

HUTT CITY COUNCILPOARI HAPORI O PITO-ONE  
PETONE COMMUNITY BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held in the Petone Baptist Church, 38 Buick Street, Petone, on  
**Monday 18 August 2025 commencing at 6:30 pm**

**PRESENT:**

M Fisher (Chair)

S Freeman

Deputy Mayor T Lewis

K Yung (Deputy Chair)

S Kuresa

**APOLOGIES:**

M Roberts and M Henderson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor C Barry

Cr B Dyer

Cr T Stallinger

Cr N Shaw

Cr K Morgan

Cr C Parkin

B Moss, Eastbourne Community Board

M Gibbons, Eastbourne Community Board

D Chrisp, Wainuiomata Community Board

A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

M Miller, Project Manager Assets and Facilities Management

P Hewitt, Head of Transport

J Randall, Democracy Advisor

**PUBLIC BUSINESS****1. HE MIHI**

Aio ki te Aorangi	Peace to the universe
Aroha ki te Aorangi	Love to the universe
Koa ki te Aorangi	Joy to the universe
Pono ki te Aorangi	Truth to the universe

Nā Rangimarie Rose Pere

**2. APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED:** (M Fisher/K Yung)

**Minute No. PCB 25401**

*"That the apologies received from M Roberts and M Henderson be accepted, and leave of absence be granted."*

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on matters relating to items on the agenda.

Under Standing Order 16.1, the Chair allowed comments from residents on items not on the agenda.

**Nik Zangouropoulos, Chair of the Jackson Street Programme**, highlighted the many challenges facing Petone. He expressed confidence that strong local voices would continue to advocate for the community. He noted that many businesses were struggling and emphasised the need for ongoing engagement with Council to address the issues they were facing.

**Karen Arraj-Fisher** said the disestablishment of the Board would have a significant impact on the community. She expressed concern that without the Board, there would be no one to advocate for or keep the community informed. She emphasised the importance of Petone as a hub for hospitality and heritage and stressed the necessity of caring for it.

### 4. MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor Barry provided an address attached as pages 7-9 to the minutes. He presented the Board with a plaque to be installed in the refurbished Pito One Neighbourhood Hub.

## MINOR ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA

### A statement from Council's Chief Executive Officer

The Director Neighbourhoods and Communities read a statement from Council's Chief Executive, attached as page 10 to the minutes.

### 5. PRESENTATIONS

#### a) Pito One Neighbourhood Hub refurbishment project

Malcolm Miller, Council's Project Manager, Assets and Facilities Management, provided an electronic presentation that can be viewed here: [Pito One Neighbourhood Hub presentation](#).

In response to questions from members, the Project Manager Assets and Facilities confirmed that Mana Whenua had been involved throughout the project and had endorsed the use of a cultural narrative in the design.

In response to a question from a member, the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities confirmed that a communications plan was in place to keep the community informed about the renewal work at the Pito One Neighbourhood Hub.

b) **Te Ara Tupua construction update**

Belinda Mackenzie-Dodds, Senior Stakeholder and Communications Manager, Te Ara Tupua Alliance, provided a presentation that can be viewed here: [Te Ara Tupua Alliance presentation](#).

c) **Local Councillor from Greater Wellington Regional Council**

Cr Duthie provided a presentation that can be viewed here: [Local Councillor Greater Wellington Regional Council presentation](#).

The Chair thanked Cr Duthie for his regular attendance at meetings throughout the triennium and for keeping the Board updated.

d) **The Jackson Street Programme (JSP)**

Hellen Swales provided the following update on JSP activities:

- JSP Christmas activities would be scaled down this year.
- Over the summer, JSP would target cruise ship visitors with offers of three walking tour themes: vintage clothing, heritage and food. Volunteers would lead the walking tours.
- JSP was leveraging off regional events and working with local Airbnbs to attract visitors to Petone. A promotional flyer with a QR code had been produced to encourage tourism.
- JSP was working with the creators of the Heritage Art Trail and was also making the historic jail available for hire.
- JSP had requested that Council produce a video aimed at older residents to promote the use of Council's parking app.

Hellen Swales expressed concern that with the disestablishment of the Board, JSP might no longer receive updates on projects such as Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi | RiverLink and the new water entity. She asked that JSP be included in Council's communications and updates. She thanked the Board for its work and for the strong support it had provided JSP over many years.

6. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

7. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** (M Fisher/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

**Minute No. PCB 25402**

*"That the minutes of the meeting of the Petone Community Board held on Monday, 9 June 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."*

8. **REPORTS REFERRED FOR BOARD INPUT BEFORE BEING CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

a) **Proposed Temporary Road Closure Cam County Inc. Wellington Port Road Drags | 2025-2027**

Report No. PCB2025/4/202 by the Traffic Engineer

The Head of Transport elaborated on the report.

In response to a question from a member, the Head of Transport confirmed that reports on the Port Road drag races and Port Road sprints would continue to be included in Eastbourne Community Board agendas each year.

**RESOLVED:** (M Fisher/S Kuresa)

**Minute No. PCB 25403**

*"That the Board endorses the recommendations contained in the report."*

b) **Proposed Temporary Road Closure Hutt Valley Motorsport Club Port Road Sprints | 2025-2027**

Report No. PCB2025/4/217 by the Traffic Engineer

The Head of Transport elaborated on the report.

**RESOLVED:** (M Fisher/S Freeman)

**Minute No. PCB 25404**

*"That the Board endorses the recommendations contained in the report."*

9. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Report No. PCB2025/4/94 by the Chair, Petone Community Board

The Chair elaborated on the report and thanked everyone who had supported the Board throughout the triennium.

**RESOLVED:** (M Fisher/K Yung)

**Minute No. PCB 25405**

*"That the report be received and noted."*

10. **DEMOCRACY ADVISOR'S REPORT**

Report No. PCB2025/4/95 by the Democracy Advisor

**RESOLVED:** (M Fisher/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

**Minute No. PCB 25406**

*"That the Board:*

*(1) receives and notes the report; and*

*(2) recommends that officers extend and widen the consultation on Sladden Park."*

## 11. INFORMATION ITEM

### a) Petone Projects Update

The Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities, provided the following update:

#### **Petone Wharf**

- a detailed overwater survey of the Petone Wharf's structural condition had been completed, and an underwater inspection was in progress.
- the tendering and resource consent processes were each expected to take about six weeks. The resource consent required both an ecological assessment and a traffic report.
- a failing pile was being evaluated and might need to be replaced.

In response to a question from a member, the Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities confirmed a traffic management plan would be in place once the work commenced.

#### **Petone Grandstand**

In June 2025, Council's Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee asked officers to explore opportunities to divest the Petone Grandstand to a community organisation. The Petone Rugby Club had responded that managing and maintaining the grandstand was not a realistic option for them. Officers would continue to look for other groups interested in taking on the divestment.

In response to questions from members, the Director of Neighbourhoods and Communities stated that if the grandstand could not be divested, it would be demolished and replaced with a different structure.

## 12. QUESTIONS

Members inquired about the Ava Rail footbridge.

The Head of Transport provided the following advice:

- work to replace the aging Ava Rail footbridge was on schedule.
- KiwiRail planned to close the Ava Rail footbridge during Labour weekend 2025, with construction expected to begin around Wellington Anniversary weekend 2026.
- Council was working closely with KiwiRail to enhance efficiencies and advance the construction of the new shared pathway while the Ava Rail footbridge was closed.
- updates would be provided through Council's usual channels in August and October 2025. Frequent users of the Ava Rail footbridge would be included in all communications.

In response to a question from a member, the Head of Transport agreed to share Council's communications plan with the Board.

Cr Dyer emphasised the significant role the Board had played within its community. He acknowledged that the decision to discontinue the Board was difficult, but he expressed confidence that its members would continue to be strong advocates for the Petone community.

### 13. VALEDICTORIES

The Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities read a statement from Council's Chief Executive Officer, attached as page 11 to the minutes.

Mike Fisher acknowledged the contributions of past Board members and reflected on the privilege of representing both Council and the Board at ANZAC Day events during his time on the Board. He expressed disappointment at the decision to abolish the Board but stated his commitment to continue to make his voice heard. He expressed confidence that local community voices would also remain strong. He thanked his colleagues on the Petone Community Board and Council officers, and thanked his family for their support. He thanked Mayor Barry for involving the Board in debates and meetings, noting that this inclusion helped make community boards more effective.

Kaz Yung reflected on her nine years as a Board member and said her commitment to the community drove her involvement. She expressed gratitude to those in the community who had hosted the Board and enabled it to provide more opportunities for engagement. She also thanked Council officers for their support, the Jackson Street Programme for ensuring Petone's voice was heard, and Cr Duthie for keeping the Board well-informed. She acknowledged the strong voices of the community and encouraged the community to continue using their voices.

Sheree Freeman provided a valedictory address attached as pages 11-13 to the minutes.

Semi Kuresa said it had been an honour and a pleasure to serve on the Board. He highlighted the opportunity for Council to work with groups like the Jackson Street Programme and the Petone Steering Group to continue growing Petone. He acknowledged the Petone Steering Group's contributions to various important projects in the area. He described Petone as a major destination and shared his aspiration to make it one of the best places to live in New Zealand.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.08 pm.

M Fisher  
CHAIR

J Miller  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## **Mayor's Address**

**Kia ora koutou,**

Tonight's meeting is a bittersweet occasion. This is the final meeting of the Petone Community Board after 36 years of service.

Since 1989, the Petone Community Board has been a strong voice for the following neighbourhoods: Petone, Korokoro, Seaview, Moerā, Waiwhetū South, Woburn South, and Gracefield. You've spoken up for local priorities, challenged proposals that didn't fit, and backed important projects that have shaped this community.

### **Acknowledgements:**

- Mike Fisher: for steering the board through the years with clarity and purpose.
- Kaz Yung: for keeping people connected and informed.
- Mike Henderson, Matt Roberts, Semi Kuresa, Sheree Freeman, and Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis: for your time, your persistence, and your willingness to have the hard conversations when it mattered.
- Judy Randall: for your years of support to the board and our communities, and my best wishes for your retirement.

Petone has also benefited from the strong relationships you've built with local groups, businesses, sports clubs, and community organisations. I'm sure those connections will carry on, even though the board itself won't.

Now I'd like to take a minute to reflect on some of the work the Petone Community Board has been involved in and advocated for.

There's a long list of contributions, but some standouts are worth highlighting:

### **Petone 2040 Strategy**

The board played a key role in developing the Petone 2040 strategy – a plan to guide growth and change in a way that keeps Petone's character intact. It sets out priorities for housing, transport, green space, and economic activity, so that development meets community needs while protecting the things people value about living here.

### **Petone Wharf and Grandstand**

The board has been a consistent voice for restoring the Petone Wharf and upgrading the Petone Rec Grandstand. These projects have needed long-term advocacy to keep them in council plans, protect heritage features, and secure funding for work to get underway.

### **McKenzie Baths**

When the McKenzie Baths were at risk, the board helped lead efforts to retain and refurbish them. The result is a facility that remains open for locals to enjoy, with improvements that extend its life and usability.

### **Neighbourhood Hubs**

The board backed upgrades to both the Petone and Moerā Neighbourhood Hubs. For Moerā, this meant a brand new prefabricated building (produced locally) to create a modern, flexible community space. For Petone, it's about keeping facilities fit for purpose so they can keep delivering services and events for local residents.

### **Submissions on the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan**

Previous boards have made strong, detailed submissions on both the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan. Those contributions have shaped funding priorities, influenced policy decisions, and ensured Petone's voice was part of the city's long-term direction.

### **ANZAC Services**

The board has supported and helped coordinate two ANZAC Day services in Petone – the Bracken Street service and the Petone Railway Station service. The station service is a longstanding tradition, marking the departure point for soldiers in both World Wars. The board's role has included working with the RSA and other local groups, securing funding, and arranging logistics so that both events run smoothly each year.

### **Historic Plan Change Submissions**

The board has made strong submissions on District Plan changes and other planning processes that affect Petone's heritage and character. This has included opposing developments that risked undermining historic streetscapes, supporting heritage protections, and advocating for planning rules that manage growth while keeping Petone's identity intact.

All of this work has gone on alongside the day to day including naming new streets, often recognising local history or figures, and allocating funding to community initiatives through its engagement fund. These decisions might seem small, but they have a lasting impact on the identity and vibrancy of the area.

### **October election referendums**

Before we close, I have been asked to briefly explain two important questions you'll see on the ballot this October at the local election.

Your voting papers this year will include the vote for Mayor and Councillors, the Māori Ward referendum and the non-binding referendum on exploring amalgamation.

#### **Māori Ward:**

- This is the first time Lower Hutt Voters in the Māori electorate will elect a dedicated Māori Ward councillor for the term 2025-28.
- However, the Government has reinstated the legal requirement for local authorities to run a poll on Māori Wards.
- This means you'll see a binding referendum question in voting papers. The outcome will decide whether the Māori Ward stays in place beyond this coming term.

#### **Council wide amalgamation:**

- Alongside the Māori Ward poll, Lower Hutt voters will be asked to weigh in on whether they support exploring amalgamation with neighbouring councils like Porirua, Wellington, Upper Hutt and Greater Wellington.
- However, unlike the Māori Ward question, this will be a non-binding poll.
- This means the new council will not be obligated to act on the referendum's result but it will serve as a strong measure of residents' support.
- Why now?



- Local Government is in a period of major change. Especially with the uncertainty around three waters reform. That's brought fresh talk about amalgamation back into the mix.
- With councils across the country under serious financial pressure now's the right time to take another look at this. We owe it to our communities to ask the tough questions about how we can do things differently and deliver better value for every ratepayer dollar.

Whatever the outcome in October, what matters is that people stay involved, engaged and participate. That's what this board has done for 36 years. You've left a record of action and results that will carry on in Petone well beyond tonight.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

## Statement from Council's Chief Executive Officer

Kia ora

I'm sorry that I won't be able to join you for your final meeting of the triennium.

I'm writing to thank you for your service to Hutt City Council and your community. This is very much appreciated, and your mahi doesn't go unnoticed.

Farewell to the members. Thank you for all that you have done for your community. I also want to acknowledge that this is the Board's final meeting.

We will continue to work with communities/Boards to reset and strengthen our relationship. Kathryn Stannard has written to you about this and shared a potential framework for this important mahi.

I wish Kaz, Semi and Mike all the best in the upcoming elections.

Wishing you all a successful meeting.

Jo Miller  
Tumu Whakarae  
Chief Executive

## Valedictory Address – Sheree Freeman

### **Petone Community Board History**

It is with both **pride and sadness** that I stand here today for the **final meeting of the Petone Community Board**. This marks the **end of 35 years of local representation** for our community — a legacy that began in **November 1989** when the Petone Borough Council was amalgamated into Hutt City, and the Board was created to ensure **Petone still had a strong voice**.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge those who came before us. The very first members of the Board — including my **mother, Maureen Freeman** — set the foundation for decades of service, advocacy, and community spirit. To stand here now, as **her daughter and as the last board member**, is deeply personal and significant to me.

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At the first meeting in Nov 1989, Jim Allen was elected the chair and elected board members were – Doreen Doolan, Jim Allen, Ted Woolf, Lorraine Williams Jan Windleburn and my mother Maureen Freeman

The Priorities identified by the board included completing the Korokoro Overbridge and extension of the seawall.

1995- Geraldine Davison's was chair and produced their first annual Petone Community Plan

1997 - Hutt City Council proposed abolishing the board; tried again in 2006, failed both times.

2007 – The PCB was a key participant in the Petone Vision document, which supported the Petone rail rebuild, and backed the upgrade of the Petone Settlers Museum

PCB alongside NZ Railways organised the Anzac day staff at Petone Rail and continued the second ceremony at Memorial gardens

PCB contributed to the **first District Plan**, and took a strong community mandate to **fight against fluoridation** in local water — ultimately successful, with one-third of residents backing the stance.

**2013** – PCB successfully convinced Hutt City Council to **renovate the McKenzie Pool**

**2014** – PCB led opposition to the proposed **sports arena** at Petone Recreation Ground, intended for the Phoenix Football team. Council voted unanimously to reject the proposal

In **2024**, Hutt City Council decided to **disestablish the three community boards**. This was regarded as the **largest restructuring of local government in Lower Hutt since amalgamation**.

After the decision was challenged, the **Local Government Commission reinstated the Eastbourne and Wainuiomata boards — but not Petone**. This outcome was **hugely disappointing** for the people of Petone and the

wider community, who are now left without a dedicated local voice.

There remains **hope that a future Council will reinstate the Petone Community Board**, restoring strong local representation and making Petone stronger once again.

**"Haere rā, ka hoki mai anō te reo o Pito-One ā tōna wā."  
(Farewell, the voice of Petone will return in time.)**