



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O
ŌTOROHANGA
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Open Minutes

ŌTOROHANGA COMMUNITY BOARD

6 October 2025

Open Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Ōtorohanga Community Board held in Waikōwhitiwhiti (Council Chambers), Ōtorohanga District Council, 17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga on Monday, 6 October 2025 commencing at 4.00pm.

Tanya Winter, Chief Executive

9 October 2025

Ōtorohanga Community Board attendance

Chairperson	Councillor Katrina Christison	Attended
Deputy Chairperson	Peter Coventry	Attended
Board Member	Kat Brown-Merrin	Attended
Board Member	Jo Butcher	Attended
Board Member	Councillor Steve Hughes	Attended
Board Member	Tori Muller	Attended
Mayor	Max Baxter	Attended

ŌDC senior staff in attendance

Chief Executive	Tanya Winter	Attended
Group Manager Engineering and Assets	Mark Lewis	Attended
Manager Community Facilities	Jared Le Fleming	Attended

Opening formalities**Ngā tikanga mihimihi**

Commencement of meeting	Te tīmatanga o te hui	5
Opening prayer/reflection/words of wisdom	Karakia/huitao/whakataukī	5
Apologies	Ngā hōnea	5
Public forum	Hui tūmatanui	5
Late items	Ngā take tōmuri	5
Declaration of conflict of interest	Te whakapuakanga pānga taharua	6
Confirmation of minutes	Te whakaū i ngā meneti	6

Decision reports**Ngā pūrongo whakatau**

Item 37 Ōtorohanga Dog Agility Course	6
--	---

Information only reports**Ngā pūrongo mōhiohio anake**

There were no reports.

Other business**Ētahi atu take**

Valedictory Speeches	7
Board projects	8
Discretionary Fund	8
Resolution Register	Rēhita tatūnga 9

Public excluded**Take matatapu**

There were no reports.

Closing formalities**Ngā tikanga whakakapi**

Closing prayer/reflection/words of wisdom	Karakia/huritao/whakataukī	9
Meeting closure	Katinga o te hui	9

Workshops**Hui awheawhe**

Briefing: Update on bus stop seating	Open
Briefing: Ōtorohanga decorative streetlight pre-set calendar	Open

These Open Minutes were prepared by PA to Group Managers, Cathy Plowright and approved for distribution by Group Manager Engineering & Assets, Mark Lewis on 9 October 2025.

Commencement of meeting**Te tīmatanga o te hui**

Chairperson Christison declared the meeting open at 4.00pm.

**Opening prayer/reflection/words
of wisdom****Karakia/huitao/whakataukī**

Councillor Christison provided the following karakia to open the meeting: *E te Atua, thank you for bringing us here today. As we come together for our final meeting of this triennium, we give thanks – for the work we’ve done side by side, for the people who’ve given their time and energy to make a difference, and for the community we’re all so proud to serve.*

We’re grateful for the opportunities we’ve had to listen, to learn, and to lead – sometimes through challenges, but always with the best interests of Ōtorohanga at heart. May we continue to be guided by kindness, respect, and that real sense of community spirit that makes this place special.

As we wrap up this chapter, may we remember that it’s not about the titles or the term – it’s about the impact we’ve had, the relationships we’ve built, and the small changes that add up to something lasting.

So tonight, let’s celebrate the journey we’ve shared, the things we’ve achieved, and the people who’ve walked alongside us along the way.

*Ngā mihi nui,
Amen*

Apologies**Ngā hōnea**

There were no apologies.

Public forum**Hui tūmatanui**

There were no requests to speak.

Late items**Ngā take tōmuri**

There were no late items.

Declaration of conflict of interest**Te whakapuakanga pānga taharua**

There were no declarations made.

Confirmation of Minutes**Te whakaū i ngā meneti**

Resolved O113: That Ōtorohanga Community Board confirm as a true and correct record of the meeting, the open Minutes of the meeting held on 01 September 2025 (document number 846344).

Board Member Butcher | Councillor Hughes

There were no matters arising.

Decision reports**Ngā pūrongo whakatau****Item 37 Ōtorohanga Dog Agility Course**

Manager Community Facilities, Jared Le Fleming, took his report as read and added that a working group had met several times to discuss the project, ultimately narrowing the options down to the equipment, layout and costs detailed in his report. He said a Facebook poll that had been conducted to see what the community thought was extremely positive and had allowed Council to move forward with the community's blessing.

Board Member Coventry thanked everyone around the table for working so hard to get this done.

Resolved O114: That Ōtorohanga Community Board:

- a) Approve the amount of \$45,000 be allocated from the Ōtorohanga Community Board reserve fund to construct a dog agility course as stated in option 1, subject to Ōtorohanga District Council approval of recommendation b) and c).
- b) Recommend Ōtorohanga District Council approve funding of an additional \$500 per year to the Ōtorohanga Parks and Reserves operating budget to maintain these additional assets.
- c) Recommend Ōtorohanga District Council approve the addition of the dog agility course to the Council's asset base and included in the annual depreciation calculations, currently estimated at \$2,500 per annum.

Board Member Butcher | Board Member Coventry

Information only reports**Ngā pūrongo mōhiōhio anake**

There were no reports.

Valedictory Speeches

Councillor Christison

Councillor Christison acknowledged and thanked board members for their service and said it had been a privilege to work alongside them all. She said each member had brought something unique to the table – their time, ideas and genuine care for the community. She said the things achieved by the board had made a real difference for the people who call Ōtorohanga home.

She made special mention of Board Member Coventry, who has served on the Community Board for nine years, which is an incredible commitment in itself, but also because he serves the community every day through his work as a pastor. She said his heart for others, steady kindness and faith had made a real impact on the team and on Ōtorohanga as a whole. She said even though his time on the Board is coming to an end, his service to the community would continue.

She thanked Board Member Brown-Merrin for her six years of service to the Community Board and bringing a genuine passion for people and a great understanding of how local government works. She said that insight had been valuable and helped bring balance and perspective to discussions.

She thanked Board Member Muller for her community-minded approach and always being willing to get involved and offer ideas. She wished her well for her new employment venture and said she would continue to make a difference wherever she went.

She said Councillor Hughes had been a steady and committed voice around the board table, as the Ōtorohanga Ward elected member, and she wished him all the best in the upcoming election in the Waipā Ward. She said she had no doubt that he would continue to serve the wider community with same dedication as he has shown the Community Board.

She thanked Board Member Butcher for serving on the board for the past three years and said she was thrilled she had been elected unopposed to the Kāwhia-Tihiroa Ward of Council.

In closing, Councillor Christison thanked board members for their commitment, teamwork and the difference they have made. She said it had been an honour to serve alongside them.

Board Member Butcher

Board Member Butcher thanked board members for the past three years. She said the experience she had gained from being a part of the board, and what she had learned from Council staff, had enabled her to move forward to the Council table. She said she would continue to pick board members' brains for thoughts and ideas. She said she had been proud to work with the board over the past three years.

Board Member Muller

Board Member Muller thanked board members for the debate and laughter over the last few years. She said she had chosen not to stand in the upcoming election, because of her new role, but intended to in the future. She said reflecting on her journey over the past three years, and the question of how to encourage

young people to stand for office in Ōtorohanga, she had observed it can be difficult to attend workshops and meetings whilst juggling work and family commitments. She said those were the voices that were needed the most and she asked board members to think about ways to support this in future.

Councillor Hughes

Councillor Hughes thanked Councillor Christison for stepping up and taking the chair when Board Member Brown-Merrin stood down. He also extended thanks to Board Member Brown-Merrin for initially being the chair at the start of the term.

Board Member Brown-Merrin

Board Member Brown-Merrin thanked Councillor Christison for stepping up into the role of chair. She said she had enjoyed the conversations and debates during her time on the Community Board.

Board Member Coventry

Board Member Coventry said it had been a privilege to serve on the Community Board for the past nine years. He said there had been lots of laughter, along with lots of challenges, but also a lot of amazing things had happened during that time. He assured board members he would continue to be around serving the community.

Presentations

Board Members Muller, Brown-Merrin and Coventry were each presented with a bouquet for flowers from the Mayor in thanks for their service on the Ōtorohanga Community Board. Mayor Baxter said this was a small acknowledgement for the incredible contribution they had all made.

Board projects

Project 4: Ōtorohanga dog park

This had been covered earlier in the meeting (item 137).

Discretionary Fund

No funds were distributed. General reserve will be going down with dog agility park being built.

Resolution Register**Rēhita tatūnga**

The Register was not amended.

Public excluded**Take matatapu**

There were no reports.

Closing prayer/reflection/words of wisdom**Karakia/huritao/whakataukī**

Board Member Coventry provided the closing karakia.

Meeting closure**Katinga o te hui**

Chairperson Christison declared the meeting closed at 4.18pm.

Workshops

Open to the public to attend

Hui awheawhe**Briefing: Update on bus stop seating**

4.18pm to 4.33pm

An update was provided following on from discussion at the last board meeting

Briefing: Ōtorohanga decorative streetlight pre-set calendar

4.33pm to 4.59pm

Guidance was sought from board members on the pre-set calendar for decorate streetlights during 2026.

These Open Minutes were not confirmed by Resolution due to the Local Government Elections. The Unconfirmed Minutes were circulated by email and Members had 7 days to request any corrections. Chairperson Christison and ŌDC's Chief Executive have signed the Minutes as a true and correct record.

Chairperson Katrina Christison	ŌDC Chief Executive, Tanya Winter

Date: