

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CROMWELL COMMUNITY BOARD
HELD IN THE CROMWELL SERVICE CENTRE, 42 THE MALL, CROMWELL
AND LIVE STREAMED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2026
COMMENCING AT 2:03 PM**

PRESENT: Ms A Harrison (Chair), Ms R Anderson, Mr M Casey, Mr W Sanford,
Cr S Browne

IN ATTENDANCE: P Kelly (Chief Executive Officer), L Fleck (Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision), Q Penniall (Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), P Penno (Community and Engagement Manager), G Bailey (Parks and Recreation Manager), G Robinson (Property and Facilities Manager), G Chrystall (Community Experience Manager), M Burnett (Parks Officer – Strategy/Planning), A Longman (Head of Destination), W McEnteer (Governance Manager), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer)

1 KARAKIA

MR CASEY GAVE A KARAKIA TO BEGIN THE MEETING.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Lisa Telle and Edward Raffles - Community Concerns of Sandflat Road Solar Farm

Ms Telle and Mr Raffles spoke about the planned removal of the pine trees on Sandflat Road, noting that there are no suitable alternative areas for dog walking. She said that losing such a large area of recreational land would be extremely detrimental to the town, and advised that she had gathered a petition of more than 600 signatures in support of retaining the area for recreational use.

Ms Telle then responded to questions.

Chris Goddard/ Lloyd Morris short briefing on the Tarras Community Plan

Mr Goddard spoke about the updated Tarras Community Plan, describing the document as a "long negotiated average" of the aspirations held by the approximately 1,000 residents rather than a single unitary view. He emphasised that while the community held diverse opinions on significant "hero projects" like the proposed international airport and mining developments, the plan explicitly prioritised a rural-residential character. He urged members of the Board to study the plan to better understand the distinct "Tarras voice" and values when engaging in discussions about the region's development.

Mr Goddard then responded to questions.

Bob Scott – The restructuring of medical equipment assets at Dunstan Hospital

Mr Scott outlined a proposal to restructure the ownership of Dunstan Hospital's assets to ensure they remain under local community control through Central Otago Health Inc. He explained that the changes would simplify the hospital's operations without any loss to the community, whilst also highlighting the Dunstan Hospital Foundation's efforts to expand on the services they offer. He

concluded by encouraging the Board to support the Foundation's fundraising initiatives and noted that this cause was an ideal opportunity for community fundraising or benevolent support.

Denis Ryan and Fraser Scott - Cromwell RSA - Naming of the new complex

Mr Ryan outlined the RSA's positions in the replacement hall project to date and the collaborative process with the RSA and the Council during the early stages of the project. He emphasised that the hall's name had always included the word "Memorial" to honour the original hall and the tradition of welcoming returned service personnel, noting that remembrance and connection to heritage and history should remain central. He proposed three preferred names on behalf of the RSA:

- Cromwell Memorial Heritage and Events Complex
- Cromwell Memorial Pavilion
- Cromwell Memorial Arts and Heritage Centre

Mr Ryan and Mr Scott then responded to questions, and it was noted that board members would attend the next RSA meeting in March.

Harvey Perkins and Martin Anderson - the cycle trail from Gibbston to Bannockburn and its implications

Mr Perkins spoke on behalf of the Bannockburn Responsible Development Society Inc. about the urgent need for a Bannockburn Spatial Plan, highlighting projected high cyclist numbers associated with the Kawarau Gorge Trail opening in 2026.

He outlined concerns about inadequate parking, a lack of public toilets, drinking water and safe cycling connections to the village. He said the Community Board needed to begin planning now to manage the impacts of increased visitation and to ensure appropriate public facilities and services were provided.

Mr Perkins then responded to questions.

Peter MacDougall - Cromwell Racecourse Reserve

MR MACDOUGALL PRESENTED A PROPOSAL TO HOST A MAJOR VINTAGE MACHINERY EVENT AT THE RACECOURSE RESERVE, CROMWELL IN 2027, INTENDED TO REPLACE "WHEELS AT WANAKA." HE NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN LIAISING WITH THE CURRENT LESSEES OF THE SITE AND REQUESTED THE BOARD'S PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT EARTHWORKS FOR A PARADE GROUND AND AN EARTHMOVING PIT, EMPHASISING THAT THE AREA WOULD BE RESTORED FOLLOWING THE EVENT. HE ALSO OUTLINED PLANS TO ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE TRUST INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY BOARD TO MANAGE THE ONGOING OPERATIONS OF THE PLANNED BI-ANNUAL EVENT.

MR MACDOUGALL THEN RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: **Browne**
Seconded: **Anderson**

That the public minutes of the Cromwell Community Board Meeting held on 25 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligations in respect of declaring any interests. There were no further declarations of interest.

6 REPORTS

Note: By permission of the meeting item 26.1.3 was heard first.

26.1.3 NEW FACILITY NAMING DISCUSSION AND PROCESS

To consider and agree the process to engage the community in the naming of the new facility.

The Board discussed the process for naming the new facility following the public workshop earlier in the day. An additional resolution clarified that consultation results would be reported to the Board in April, with a final recommendation presented to the Council on 29 April.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Anderson

Seconded: Browne

That the Cromwell Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Recommends to Council that a district-wide public engagement for the English naming of the new facility is over a two-week period commencing Monday, 2 March 2026.
- C. Recommends to Council that feedback is gathered via online and hard copy survey.
- D. Notes that a high-level awareness and education campaign will begin prior to the public engagement period.
- E. Notes that Elected Members will lead the community engagement with support from Council staff.
- F. Notes that the findings will come back to the Board's 7 April meeting for its recommendation to the 29 April Council meeting.

CARRIED

26.1.2 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

To appoint community board representatives community organisations where necessary.

The Board resolved to consolidate specific committee roles by combining Tarras' Community Plan and Hall roles and Bannockburn's Community Centre and Recreation Reserve roles into broader "Community Liaison" positions.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Browne

Seconded: Sanford

That the Cromwell Community Board

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- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Appoints representatives to community organisations as follows:
- Cromwell and Districts Community Trust – Mike Casey
 - Cromwell and Districts Promotions Group – Mike Casey
 - Cromwell District Museum – Anna Harrison
 - Cromwell Youth Trust – Wally Sanford
 - Old Cromwell Incorporated – Rebecca Anderson (as per the Trust Deed)
 - Lowburn Hall Committee – Wally Sanford
 - Tarras Community Liaison – Rebecca Anderson and Sarah Browne
 - Bannockburn Community Liaison – Rebecca Anderson and Anna Harrison
 - Friends of Cromwell Cemetery – Wally Sanford
- C. Notes the organisations where the Board appoints representatives from time to time when required:
- The Community Board Chair can appoint two members to the Cromwell College Charitable Trust in the case of retirement or replacement of a member as per the Trust Deed
 - Cromwell Resource Centre Trust (known as Cromwell Community House) – The appointment of 5 representatives as per the Trust Deed
 - Central Otago Sports Turf Trust – The appointment of 2 representatives as per the Trust Deed

CARRIED

7 MAYOR'S REPORT

26.1.4 MAYOR'S REPORT

Her Worship the Mayor was an apology for the meeting so no report was presented.

8 CHAIR'S REPORT

26.1.5 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair gave an update on activities and issues since the last meeting.

- Had attended meetings with CLEC team as part of the plan to hold 'Wheels in Cromwell'.
- Had spoken on Radio Central as part of her weekly spot.
- Had attended the Classic car event in Cromwell.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Sanford
Seconded: Anderson

That the report be received.

CARRIED

9 MEMBERS' REPORTS

26.1.6 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Members gave an update on activities and issues since the last meeting.

Cr Browne reported on the following:

- December was full of prizegiving's and end-of-year celebrations for our rangatahi, which highlighted the talent and recognised and celebrated the students hard work, and noted that as a rural area we are definitely punching above our weight.
- Gave an update from the December Council Meeting:
Noted the progress in Roxburgh as the Project Steering Group investigate alternative sites and options for the Entertainment Centre rebuild.
Alexandra's Centrepoin Mall experienced issues with trees in the town centre.
The draft Parks and Reserves Bylaw was agreed to proceed to consultation.
- Gave an update from the January Council Meeting:
Peter Newport from Crux spoke in the public forum about the benefits and possibilities of outsourcing some media and engagement work.
Te Korowai presented their evaluation report, which recognised strong community engagement and interaction, while noting areas for continued growth.
Cromwell and Vincent reserve management plans were prepared for consultation.
Council changed its nomination for the Santana/MGL mine fast-track application panel from former Cllr Gillespie to Gary Rae, an experienced hearing panel chair with extensive knowledge of Central Otago.
Council negotiated a road access agreement with Santana/MGL, securing a financial contribution to be used toward ongoing major projects or other avenues. This was not an endorsement of the mine but aimed to help offset costs given potential rates capping and rising ratepayer expenses.
- Other Community Events & Engagement:
Attended the Cherry Festival and the Harness Races noting that both events drew large crowds and provided affordable family entertainment, showcasing Cromwell at its best.
Attended the Tarras Hall group meeting and enjoyed connecting with this very active community.

Mr Casey reported on the following;

- Cherry harvest was finally finishing that week, commenting that it had been an extremely busy harvest season.
- He had been working on a solar farm concept with the Rewiring team and expressed a desire to hold a workshop for all elected members and Council staff to explore the concept and potential solar-related revenue opportunities.

Ms Anderson reported on the following;

- Had attended the Otago Rowing Championships in December as a volunteer.
 - Had enjoyed the community getting involved in the roundabout weeding in December.
 - Attended the Coffee and Chat event at Forage and noted the strong turnout and engaging conversations.
 - Attended the Tarras Hall Committee meeting and outlined the many projects that the community are involved in.
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- Had a tour of the “Facility by the Lake” and had arranged for some Cromwell College senior students and teachers to visit facility and encouraged them to engage with the naming process.
- Had attended the South Island Club Rowing Championship at the end of January as a volunteer.
- Noted the positive feedback on the tidy up in the mall.

Mr Sanford reported on the following:

- Attended Speedway events; noted eight planned events over recent months, with two cancelled due to low entries and weather.
- Attended the Cherry Spitting event; it was well attended with excellent weather.
- Participated in the Town and Country Club Fishing Competition; caught six perch, one brown trout, and three rainbow trout. Approximately 140 entries, well attended despite cooler conditions.
- Went on a camping holiday in Geraldine.
- Attended NZGP at Highlands; Cromwell venues and service providers were fully booked, providing great exposure for Cromwell during the Central Otago summer.
- Participated in the tidy up of the towns roundabouts, noting there was strong community involvement with over 100 labour hours contributed, plus machinery, materials, and financial investment. The commercial equivalent was estimated to be over \$7,000.
- Attended American Invasion Speedway; attended by seven American sprint car drivers, which promoted New Zealand and Cromwell internationally. Jason Scott, Pete Murphy, and their team were commended for hosting.
- Attended the Cromwell Classic Car and Hot Rod Festival; attendance was slightly lower than peak years but still well attended. Rumours of the show leaving town were dismissed by organisers, confirming it would continue at the same location next year.
- Attended the Cromwell Swap Meet hosted by the Central Otago Vintage Car Club; it successfully rounded out the Friday night cruise and Saturday car show and provided significant fundraising for two local clubs.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Sanford
Seconded: Anderson

That the report be received.

CARRIED

10 STATUS REPORTS

26.1.7 FEBRUARY 2026 GOVERNANCE REPORT

To report on items of general interest, receive minutes and updates from key organisations and consider the status report updates.

Staff gave a verbal update on the play strategy hui that will be taking place in the district in March and the progress on the Play Strategy.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Casey
Seconded: Sanford

 That the report be received.

CARRIED

11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 3 March 2026.

12 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Recommendations

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Plain English Reason
Confidential Minutes of the Cromwell Community Board Meeting held on 25 November 2025	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Commercial sensitivity
26.1.8 - February 2026 Confidential Governance Report	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Commercial sensitivity

 The public were excluded at 4.10 pm and the meeting closed at 4.51 pm.