



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O
ŌTOROHANGA
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Open Minutes

Ōtorohanga Community Board

9 June 2025

Ōtorohanga Community Board

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, 9 June 2025 commencing at 4.00pm.

Tanya Winter, Chief Executive

12 June 2025

Ōtorohanga Community Board attendance

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

Senior staff in attendance

Chief Executive	Tanya Winter	Apology
Group Manager Business Enablement	Graham Bunn	Attended
Group Manager Engineering & Assets	Mark Lewis	Attended
Group Manager Regulatory & Growth	Tony Quickfall	Apology
Group Manager Strategy & Community	Nardia Gower	Apology
Chief Advisor	Ross McNeil	Apology

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	5
Confirmation of minutes	Te whakaū i ngā meneti	6

Decision reports	Ngā pūrongo whakatau	
Item 38 Ōtorohanga Community Metered Water Charges		6
Item 39 Ōtorohanga Community Board Discretionary Fund		7

Information only reports	Ngā pūrongo mōhiohio anake
There are no reports.	

Other business	Ētahi atu take	
Board Member updates		8
Board projects		8
Discretionary Fund		8
Resolution Register	Rēhita tatūnga	8

Public excluded**Take matatapu**

There are 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**

Monthly discussion with staff	Open
Ōtorohanga Dog Agility Park	Open

These Open Minutes were prepared by Manager Governance, Kaia King and approved for distribution by Group Manager Engineering & Assets, Mark Lewis on 12 June 2025.

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

Chairperson Katrina Christison declared the meeting open at 4.00pm.

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

Board Member Butcher provided the following words of wisdom: Listen in order to persuade. Unlike the eyes which are always adult size from birth, the ears never stop growing. Maybe that is why children aren't very good at listening. Does the ability to listen come with age as our ears grow? Unfortunately, not, listening is a rare skill, but it can be developed. Listen to others to increase your influence. The best way to persuade people is with your ears by listening to them. ~ Dean Rusk.

Apologies**Ngā hōnea**

Resolved O103: That Ōtorohanga Community Board receive and accept the apologies from Board Members Brown-Merrin and Muller for non-attendance.

Deputy Chairperson Coventry | Councillor Hughes

Public forum**Hui tūmatanui**

No members of the public had requested 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 O104: That Ōtorohanga Community Board confirm as a true and correct record of the meeting, the open Minutes of the meeting held on 07 April 2025 (document number 817915).

Deputy Chairperson Coventry | Board Member Butcher

Decision reports**Ngā pūrongo whakatau****Item 38 - Ōtorohanga Community Metered Water Charges**

ŌDC's Brendan O'Callaghan, Manager Finance took the report as read noting the Board had the opportunity to make a recommendation to Ōtorohanga District Council (ŌDC) on the water rates for 2025/26.

Councillor Hughes raised concern around the percentage increases since the charges were increased in the current year. Mr O'Callaghan noted the Board could make any recommendation to ŌDC. He noted the current Long Term Plan had budgets to ensure costs were covered. He then provided a handout of the budgets. Councillor Hughes queried the impact of a decision by ŌDC to move to a CCO for water services, and how a delay on increasing charges would impact any transition. Mr O'Callaghan advised the current discussions were that debt was ringfenced to for Council for a period of time. Board Member Butcher agreed the increases had potential to cause extra stress as interest rates were only just starting to reduce but a rates increase was anticipated. She spoke on the need for water conservation education and spoke in support of reducing the increases for the 2025/26 financial year.

Deputy Chairperson Coventry agreed noting there was no easy answer as an increase could be worse timing for the community in 2026/27. Board Member queried the leak detection programme in the budget and ŌDC's Mark Lewis spoke on the improvement of water loss from 40% in 2023/24 to the anticipated loss of 23% at the end of the financial year. He advised improvements do not usually go under 20% due to the diminishing cost benefit ratio. He stated there needed to be a budget for leak detection, but it was only spent as needed. He commented the increased Taumata Arowai and Commerce Commission regulations had driven additional costs for 2025/26. Mr O'Callaghan spoke on the distribution of those costs across the various water schemes.

Mr O'Callaghan advised a decision was made as part of the development of the current Long Term Plan to reduce water scheme deficits to zero by taking a loan over 25 years. He said this meant the current financial year had a zero deficit and the end of year estimate was \$250k. He noted the deficit fluctuated based on consumption. Mr O'Callaghan then provided the fixed and consumption charges for similar rural councils. Board Member Butcher spoke on the importance to communicate to the community that the water charges were the smallest of those mentioned. She spoke on reducing the charges for 2025/26 but communicating that they would be increasing in 2026/27. Chairperson Christison also spoke on the importance of communication. Mr Lewis spoke on the benefits and disadvantages of using a fixed charge. Councillor Hughes reiterated that community was very important to set expectations on future increases.

Deputy Chairperson Coventry spoke on the importance of ensuring a lower increase in 2025/26 did not cause a much higher increase in future years. Chairperson Christison suggested increasing the fixed charge and reducing the consumption charge. Mr O'Callaghan provided updated figures for several scenarios.

Resolved O105: That the Ōtorohanga Community Board recommend to Ōtorohanga District Council that the 2025/26 Metered Water Rates be set at:

- a) \$220 per connection per annum (GST exclusive); and,
- b) \$2.00 per cubic meter of water (GST exclusive); and,
- c) That communication on the increases be provided to the Ōtorohanga community.

Councillor Hughes | Board Member Butcher

Item 39 - Ōtorohanga Community Board Discretionary Fund

ŌDC's Graham Bunn advised the Kāwhia Community Board made the same recommendation to Ōtorohanga District Council. He noted the Board had previously advised that in general operating expenditure could not be carried forward but to avoid a last minute scramble to allocate funds at the end of the financial year, staff have presented the report for consideration. Deputy Chairperson Coventry queried how many years funds could be carried forward and Mr Bunn advised the allocation was at the discretion of the Board to use as required. Board Member Butcher spoke in support of making a recommendation. Councillor Hughes noted the Board needed to hold discussions on the use of the Fund.

Resolved O106: That the Ōtorohanga Community Board recommend to Ōtorohanga District Council that any balance left in the Ōtorohanga Community Board Discretionary Fund as at 30 June 2025 be carried over to the following financial year and be included in the carryover schedule for adoption by Council in September.

Councillor Hughes | Deputy Chairperson Coventry

Information only reports

Ngā pūrongo mōhiohio anake

There were no reports.

Board Member updates

No updates were provided.

Board projects

Project 4: Ōtorohanga dog park

Chairperson Christison noted a workshop would be held on this project following the meeting.

Discretionary Fund

No allocations were made from the Fund.

Resolution Register

Rēhita tatūnga

Resolved O107: That the Ōtorohanga Community Board confirms the removal of Resolution O102 from the Register.

Deputy Chairperson Coventry | Board Member Butcher

Public excluded**Take matatapu**

There were no reports.

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

Board Member Butcher provided the following whakataukī: A person with a narrow vision has restricted horizons; a person with wide vision has plentiful opportunities. He rangi tā matawhāiti, he rangi tā matawhānui.

Meeting closure**Katinga o te hui**

Chairperson Katrina Christison declared the meeting closed at 5.12pm.

Workshops**Hui awheawhe****Monthly discussion with staff**

Open

Ōtorohanga Dog Agility Park

Open

Board Members Christison, Coventry, Butcher, and Hughes were in attendance. Information was pre-circulated to the Committee and a handout was provided at the workshop. The workshop commenced at 5.13pm and concluded at 5.34pm. A sub-group to progress the project would be formed consisting of several Board Members and ŌDC staff. Councillor Hughes left the meeting at 5.37pm.

There being no further business, the day concluded at 5.38pm.