

HUTT CITY COUNCILPOARI HAPORI O WAINUIOMATA
WAINUIOMATA COMMUNITY BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held in the Wainuiomata Neighbourhood Hub, Queen Street,
Wainuiomata on

Thursday 19 February 2026 commencing at 6:30 pm

PRESENT: L Bingley (Chair) D Chrisp
A Ryall L Sagaga
V Sagaga N Smith
Cr TA Puketapu Deputy Mayor K Brown

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Fauono K Laban
Cr K Yung
J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement
P Hewitt, Head of Transport
V Gilmour, Democracy Advisor

PUBLIC BUSINESS**1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	<i>Cease the winds from the west</i>
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	<i>Cease the winds from the south</i>
Kia mākinakina ki uta	<i>Let the breeze blow over the land</i>
Kia mātaratara ki tai	<i>Let the breeze blow over the ocean</i>
E hī ake ana te atakura	<i>Let the red-tipped dawn come with a</i>
He tio, he huka, he hau hū	<i>sharpened air.</i>
Tihei mauri ora.	<i>A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day</i>

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

Under Standing Order 15.1, the Chair allowed public comment on items not appearing on the agenda.

Hayes Stackhouse expressed concerns about the cycling infrastructure in Wainuiomata. He noted that sections of the cycle lane to Wainuiomata Hill were rough and lacked clear markings, making them less visible to motorists. He recommended using coloured surfacing at intersections for better safety and pointed out issues with parked cars on Parkway near the shops and roundabout during busy traffic times.

In response to questions from members, Hayes Stackhouse said he was raising the matter as an ongoing safety concern. He clarified that he was referring to green-painted surfacing at intersections to improve visibility of cycle lanes.

David Smith noted confusion about whether trees were on private or public land, particularly where they had grown beyond their original boundaries. He raised concerns about unclear maintenance responsibilities and safety issues, calling for clearer ownership and accountability.

In response to a member's question, David Smith said that while private landowners were generally responsible for trees on their property, it was unclear who was accountable when roots or growth encroached upon public areas.

Helen Thomas thanked Council for their recent communication updates during the weather event. She emphasised the need to share information across multiple channels, especially for residents without social media. She proposed stronger collaboration among the Community Board, Council's Age and Accessibility Subcommittee, and local networks to improve emergency responses. She recommended creating a phone tree or similar system to enhance coordination for vulnerable or isolated residents.

In response to a question from a member, Helen Thomas confirmed that linking community contact points into the Emergency Operations Centre response framework would be helpful.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments regarding the agenda items.

4. MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor Fauono Laban acknowledged a comment made during public comment. He emphasised the importance of better identifying and supporting vulnerable members of the community during emergencies, including those who live alone or have limited English. He agreed that establishing a phone tree or contact list could be a useful starting point, noting that this discussion was part of a larger effort to improve community preparedness and support.

Mayor Fauono Laban spoke to his Mayoral address, attached as pages 6-7 to the minutes.

MINOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Local Councillor from Greater Wellington Regional Council

Cr Tupou provided a verbal update attached as pages 8-10 to the minutes.

Update from Hutt City Council Councillor

Cr Yung provided a verbal update on Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and the Community Boards Executive Committee (CBEC), highlighting professional development, networking and training opportunities for community board members and encouraged participation in upcoming events.

5. PRESENTATION

Council Strategy and Planning Update

The Director Strategy and Engagement delivered an electronic presentation that can be viewed here: [Strategy and Policy Update](#). He said that improving engagement across underrepresented groups was a recognised challenge for councils nationally. He said Council had recently adopted [Te Whiringa](#), Council's engagement programme to strengthen engagement practices. He pointed out that Council had comparatively high engagement rates across New Zealand, while acknowledging there was still more work to do.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest declarations.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED: (L Bingley/Cr Puketapu)

Minute No. WCB 26101

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Wainuiomata Community Board held on Thursday, 4 December 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

8. **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CARE FACILITY AT WAINUIOMATA MASONIC VILLAGE**

Report No. WCB2026/1/9 by the Democracy Advisor

The Chair noted that Belinda and Billy Weepu attended the Board meeting in December 2025, seeking a letter of support for their proposal to develop a high level dementia care facility at the Wainuiomata Masonic Village.

RESOLVED: (L Bingley/N Smith)

Minute No. WCB 26102

"That the Board formally approves its letter of support for the development of a dementia care facility in Wainuiomata, attached as Appendix 1 to the report."

9. **DEMOCRACY ADVISOR'S REPORT**

Report No. WCB2026/1/6 by the Democracy Advisor

The Chair proposed that the Wainuiomata Community Spirit Awards be held every two years, with the next awards scheduled for 2027. She noted that the exact date would be confirmed closer to the event.

RESOLVED: (L Bingley/V Sagaga)

Minute No. WCB 26103

"That the Board:

- (1) receives and notes the report;*
- (2) agrees to hold the Wainuiomata Community Spirit Awards on a biennial basis, with the next awards to be held in 2027; and*
- (3) approves up to \$200 from the Board's operational budget for a wreath and up to \$300 for catering for the Wainuiomata ANZAC Day event on 25 April 2026."*

10. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

11. **CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA**

Unuhia!	<i>Release us from the supreme</i>
Unuhia!	<i>sacredness of our tasks</i>
Unuhia i te uru-tapu-nui	<i>To be clear and free</i>
Kia wātea, kia māmā	<i>in heart, body and soul in our</i>
Te ngākau, te tinana, te	<i>continuing journey</i>
wairua i te ara takatū	<i>Oh Rongo, raise these words up high</i>
Koia rā e Rongo whakairihia	<i>so that we be cleansed and be free,</i>
ake ki runga	<i>Yes indeed, we are free!</i>
Kia wātea, kia wātea!	<i>Good and peaceful</i>
Ae rā, kua wātea!	
Hau, pai mārire.	

_There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

L Bingley
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 16th day of April 2026

Mayor's Address - Wainuiomata Community Board**19 February 2026**

Tēnā koutou katoa, talofa lava, namaste, ni hāo, mālō e lelei and warm greetings to you all.

It's good to be here with you today. I couldn't attend your first meeting of the year, so I appreciate the opportunity to join you now.

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge the passing of two respected leaders.

Firstly, former Mayor John Terris, who served Lower Hutt from 1995 to 2004, after many years as a Councillor and Member of Parliament. I had the honour of speaking at his funeral. He cared deeply about this city and its future, and he brought a strong sense of public service to every role he held.

I also want to acknowledge the passing of mana whenua kuia Nanny Hina Luke, a matriarch of the Luke whānau and a woman of great aroha for her whānau, hapū and the wider community. Her leadership and presence will be greatly missed.

Before turning to today's agenda, I also want to acknowledge the significant weather event that affected the city earlier this week.

My thoughts are with everyone who has been impacted, particularly those dealing with damage, disruption and the stress that comes with it.

I want to sincerely acknowledge the leadership and support shown by you all during this time. Your connection to the community, your visibility on the ground, and your role in supporting residents through both the immediate response and the ongoing clean-up has been invaluable. In moments like this, trusted local leadership really matters, and I want to thank you for the calm, practical and community-focused way you have stepped up.

You represent a significant part of our city, and your role in bringing forward the views, concerns and aspirations of the Wainuiomata community is essential. As we move into some challenging conversations, your connection to the community will be more important than ever.

Community Boards hold a unique place in local government. I understand that personally, as I began my own journey on a Community Board. You sit between the community and Council — advocating locally while helping people understand the wider city context. It's a role built on trust, relationships and local insight, and I want us to work closely together.

The Board also plays an important role in acknowledging and celebrating local people the volunteers, leaders and quiet contributors who make Wainuiomata such a strong community. The Civic Awards has a long history of recognising our local

volunteers who do a huge amount of work often unseen, and definitely unpaid. I encourage you to nominate those individuals in the community who deserve to be recognised for their mahi.

Looking ahead, I'd also like to see us explore ways to further activate Queen Street, with more homegrown events and activities that reflect the energy, culture and identity of Wainuiomata.

In terms of Council's work, we are now moving into our Annual Plan and the next Long-Term Plan, where we will be restating our priorities for the city and making decisions about what we focus on, what we can afford, and how we deliver services into the future.

These discussions are happening in the context of some very significant challenges for local government.

The Government has signalled a desire to amalgamate councils across the Wellington region, and to introduce rates capping. While affordability is important, the proposed cap would limit rates to a level that may not be sustainable, particularly given the growing cost of maintaining and renewing infrastructure.

At the same time, we are preparing for the separation of water services into the new entity, Tiaki Wai. This is a major structural change that will affect how water infrastructure is funded, delivered and governed into the future.

Alongside this, our financial work, including *Adjusting Our Sails*, reinforces the need to ensure our services and assets remain affordable and sustainable over the long term.

There are no predetermined decisions. Over the coming year, there will be important opportunities for community engagement, and the Board will play a key role in helping us understand local priorities and ensuring the voice of Wainuiomata is clearly heard.

Thank you again for your leadership and your commitment to your community. I value the role you play, and I look forward to working closely together as we navigate the challenges ahead and deliver the best outcomes for Wainuiomata.

Ngā mihi nui

GW Update to the Wainuiomata Community Board Meeting

Thursday 19 February 2026

Tēnā koutou e te Poari Hāpori o Wainuiomata,
Please find below a summary update on key regional matters.

1. Resilience and Emergency Response

In January, WREMO personnel were deployed to support response efforts in Mount Maunganui and the Far North during significant weather events in those regions. This national deployment highlights the capability and professionalism of our regional emergency management teams, and the role Greater Wellington plays in supporting response efforts beyond our own boundaries when required.

On Monday, severe weather across the Wellington region caused widespread disruption including flooding, major road closures (SH2, SH58, Cape Palliser Road and Punatahi Bridge), extensive power outages in Lower Hutt and Wairarapa, and the temporary suspension of ferries, trains and flights. The Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) was activated to support regional situational awareness and public communications, with Emergency Operations Centres stood up across affected areas.

Flooding concerns in particular — including pressure points around the Waiwhetū Awa and Black Creek — reinforce the need for continued investment in resilience, flood protection and climate adaptation initiatives. I acknowledge that this is challenging in the current economic and political environment. However, strengthening resilience remains a top priority for our region. I also acknowledge the collective effort of staff, emergency services, contractors, volunteers, our Community Hubs, marae, local Volunteer Fire Brigade, and the wider community who worked together to keep people safe during these events.

2. Local Government Reform

Shortly after being sworn in, the Government announced wide-ranging reform proposals affecting regional councils, including Simplifying Local Government, rates capping, and RMA reform.

Greater Wellington has recommended bypassing the proposed Combined Territories Board model and instead progressing directly to Regional Reorganisation Plans. Council has agreed to establish a joint working group with other councils to examine future governance options, including amalgamation.

Our position is that reform must be democratically led, Te Tiriti consistent, and developed in partnership with mana whenua and communities.

3. Resource Management Reform

Council has approved its submission on the proposed Natural Environment and Planning Bills. We support reform in principle, but only if it:

- Upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Maintains strong environmental safeguards
- Embeds climate resilience

- Is properly funded and implementable

Councillors worked constructively through the proposals clause by clause, alongside engagement with iwi and territorial authorities. We have requested the opportunity to speak to our submission before Select Committee.

4. Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

Greater Wellington is the environmental regulator for the Moa Point consents under the Resource Management Act.

We are formally investigating the unauthorised discharge and have established a dedicated team. Because we must maintain an impartial, evidence-based process, there are limits on what can be publicly stated while the investigation is ongoing.

Our priority is stopping and mitigating environmental harm and protecting public health. We undertake independent monitoring and have enforcement powers where non-compliance is identified. Public advice remains clear: avoid affected coastal areas and follow updates from Wellington Water.

5. Transmission Gully Speed Limit Increase

From 16 February 2026, the speed limit on the 27km Transmission Gully section of SH1 between Paekākāriki and Linden increased from 100km/h to 110km/h following consultation, with 92% support from submitters. The motorway's modern safety design supports the higher limit. Heavy vehicles remain restricted to 90km/h. Raumati Straights remains at 100km/h pending further review.

6. Rates and Fares

Hot off the press from today's Council Meeting:

Greater Wellington is under significant cost pressure amid reform uncertainty and constrained Government funding.

Changes include:

- Approximately 3.1% inflationary fare adjustment
- Reduction in off-peak discount
- Average regional rates rise under 10% (2–3% for Lower Hutt due to revaluations)

These are difficult times for councils nationwide. However, we continue to optimise services. The Hutt bus review is underway this year, with Wainuiomata services identified as a priority under the Regional Public Transport Plan.

7. Cook Strait Rescue Capability

Greater Wellington has raised concerns about the loss of the dedicated open-ocean rescue tug in Cook Strait. Given the volume of passengers, freight and commercial traffic moving through the Strait annually, the absence of a dedicated rescue vessel presents safety, economic and environmental risks. Council leadership has written to the Minister of Transport seeking an interim solution.

8. Advisory Group Vacancies

There are currently vacancies open for community members on two advisory groups:

- Farming Reference Group – providing input into freshwater and rural environmental policy.
- Public Transport Advisory Group – offering community perspectives on Metlink services and improvements.

I encourage interested members of our Wainuiomata community to consider applying. These groups provide a practical opportunity to influence regional policy and service delivery.

9. Extra Metlink Services – Hurricanes & Phoenix

Metlink is providing additional train capacity and larger buses for upcoming Hurricanes and Phoenix fixtures to ease congestion. Residents are encouraged to use Snapper and plan travel in advance.

10. Wood Street Bus Stop relocation to Parenga Street

Bus Stop #9915 (Wood Street at Parenga Street) has received all necessary approvals from Hutt City Council for its new shelter and location. Due to safety and space constraints, the stop was moved approximately 30 metres south, slightly around the corner onto Parenga Street. The shelter and bus stop sign have been installed. Council officers are awaiting completion of the new road markings and removal of the old ones. During this transition, the operator has been asked to watch for passengers at both locations.

11. Coast Road Cleanfill

In late November, Cr Quentin Duthie and I met with Mr Ken Jackson of Jackson Farm to hear concerns about the proposed cleanfill at 1044 Coast Road. As the matter was before an Independent Commissioner, it was not appropriate for us to intervene. On 2 February 2026, Commissioner Jason Jones granted land use consent to Kakariki Estate Limited, subject to conditions. Residents with compliance concerns should lodge formal complaints through the appropriate regulatory channels and document any evidence to support investigation.

12. Swimming dangers at Wainuiomata Coast

I have written to Water Safety New Zealand seeking guidance on improved safety measures at Wainuiomata Coast Beach following renewed concern about swimmer safety. Notable incidents include a swimmer swept out to sea in December 2025 and a rescue involving an adult and 11-year-old boy in 2020. Previous officer attempts to engage had not received a response. I have sought expert advice on the beach's risk profile, appropriate warning signage, and the potential for a coordinated inter-agency response. Board Chair Lesa Bingley and Deputy Mayor Keri Brown have been copied in for visibility.

Ngā mihi nui,



Cr Gabriel Tupou – Greater Wellington Regional Council