

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MANIOTOTO COMMUNITY BOARD
HELD IN THE RANFURLY SERVICE CENTRE, 15 PERY STREET, RANFURLY
AND LIVE STREAMED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 7 MAY 2026 COMMENCING
AT 2:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mr M Harris, Mr L Dowling, Cr S Duncan, Ms R McAuley

IN ATTENDANCE: T Alley (Mayor) via Microsoft Teams, P Kelly (Chief Executive Officer), Q Penniall (Group Manager - Planning, Infrastructure and Regulatory), S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), A Mason (Media and Marketing Manager), R Williams (Community Development Lead), B Sharland (Corporate and Strategic Planner) via Microsoft Teams, A Crosbie (Policy and Strategy Lead), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer)

1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Duncan
Seconded: Dowling

That apologies from Mr D Helm be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Note: By permission of the meeting the Mayor's Report was heard first.

2 MAYOR'S REPORT

26.3.5 MAYOR'S REPORT

Her Worship the Mayor gave an overview of her recent activities:

- Noted the Minister of Health's announcement this week on a clinical services plan, which included additional funding for Central Otago, Maniototo, and surrounding areas. It was noted that the plan referenced future hospital provision for the district and could result in improved local health services, including telehealth opportunities and potential funding for Maniototo Hospital to expand local services.
- Discussed recent local government reform announcements this week, and outlined the requirement for councils to consider submitting proposals within three months. Options including amalgamation, a unitary council model, or maintaining the current structure were discussed, with nothing ruled out at this stage. It was noted that changes to regional councils were expected ahead of the 2028 local body elections.
- Attended the LGNZ Zone 5 and 6 conference in Christchurch last week and received an update on the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme, including proposals for equity-backed loans through the Local Government Funding Authority which could be helpful for residents to help fund solar options or other improvements and a rates postponement mechanism, with repayment deferred until sale of the property or other specified circumstances.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Harris

Seconded: Duncan

That the Maniototo Community Board receives the report.

CARRIED

2 PUBLIC FORUM

Janyne Fletcher and Kristina Willis - Ranfurly Signs

Ms Fletcher and Ms Willis updated the board on their proposal for two welcome to Ranfurly signs at either end of the township, with locations subject to final approval. Ms Fletcher outlined that the design concept was railway inspired and intentionally simple, with a focus on authenticity and durability. Ms Fletcher noted that they were keen to ensure the signage would be a credit to the area and noted that guidance had been received from Fulton Hogan, including an indication of what NZTA would permit, along with input and support from council staff.

They then responded to questions.

Kristina Willis – Māniatoto Heritage Orchards

Ms Willis spoke in support of the grant application for the Māniatoto Heritage Orchards, advising that the community and volunteer-driven project sought funding to support large-scale propagation work, including the grafting of approximately 300 trees. She noted the long-term nature of the project, with grafted trees taking up to 24 months to produce results, and outlined plans to deliver community workshops to share skills and knowledge. Ms Willis highlighted the groups role in preserving rare and heritage fruit tree varieties and advised that while the project was currently self-sustaining, additional funding would support continued growth and allow greater focus on practical delivery. She also noted that the project remained in a growth phase, with a small volunteer group managing significant organisational, administrative, and hands-on work.

Raelene Huddleston, Tayla Nunn and Bohdi Ferguson

Ms Huddleston spoke in support of the grant application from the Maniototo Toy Library, advising that the service operated on a borrowing model similar to a book library, where toys were loaned to families for set periods before being returned and exchanged. She noted that many of the toys were outdated and in need of replacement, and that funding was sought to improve the quality and durability of the collection. Ms Huddleston advised that the toy library was primarily funded through membership fees, a small amount of fundraising, and community donations, and highlighted its value in supporting local families and visitors to the area.

Jill Woolf - Great Naseby Water Race

Ms Woolf spoke in support of her grant request for the Great Naseby Water Race, advising that rising operational costs and lower expected entry numbers had created financial pressure on the event. She noted that the event typically attracted around 200 - 250 runners plus support crews, providing significant benefit to local accommodation and hospitality providers. Ms Woolf advised that all profits were reinvested into the Naseby trail network, and recent proceeds had gone towards signage and maintenance of the tracks. It was noted that the grant would support operational costs and the ongoing sustainability of the event.

Hazel Harrison and Lorraine Lobb – Naseby Info and Craft Centre

Ms Harrison and Ms Lobb from the Naseby Information and Craft Centre spoke to their grant application, noting that the organisation had been operating since 1999 with DOC providing use of the former post office building. They advised that while previous fundraising had been successful,

operating costs had increased since Covid-19 and income from crafts and souvenirs had declined, although visitors continued to value the personal contact and local knowledge provided by volunteers.

Ms Harrison and Ms Lobb advised that the organisation had recently updated its constitution with assistance from Huddl, but continued to face challenges with funding and volunteer capacity. They noted that a three-year Lotteries grant of \$5,000 per annum had been secured, however unplanned costs had arisen following Spark's removal of copper phone lines and the required upgrade to fibre, as well as the upcoming lease renewal from DOC.

3 CONDOLENCES

The chair referred to the deaths of Bruce Williams, Syd Broadley and Murray Hocking. Members stood for a moment's silence as a mark of respect.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Dowling
Seconded: Duncan

That the public minutes of the Maniototo Community Board Meeting held on 26 March 2026 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 26.3.3 was heard first and Dave Brady from Naseby Vision joined the meeting for this item.

26.3.3 PROMOTIONS & EVENTS GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND REQUEST FOR UNSPENT GRANT

To consider the accountability report and associated request from Naseby Vision Inc. to utilise the unspent proportion of the previously approved grant on further night sky community projects.

Mr Brady noted positive feedback on the Dark Sky event and increased interest in the initiative since accreditation had been achieved. He advised that the organisation was charitable in nature and tagged unspent funds for future use, with the majority of available funding intended to be directed towards signage to indicate entry into the Dark Sky area or similar wayfinding initiatives. Mr Brady also noted that time constraints in the lead-up to the event had resulted in the previous grant not being spent in full.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Duncan
Seconded: Harris

That the Maniototo Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Accepts the accountability report.
- C. Approves that Naseby Vision Incorporated retains the unspent grant amount of \$3127.22 from resolution 25.4.3 to be applied to further promotional activity supporting the Dark Sky Community, including signage, digital promotion, posters and leaflets.

CARRIED

26.3.2 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, and to consider applications to the 2026/27 year promotions & events grant.

Each grant application was discussed individually by the Board, with strong support for all applications and acknowledgement of the merit of each application. It was noted that there was appetite to draw on the Maniototo Community Board Reserves Grants Fund, and that a request would be made to Council to cover the shortfall.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Duncan
Seconded: McAuley

That the Maniototo Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance
 - B. Notes that due to the high demand for grants this round, the board recommend to Council to draw on the Maniototo Community Board Reserves Grants Fund to the sum of \$2,539 to make up the shortfall.
 - C. Approves a grant of \$2,430 to the Mānīatoto Heritage Orchards Inc. for heritage fruit tree grafting 2026.
 - D. Approves the application from the Naseby Information and Craft Centre Inc. for multiyear funding allocates a grant of \$4,000 towards operating costs for both the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.
 - E. Approves a grant of \$2,000 to the Maniototo Toy Library Christian Centre for toy replacement costs.
 - F. Approves a grant of \$3,000 to the Naseby Development Charitable Trust for the Great Naseby Water Race event 2026 from the 2026-2027 Promotions and Events grant budget.
 - G. 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.
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H. 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

Note: By permission of the meeting Item 26.3.6 was heard first.

7 CHAIR'S REPORT

26.3.6 CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- Noted that a letter from the board to NZTA would be sent, highlighting safety concerns in the town, particularly around signage, pedestrian crossings, and other areas identified as unsafe for road users and pedestrians.
 - Advised that fencing works on John Street were progressing, with materials having been delivered and installation expected shortly.
 - Noted attendance at ANZAC commemorations and the laying of a wreath on behalf of the community.
 - Advised that Scott Lane Bridge had been removed.
 - Noted that Maniototo Winter Crop Competition was underway and had been well supported with the proceeds going to community initiatives.
 - Acknowledged that the doctors were leaving at the end of the month and recognised their years of service, and suggested that a farewell would be appropriate.
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COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Harris
Seconded: Duncan

That the report be received.

CARRIED

26.3.4 LONG TERM PLAN 2027/37 - PROJECT UPDATE

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

Recommendations

That the report be received and its contents noted.

8 MEMBERS' REPORTS

26.3.7 MEMBERS' REPORTS

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

Ms McAuley reported on the following:

- Noted that Dr Vern Smith, the GP at Ranfurly Medical Centre, and Di were retiring, which was a significant loss to the community and would represent a major change in local health service provision. Concerns were raised regarding the potential implications for ambulance services and wider emergency response capacity in the area.
- It was further noted that ambulance service coverage is currently under review, with discussions indicating a possible realignment from the North Otago area into the Central Otago boundary.
- Acknowledged that Glenys Crutchley was farewelling the ambulance service after 38 years of service, and it was noted that she would be greatly missed.
- Noted concerns regarding the street lighting along the main street, with responsibility sitting with NZTA, and it was observed that only a small number of lights were currently working and required attention.

Mr Dowling reported on the following:

- Acknowledged the retirement of Dr Vern Smith and the retirement of Glenys Crutchley and thanked them for their considerable years of service.
- Met with Gordon Bailey and Stu Duncan to discuss potential improvements in relation to rugby and cricket fields, with the intention of establishing a clearer plan and timeframe for development, including consideration of irrigation and other infrastructure upgrades. It was noted that progress had been slower than expected.
- It was noted that a session was attended where the potential for a combined service approach across existing volunteer groups, including the fire brigade and search and rescue capability, was discussed to strengthen coordinated emergency response in the area. The importance of geographic isolation and the need for enhanced local resilience was acknowledged, and the contribution of volunteers across these services was recognised and appreciated.
- Attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service, though noted a disappointing loss for 'The Maggots' later that day.
- Noted the recent naming process for the new facility in Cromwell and that it had generated strong community interest and the complexity of the process was commented on.
- It was discussed that recent announcements relating to local government reform included proposed changes within a 90-day timeframe. Concerns were raised that small rural communities risked being overlooked within broader structural changes, and reference was made to previous local government amalgamation experiences and the impact of these on rural representation.

Cr Duncan reported on the following:

- An update was given on a recent Council workshop on the rates review. It was acknowledged that achieving a fair and equitable rating structure was important, particularly in light of anticipated significant growth in the district, including potential large-scale developments such as solar farms, mining activities, and housing developments.
- Thoughts were shared on the government announcement this week and potential future governance and structural arrangements, including consideration of a rural unitary authority model and wider regional alignment. The importance of ensuring ongoing rural representation was noted, along with the need for elected members to lead engagement and ensure community perspectives were represented. The potential implications of these changes for staffing and elected members were also emphasised.
- It was noted that the town had experienced a busy tourism season, with the Otago Central Rail Trail recording its second busiest season.
- Attendance at a session was undertaken to discuss emergency response capability, including coordination between volunteer groups, fire services, and police. The value of local volunteer capability and willingness to assist in emergency situations was acknowledged.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Harris
Seconded: Dowling

That the report be received.

CARRIED

9 STATUS REPORTS

26.3.8 MAY 2025 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: Harris
Seconded: Dowling

That the report be received.

CARRIED

10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 18 June 2026.

The meeting closed at 3.33 pm

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CHAIR / /