for Rural Communities met with Mayor Tracey, Cr Scott, Cr Sharon Wards and myself at the Pahiatua Service Centre late last week. The key topics for discussion were, rural health and rural connectivity. We came away from the meeting feeling that the Minister had listened to our concerns in relation to our Doctor shortage, our remote areas where resident have huge travelling distance to Medical Centres, and/or Hospitals. With the disbanding of the Rural Health Alliance our small communities haven't really had had strong

voice. We discussed our concerns for our residents in terms the ability to get into a Doctor/Nurse Practitioner in our rural towns. The problems residents in our rural areas struggle with in terms of having good connectivity for online consults etc. Connect Tararua has had great success in obtaining 10 cellphone towers for our district, plus the most recent win for Norsewood, our rural village with retail/online businesses such as NZ Natural Clothing company who sell their products all around the world. The improvement to their connectivity with the new tower, has been most welcome. Minister Patterson listened, asked a myriad of questions and we left meeting feeling that we had an ally in cabinet who would take our concerns back to Health New Zealand and his fellow members of Parliament.

#### *Damaged Beech Tree in Main Street gardens*

I will give a verbal report on the status of the tree at the Meeting.

#### *Local Water Done Well – Wai+T project*

The Coalition Government will repeal the Three Waters in favour of a LWDW plan. Whilst the Government has been keen for Councils to work collaboratively with neighbouring Councils/Regions a surprising number of Councils across NZ have opted to “go-it-alone.” This is not a viable option for the Tararua District. TDC are now working closely with the Wairarapa Councils to create a CCO and so will work together to improve delivery of water services. We are therefore collaborating with Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council. A water Services Delivery Plan has to be developed by September this year. The Plan must include financing arrangements and baseline information about water services operations, assets, revenue and expenditure.

#### *Contestable Fund – Round One*

The first round of the Contestable fund established by TDC has just been finalised and decisions made about how best to share the \$50,000 available in Round One. The results of the first round are now available on the TDC Website. The criteria seemed to lack sufficient guidelines for the applicants, with some applying for over \$100,000. Council agreed that a clearer explanation of how the Fund is to be distributed, is needed, together with a very clear picture of how much is available to apply for in each Round.

#### *Submissions to the Draft Traffic Management and Road users By-Law*

Council received a number of written submissions, with only two of the submitters wishing to speak to their submission. These were both rurally based and included Federated Farmers Chair and another spokesperson from the Feds. Their concerns in relation to traffic management when moving stock on country roads were discussed at length. Both submitters were given ample opportunity to express their concerns with one of the main concerns being, consulting more directly with our local Farmers when it comes to issues that affect them directly. Whilst the By-Law was so called publicly, the Fed Farmers felt that Council could get the message out more clearly if they'd talked with farmers about “what farmers do”. The By-Law also strongly related to stock crossings where stock is moved regularly. The By-Law states that the farmer is responsible for either “washing down the road” after the stock has crossed, or that suitable matting is put down to protect the road surface from permanent damage.

## *S17A Service Delivery Review for Solid Waste Management*

The review examined whether the current methods of delivery waste management services in the District, are efficient, effective and suitable. Two Height Consultants attended the presentation to explain the process they followed, their findings and their recommendations. One of the highlights from their investigation was the significant improvement of our Refuse Transfer Stations since the services had been brought “in-house”. Recommendations and future considerations were affordability and sustainability, managing costs, adoption of a “circular economy”, collaboration for innovation with neighbouring Councils. There was lengthy discussion around the benefits of purchasing a side-loader rather than hiring one., clarification if the savings experienced from in-sourcing and what additional expenditure would be sought through the Annual Plan. Concern was expressed regarding the loss of incentives for recycling if refuse collection was funded through rates, rather than a user-pays basis.

- 9.2. Mayor Collis reported that the tree referred to in Cr Franklin’s report will need to be removed due to decay. Mayor Collis noted consultation would take place on Local Water Done Well options from next week. Any thoughts from Explore would be welcome in the upcoming Long Term Planning Process.

**That Cr Alison Franklin’s Council Report be received.**

**Carried**

## **10. Financial Report (Marie Kissick)**

### 10.1. Current status

The balance of the main account is \$78,677.49

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

### 10.2. Invoices to be approved for payment on 20 March:

	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	De Lesseps Media Ltd	Bush Telegraph Feature	\$538.84
2.	Mitre 10	Community Garden Seedlings/Fertiliser/Stakes plus Mural Materials (\$75.35)	\$185.33
3.	Emma Elliot reimbursement	Community Garden – New World - Seedlings and Coffee and Cake for Working Bee	\$ 43.95
4.	Freedom Signs	Sign for Polish Memorial	\$446.20
5	Nova Energy	Youth Centre – power (due 10 March)	\$153.51
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,367.83</b>

### 10.3. Invoice since last meeting for retrospective approval:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Traffic Management NZ	Road Closure for Explore Christmas	\$2,526.51

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

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	Signage for Polish Memorial (less \$446.20 TBD – can we remove this now?)	\$553.80
2.	Harvard Playground	\$20,000.00
3.	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
4.	Dog Park – Waireka Grant - \$10K less \$260 digger works, \$3,256.11 seats, \$1,323.15 at Mitre 10, \$366.85 Beale Trucking and \$45.34 Mitre 10 (Dec)), \$2,018.01 Beale Trucking (Dec), \$290.46 Mitre 10 (Jan and Feb), \$400.20 Beale Trucking (Jan).	\$2,961.07
5.	Bush Telegraph Advertising (less payments since 1 August)	\$2,064.28
6.	Community Garden remaining infrastructure works	\$ 181.70
7.	Community garden operating costs for year ended June 2025	\$ 869.27
8.	Community Garden Mural (reflecting \$2,300 grant received)	\$2,300.00
9.	Lawnmowing for Polish memorial (until Nov 2025)	\$1,200.00
10.	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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,728.95</b>

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

**Carried**

**11. Grant applications: Ministry of Inspiration**

- 11.1. The Committee discussed the grant application regarding Aquabots. The Committee agreed it was an interesting project but not a good fit for our criteria because it is a National Organisation; and the community-wide benefit was minimal.
- 11.2. Action: Ingrid to share the successful grants from this financial year on Facebook and Georgina/Sanam to list these on our website.
- 11.3. Action: Georgina to advise the applicant their grant was declined and supply the Guru link to further funding sources.

**12. Cycle and walking tracks**

- 12.1. Don Cameron and Ross Gillespie (separately) addressed the Committee.
- 12.2. Don Cameron noted that Ric Cullinane would have like to attend in the future. Don has discussed a cycleway many times with local businessman Kevin Laskey who is keen to support but has limited capacity. Don believes there is a great opportunity in our district for cycleways which will bring tourism opportunities.
- 12.3. Don spoke to his previous experience supporting cycleways (with upkeep from community)

in the Ruapehu District including Old Coach Road, roughly aligned with the original route. Don noted that for such projects, planning is needed which requires input from Council, Community and Iwi. Don noted that in his experience Iwi at times made the process smoother, such as supporting signage promoting areas of historical Māori significance. During Don's previous foray, there was funding available under a National-Greens partnership from central government. Don suggested that, where unformed public roads exist, private landowners cannot object. Don noted that, by 2017, his community was looking after three main tracks and, since, these have expanded. Don noted communities smaller than Pahiatua have been behind this funding and track maintenance. Don suggested going for a walk with mana whenua / local Iwi, who may point out wahi tapu areas or other significant sites. They may be interested in promoting signage. Don noted there are regional advisors available who can discuss legal aspects / a regional field advisor whose job is to support regional tracks. Horse riders may also be keen to support. There is a track specialist who looks after North Island tracks who also liaises with Iwi and DOC. Horizons would need to be involved.

- 12.4. Ross Gillespie spoke to his previous experience helping establish walkways on Waiheke, noting there was an International Walking Festival. Ross recorded his concern about the neglect of reserves bordering the river; that improving water quality would encourage people to use the river more including fishing activity. Ross had recently met and walked with Ali Romanos along the current river track between the town bridge and water intake to demonstrate his ideas about improving/restoring the reserve. Ross considered that the Resource Management Act made Council responsible for looking after open spaces and the environment. Ross promoted the blackberry areas being cleared, with the intention of allowing walkways to be constructed/enhanced. Separately, Ross suggested the crusher area was incompatible with the park. Ross indicated that, previously, there had been a plan for a walkway from the town bridge to Carnival Bridge. Ross believed landowners were often in favour but very risk-averse. Separately, Ross spoke to the importance of the town clock.
- 12.5. During discussion of Don and Ross's contributions, Mayor Collis noted that previous attempts have been made where funding was requested in the past from Waireka Trust. She believed these records would be available in Explore archives or Waireka applications. Cycleways are in the Council's strategy but there is a very limited funding pool available from the Council across many projects. With regards to pest plants such as blackberry, Mayor Collis wasn't sure who is in charge of maintenance. Raylene noted Horizons used to do this maintenance work but no longer undertakes this.
- 12.6. Ali thanked both Don and Ross for their attendance and contributions.
- 12.7. Action: Ali to meet with Gerry Parker to get some background and seek to obtain previous plans for this project.

### **13. General Business**

- 13.1. Stage for town centre: Raylene has discussed the idea of building a stage with Council in the situation the Explore finds the funding. They require a design which needs to be checked by Council's planning teams as well as, potentially, NZTA.
- 13.2. Children's Day: The Committee commended Ingrid for her role in organising Children's day. Mayor Collis reflected how excellent the event had been received in the community.

13.3. AED Update: The Default / Product Recall as discussed last meeting has been checked and did not affect our defibrillator. While checking it, it transpired Emergency Services didn't have the exact code, so St Johns has been asked to notify the correct code so there's no delay during an emergency (code is C1234).

#### **14. Portfolio Reports**

14.1. **Pahiatua Districts Business Group (PDBG)** (Ingrid de Graaf)

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

14.2. **Explore Pahiatua Marketing** (Ingrid de Graaf)

- Anaissa talked to making our content be more relevant by using other platforms. Anaissa is happy to take-over the social media aspect of this portfolio.
- Otherwise, as per report (**annexed**).

14.3. **Carnival Park** (Karolyn Donald)

- No update.

14.4. **Swimming Baths** (Karolyn Donald)

- No update.

14.5. **Community Garden** (Emma Elliott)

- As per report (**annexed**)

14.6. **Swimming Pool** (Raylene Treder)

- As per report (**annexed**)

14.7. **Rotary Dog Park** (Raylene Treder)

- As per report (**annexed**)

14.8. **Road Safety Committee** (Marie Kissick)

- No update.

14.9. **Civil Defence** (Georgina Morrison)

- Ongoing work re needs assessment as we need to purchase items prior to June. Very happy to have other's opinions. Georgina has been checking in with other services and organisation to ensure we have a coordinated approach.
- Action: Georgina to share the Needs Assessment with the committee

14.10. **Harvard Playground Upgrade** (James Devoe)

- As per report (**annexed**)

14.11. **Youth Centre** (Ali Romanos)

- Ali circulated draft consultation document. Ingrid to finalise notice in Bush and Facebook.
- Building to be open to public on 25 March, with Ali to attend for Committee.
- Submissions on sale proposal invited by 28 March.

**Next meeting date:** 2 April 2025 at Tararua District Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua

Meeting Closed at 8:43pm.

Ali Romanos (Chair): \_\_\_\_\_



## Annexures

---

### **PDBG (Ingrid de Graaf)**

- BA5 at PBP Screenprinting postponed to the 11<sup>th</sup> March – everyone welcome, see flyer attached
  - I have contacted MCI & Associates regarding holding a GST focussed workshop but only received an initial confirmation of my email – I may try another firm as I sense that they are reluctant to be involved.
  - Now Explore Christmas and Children's Day are both done and dusted will turn focus back to the PDBG! Always keen for new event ideas – just fire them at me!!!
- 

### **Marketing (Ingrid de Graaf)**

- Bush Tele – early February – Community Garden advert
  - Bush Tele – late February – Children's Day (sponsored advert)
  - Bush Tele – 10<sup>th</sup> March – Youth Centre consultation – advert to be formatted after meeting week.
  - Facebook – post Community Garden advert, share PDBG advert for BA5, post regarding cycleways/walkways portfolio, share regarding NZTA speed limit increases, share Children's Day colouring in comp, share TDC post regarding freedom camping, share Chris Penk event in Dannevirke, post regarding Children's Day (copy of advert in Bush Tele).
- 

### **Community Garden (Emma Elliott)**

- Our regular volunteers have consistently shown up for most of the twice a month working bees this summer. These are Karen Hunter, Fiona and Suse McKellar, Jenny and Steve McCarthy, Brian Dent, Melody Lawrence, Greg who drives the community van, Louise and David Powick and me Emma Elliott. Watering duties during this dry summer have been taken up by Karen, Fiona and I. The water tank is less than one-quarter full. It has been a blessing to have the tank.
- This season, we have had great success with beans, zucchini, brassicas, potatoes, tomatoes, silverbeet, strawberries, onions and lettuces. And beetroot, parsnip, chillies, passion fruit, feijoas, eggplant and capsicums are yet to come. Pumpkin and yam harvest numbers has been reduced by early picking. Our fresh produce continues to be shared with volunteers at working bees, with attendees to our beginner garden sessions, with community attending Sunday harvest times, with Pahiatua foodbank and between Kai shelves in town. We are grateful to be able to lock the gate to protect the hard work of our volunteers. We will unlock when the feijoas are ready and pumpkins are stored.
- February's beginner's gardening session attracted ten people including a couple all the way from Norsewood and a local mother and adult daughter who come to Sunday harvest times. The next session is Sunday 16 March 1pm -3pm. Wairarapa REAP are asking for a minimum of seven attendees. I will also be running one in April. I am paid preparation and tutoring hours.

- Our mural panels for the back of the picnic shelter are soon to be underway. The final drop off materials from Mitre 10 Pahiatua to our mural artist will happen this week. We are most grateful to Laura Cannon for revising her plan to fit our Creative Communities grant. We are grateful to Five Rings Ltd/ Pahiatua Mitre 10 would have covered the cost of the plywood and paints. Sundries like brushes and sandpaper are included in our operating expenses. We have an installer lined up and only the graffiti shield to source direct from Resene. Our sponsors logos will displayed on the shelter in due course.
  - Our next infrastructure project is guttering at the rear of picnic shelter, boysenberry vine supports and propagation shed o within the verandah of the existing tool shed.
  - Our ongoing work to improve the soil condition awaits a new delivery of calf shed mulch. Christine, the chicken lady from Tiraumea Hill has recently dropped off more chicken manure to the garden. Scott Gilmore will be asked for more sawdust for compost making and the volunteers will soon be shovelling horse manure at RDA to add to the mix.
  - We hope to run some pruning workshops in autumn having established a lime, a plum, a peach and a new apple in the stock pound.
- 

### **Swimming Pool (Raylene Treder)**

- Two successful events held in February – Golf Tournament approx - \$8,000 and House and Garden Tour approx. \$15,000 – Totals to be confirmed.
  - TDC have arranged a QS to look over the design and finalise costs, once completed Council will decide on when BAT have the green light to start and how the tender process will look.
- 

### **Rotary Dog Park (Raylene Treder)**

- Some of the agility equipment has been installed.
- Signs and seating to go in over the next couple of weeks.

Accountability form needs to be completed and returned to Waireka Community Trust.

### **Harvard Playground Upgrade (James Devoe)**

- I've emailed Fontayne Chase regarding the budget and maintenance for the playground but have not received a response yet. Yet to schedule a meeting with Andrew Healy from creospace, a company that builds playgrounds across New Zealand and was recommended by TDC. We'll be reviewing the equipment that needs upgrading as well as discussing landscaping plans.