

**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 TUESDAY, 5 MAY 2026 COMMENCING
AT 2:00 PM**

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

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) via Microsoft Teams, S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), A Mason (Media and Marketing Manager), R Williams (Community Development Lead), B Sharland (Corporate and Strategic Planner) via Microsoft Teams, F Somerville (Roading Service Officer), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer)

KARAKIA

Mr Casey gave a karakia to begin the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies from the board but it was noted that Her Worship the Mayor was an apology.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

Karen Palmer Cromwell Community Resilience Group and Jacqui Lamberth from Emergency Management Otago

Mrs Palmer spoke to the work of the Cromwell Community Resilience Group: that the group's primary role was to build community awareness and preparedness for emergency events, helping reduce pressure on emergency services.

Mrs Palmer noted that the group operated under the umbrella of Cromwell Community House with support from Emergency Management Otago, and emphasised the importance of the Community Board's involvement through attendance at meetings to support information sharing, community engagement, promotion, and volunteer recruitment.

Helen Scoles – Road Naming in Gair Avenue

Ms Scoles spoke to the street naming process for Gair Estate, noting that her family had farmed the site as a dairy farm and that a bridge used to access the property in the 1800s still remained. She advised that six generations of her family had lived in Cromwell and requested that the names Scoles and Williams be considered as part of the street naming process for the new development.

Eve O'Brien – Central Otago Friendship Network

Ms O'Brien spoke in support of the grant application from the Central Otago Friendship Network, outlining the organisation's work to reduce social isolation and support social connection opportunities across the region, particularly for people experiencing disability or other barriers to participation.

She advised that the organisation provided facilitated social activities, individual friendship support, and worked alongside existing community groups and networks to connect isolated individuals.

She noted that the organisation had 29 active volunteers, including three in Cromwell, and that demand for services in the area was increasing, with more referrals involving clients with complex needs.

Ms O'Brien stated that the requested funding of \$3,500 would support staffing hours to provide regular local support, strengthen collaboration with other organisations, and enable the delivery of community social activities in Cromwell.

Ms O'Brien then responded to questions.

Paddy Henderson and Sophie McSkimming – NZ Police, “Grab the Reins”

Mr Henderson spoke to the grant application for the 'Grab the Reins' programme, outlining its work with Cromwell College students referred due to non-attendance or behavioural issues. He described the activities they had undertaken, including working with horses, field trips, and other interest-based community activities.

He advised that the programme currently supported four students each term, with a wider need identified, and that participation required daily school attendance, with students removed from the programme if attendance expectations were not met. Mr Henderson noted positive outcomes, including improved engagement and peer role modelling, and explained that funding would assist with costs such as fuel for field trips, which were often currently self-funded.

Rebecca Smith – Lakeside Christian Centre

Ms Smith spoke to the grant application for the Manna Project, led by the Cromwell Lakeside Christian Centre, outlining a community outreach initiative established in 2024 to provide free firewood to families in Central Otago experiencing financial hardship. She advised that the project had developed from a Council-led opportunity to utilise firewood and had grown into a coordinated initiative working with agencies such as Plunket, Anglicare, budget services, and family support services to identify and assist households in need.

Ms Smith explained that funding was sought to support equipment and safety gear, including wood-splitting equipment and chainsaws, to ensure the ongoing safety and sustainability of the project.

Caitlin Dykes - Cromwell and Districts Promotions Group

Ms Dykes spoke regarding the grant application from the Cromwell and Districts Promotions Group, outlining its role in promoting Cromwell as a destination and encouraging community engagement through a programme of events and promotional activities.

Ms Dykes noted that these events supported community connection, strengthened local identity, and attracted visitors to the district, and acknowledged the ongoing support of the Cromwell Community Board. She explained that funding was sought to assist with increased event costs and operational expenses, and advised that the group was working towards long-term financial sustainability through sponsorship, business partnerships, and progressing towards a charitable trust structure.

Tara Kind and Dylan Rushbrook - BMX Club

Mr Rushbrook and Ms Kind presented a video and spoke to the grant application from the Cromwell BMX Club to cover promotion costs for hosting the South Island BMX event in January 2027, outlining that it was one of BMX New Zealand's three major annual events and that the event would attract an estimated total attendance of around 1,200 people.

Mr Rushbrook noted the club's strong track record and quality track facilities, and highlighted the anticipated economic and community benefits. They explained that the event would be promoted to build early engagement within both the BMX and wider community, with additional activities

planned to extend visitor stays, and advised that successful delivery would strengthen Cromwell's ability to bid for future national events.

Terry Davis - Goldfields Heritage Trust - World Gold panning Championships

Mr Davis spoke in support of the grant application from the Goldfields Heritage Trust, outlining the proposed hosting of the World Gold Panning Championships in Cromwell, which had been secured following a bid developed during the COVID-19 period and several years of preparation.

He advised that the event would take place in September 2026 and involve international participants, generating significant media, television, and social media coverage, including live streaming and on-site screens to promote local businesses and regional attractions. Mr Davis noted the anticipated economic benefits from increased visitor numbers and extended stays over the eight-day event, and advised that the Trust had secured substantial funding and sponsorship support, including contributions from committee members and local businesses. He explained that the funding sought from the Community Board would enhance the delivery and promotional impact of the event.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Casey
Seconded: Anderson

That the public minutes of the Cromwell Community Board Meeting held on 7 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligations in respect of declaring any interests.

Mr Sanford declared an interest in item 26.4.11 and did not take part in the discussions or vote on the item.

5 REPORTS

Note: By permission of the meeting item 26.4.3 was heard first and Lisa Lowrey joined the meeting for this item.

26.4.3 CROMWELL EARLY LEARNING CENTRE INC COMMUNITY GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

To consider the accountability report from the Cromwell Early Learning Centre Inc for their 2025/26 community grant.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Browne
Seconded: Casey

That the report be received.

CARRIED

Note: Ms Harrison left the meeting at 3.05 pm and returned at 3.07 pm.

26.4.2 2025-26 COMMUNITY AND EVENTS & PROMOTIONS GRANT APPLICATIONS - 2ND FUNDING ROUND

To consider the second round of the community and promotions & events grant applications for the 2025/26 financial year. To consider applications to the 2026/27 year promotions and events grant.

Each application was discussed and the board considered the community and events and promotions grants separately.

The late application from the Goldfields Heritage Trust was considered by the Board, who noted that the timing of the application was unfortunate for an event that had been five years in the planning.

It was discussed that there would be potential for further applications related to Te Puna Mahana | Cromwell Memorial Events Centre and the board considered the potential to create a specific grants fund for this purpose.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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

Recommendations

That the Cromwell Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance
- B. Approves a grant of \$3,500 to the Central Otago Friendship Network for the Cromwell Social Connection Support project.
- C. Approves a grant of \$5,000 to Grab the Reins for costs associated with the programme for the 2026 and 2027 calendar years.
- D. Approves a grant of \$4,500 to the Lakeside Christian Centre for a log splitter.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: **Sanford**
Seconded: **Browne**

- E. Accepts the late application from the Goldfields Heritage Trust.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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

- F. Approves a grant of \$95,000 to Cromwell and Districts Promotions Group for the 2026-27 events Light Up Winter, Street Party and Fireworks and Cherry Festival from the 2026-27 financial year promotions and events grant budget.
 - G. Approves a grant of \$15,000 to Cromwell BMX Club for BMX New Zealand South Island Championships marketing / promotion, infrastructure including Marquee, Toilets, audio visual
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equipment, security and track management from the 2026-27 financial year promotions and events grant budget.

- H. Approves a grant of \$5,500 to Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust for the World Gold Panning Championships 2026 event from the 2025-26 financial year promotions and events grant budget.
- I. Notes that it is each grant recipient's responsibility to obtain and/or have in place the appropriate consents, plans and licences (including resource consent, health and safety plans etc.) as required by legislation, agencies, property owners and/or individuals to undertake the projects.
- J. Notes that pre-approved grants for the 2026-2027 financial year will be subject to the draft budgets remaining unaltered and the adoption of the Annual Plan.]

CARRIED

26.4.4 LONG TERM PLAN 2027/37 - PROJECT UPDATE

To consider an update on the Long-Term Plan 2027/37 project progress.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Casey
Seconded: Anderson

That the report be received and its contents noted.

CARRIED

26.4.5 APPOINTMENT OF A CROMWELL COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER TO THE WHEELS IN CROMWELL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of a member of the Cromwell Community Board to participate in the external organising committee associated with the proposed Wheels in Cromwell event.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Browne
Seconded: Casey

That the Cromwell Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Appoints Wally Sanford as a liaison to the Wheels in Cromwell organising group.

CARRIED

26.4.6 ROAD NAME APPROVAL REPORT - GAIR AVE

To consider a request to name two roads in Stages 1A and 1B of the Gair Ave subdivision in Cromwell.

It was noted that, if the name Reid was selected, a red poppy would be included on the sign as part of Council's collaboration with the RSA to recognise fallen soldiers through the Places of Remembrance project.

It was further noted that the roading team were planning work to promote public submissions of names for inclusion on the approved road names list.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Sanford
Seconded: Anderson

That the Cromwell Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Agrees that the roads be named Reid Street and Bransgrove Crescent.
- C. Agrees that the names Hayes, Kemna, and Scoles were added to the Cromwell Community Board list of approved road names.
- D. For future naming of streets in the Gair Avenue Estate, notes the significance of the name Scoles to the site.

CARRIED

6 MAYOR'S REPORT

26.4.7 MAYOR'S REPORT

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

7 CHAIR'S REPORT

26.4.8 CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- Attended a site visit to the Otago Polytechnic campus. Received a tour of the site and discussed current programmes being delivered, mixed delivery models combining online and face-to-face learning, and future development plans. It was noted that it would be useful to connect them to the Ngāi Tahu Trust.
 - Attended a site visit to the memorial gardens with representatives from the RSA and, Naylor Love, and Council staff to review site logistics for the ANZAC service.
 - Attended the blessing of the memorial gardens with Mana Whenua.
 - Participated in a Te Reo naming workshop facilitated by Aukaha.
 - Attended the ANZAC Day service at the new memorial gardens and laid the wreath on behalf of the Cromwell Community Board. The inaugural event for the cenotaph in its new
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location was very well attended and excellently organised by the Cromwell RSA. Joined attendees at the Cromwell Town and Country Club following the service.

- Attended the April Council meeting and spoke on behalf of the Cromwell Community Board to provide context and background supporting the recommendation for naming of Te Puna Mahana | Cromwell Memorial Events Centre.
- Hosted the Cromwell RSA for the annual ANZAC assembly at Goldfields School.
- Attended local rugby fixtures supporting the Cromwell Goats, including wins over Wakatipu, Maniototo, and Alexandra, reflecting a strong season to date.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Harrison
Seconded: Casey

That the report be received.

CARRIED

8 MEMBERS' REPORTS

26.4.9 MEMBERS' REPORTS

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

Cr Browne reported on the following:

- Noted that it had been a slightly quieter month for Council and board commitments but that the start of winter sport season had been busy.
- Spoke of the announcement from the Honourable Chris Bishop MP regarding the restructuring of local government and noted that this would generate significant discussion and potential change for councils across the country.
- Gave an overview of reports to the recent Council meeting, including the naming of Te Puna Mahara | Cromwell Memorial Events Centre, and noted the extensive discussion regarding the naming and the ordering of the names, and felt that the Council discussions reflected those at board level.
- Attended a visit to Otago Polytechnic's Central campus and noted positive developments, with encouraging signs of programme stability and growth.
- It was noted that attendance at the ANZAC Day ceremony had been a privilege, and the significance of the occasion was acknowledged.

Mr Casey reported on the following:

- Won a 'Wild Dunedin' Speech Competition with a speech focused on sustainability.
 - Visited six farmers in Southland to view solar installations that had been inspired or influenced by earlier engagement and advocacy work.
 - Appeared on RNZ discussing ratepayer assistance schemes (RAS).
 - Spoke with a PhD student researching climate policy.
 - Attended an online Cromwell and Districts Community Trust meeting where the topic of electrifying Cromwell was discussed.
 - Presented to the Cromwell Lions Club, assisted the Cromwell Men's Shed, and spoke with Alex from Central Otago Motorcycle Club regarding potential integration of solar generation with a cross-country motocross lap.
 - Appeared on the NZ Business Podcast and participated in the NZ Tech Podcast.
 - Attended ANZAC Day commemorations at Te Puna Mahana | Cromwell Memorial Events Centre and the dawn service at the Cromwell Cemetery.
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- Spoke with Gary from KiwiHarvest regarding food resilience and the potential integration of food growing within the Sandflat Road solar farm proposal.
- Met with a Taranaki-based solar installer (Farmgen) and suggested council staff connect with this installer to investigate potential application in Central Otago.
- Presented at the EY Tax Forum in Auckland on ratepayer assistance schemes (RAS) and related matters.

Ms Anderson reported on the following:

- Attended an Old Cromwell Precinct meeting. Discussion focused on parking concerns associated with the upcoming opening of Te Puna Mahara. Progress continues with the Chinese Village restoration alongside those involved in the original build, some issues at McNulty House which are being further investigated and early planning is underway for a fundraising event in February 2027.
- Assisted with the RSA annual poppy collection in the industrial area and at Nichols.
- Participated in a walkthrough of the Bannockburn Road campus at Otago Polytechnic with John Christie and Rachel Petrie.
- Attended the Whakawātea at the Cromwell Memorial Grounds.
- Attended the ANZAC Day service in Tarras, alongside more than 130 local residents. Laid a wreath and enjoyed local hospitality. Also discussed potential hall upgrades with the hall committee, including accessibility improvements and ways to honour ANZAC heritage.
- Volunteered with the Cromwell Lake Dunstan Ladies Lions, assisting with the making of 500 dozen cheese rolls and noted the outstanding work that they do.
- Detailed that she had been busy knitting Peggy Squares for the Premmie Knitting Club, which was recently featured on Seven Sharp.

Mr Sanford reported on the following:

- Attended the blessing of memorial grounds and noted the significance of the occasion.
- Delivered the ANZAC Day address at the Lowburn Ceremony.
- Attended the ANZAC Day service at Cromwell Memorial Gardens.
- Attended a workshop on the naming of Te Puna Mahana | Cromwell Memorial Events Centre and noted discussions regarding naming considerations and community significance.
- Attended the 'Cromwheels' Project Coordination meeting and noted progress on project planning and coordination.
- Attended soccer matches in both Alexandra and Wānaka.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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

That the report be received.

CARRIED

9 STATUS REPORTS

26.4.10 MAY 2026 GOVERNANCE REPORT

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

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: **Sanford**

Seconded: **Browne**

That the report be received.

CARRIED

10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 2 June 2026.

11 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: **Browne**

Seconded: **Casey**

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 – 7 April 2026	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
26.4.11 - Options for Sale of the Gair Avenue Development	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 s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations	Commercial sensitivity To enable commercial activities To enable commercial or industrial negotiations

	(including commercial and industrial negotiations)	
26.4.12 - Bannockburn Industrial Development - Sale & Purchase (Lot 4)	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	To enable commercial activities
26.4.13 - May 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

CARRIED

The public were excluded at 4.37 pm and the meeting closed at 6.37 pm

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CHAIR / /