

**MINUTES OF WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE PUKE – EASTERN COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING NO. TECB26-1  
HELD IN THE TE PUKE LIBRARY AND SERVICE CENTRE, 130 JELLCOE STREET, TE PUKE  
(BOARDROOM) ON THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.30PM**

Councillor D Dinsdale open the hui with a karakia

**1 PRESENT – NGĀ MEMA KEI KONEI**

Chairperson D Snell, Member K Summerhays, Deputy S Benning, Member M Singh Mann, Member M Williams, Cr L Rae and Cr G Dally

**2 IN ATTENDANCE – I TAE AKE**

A Curtis (General Manager Regulatory Services), E Logan (Governance Advisor)

9 Members of the public

Councillor D Dinsdale, Councillor A Sole, Councillor S Beech and Regional Bay of Plenty District Councillor S Scrimgeour

**3 APOLOGIES – NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ**

Nil

**4 CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS – NGĀ TAKE TŌMURI**

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**RESOLUTION TECB26-1.1**

Moved: Member K Summerhays

Seconded: Member M Williams

That in accordance with Section 46A (&) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, the following item be considered as a late item of the open business:

- Te Puke – Eastern Community Board – Councillors Report – February 2026.

**CARRIED**

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**5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NGĀ TUKITUKINGA**

Chairperson D Snell declared an interest in the agenda item 9.3.

**6 TRANSFER OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEMS – TE WHITINGA O TE AO MĀRAMA KI NGĀ TAKE MUNA**

Nil

## 7 PUBLIC FORUM – WĀHANGA TŪMATANUI

### 7.1 ISABELLE VOSSE – SAFETY CONCERNS ON STOCK ROAD

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Ms Vosse, supported by Ms Holland, Ms Treadgold, and Mr Matthews, was in attendance to discuss safety concerns on Stock Road.

- Ms Vosse had attended the last Te Puke Community Board meeting at the end of the 2022–25 triennium to discuss safety concerns on Stock Road. The Board at the time encouraged her to attend the first meeting of the new Te Puke – Eastern Community Board in the 2025–28 triennium.
- She raised serious concerns regarding ongoing safety issues on Stock Road caused by the on-going criminal activity. Noting that on top of the drug related activity in the area, there had now been reports of children being approached and asked to get into strangers vehicles.
- Ms Vosse had applied for CCTV funding through Council's CCTV panel, as had the Toy Library and the Playcentre. Unfortunately, all applications had been declined.
- Ms Vosse asked the Board to consider funding the installation of additional CCTV cameras in the area to help deter criminal activity. She also requested that other preventative safety measures be implemented as well.
- Ms Vosse emphasised the importance of taking action, noting that the area is home to several organisations that provide care and support for children.

### 7.2 SUE MATTHEWS – SHADE COVER OVER PUBLIC SEATING AREA

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Ms Matthews was in attendance to discuss the installation of a shade cover over the public seating area outside Woolworths.

- Ms Matthews proposed that the Board fund a permanent structure over the public seating area outside Woolworths to provide shelter.
- She noted the area was heavily used by local elders in the mornings, including when it was hot or lightly raining, and that a shelter would benefit them.
- Ms Matthews mentioned that local homeless often occupied the shaded stairs near the seating area, making the pathway difficult to use. She stated that a sheltered area would provide them a place to sit while remaining less visible from the main street and maintaining a safe, open environment.
- She recommended a gazebo-style structure, incorporating a kiwifruit slice detail under the gables and suggested including a history board along the side of the structure.
- She also observed that the adjacent gardens needed a thorough tidy-up and that the area lacked crime prevention through environmental design strategies.

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### 7.3 KASSIE ELLIS – VARIOUS TOPICS

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Ms Ellis was in attendance to discuss the below topics:

#### Citizens RSA Te Puke ANZAC Committee Grant Application

- Ms Ellis encouraged the Board to support Te Puke ANZAC Committee Grant Application.
- She noted that the event was significant and important for the community.

#### Community Response Equipment

- Ms Ellis encouraged the Board to discuss purchasing more Community Response Equipment, such as walkie talkies, to strengthen the community response to natural disasters.
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### 7.4 BRYAN LEACH – VARIOUS TOPICS

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Mr Leach was in attendance on behalf of the Te Puke Streetscape Group to discuss the installation of a footpath on No.1 Road.

- Mr Leach suggested that the Board should fund a footpath from the bottom of No.1 Road to the town boundary, noting that it was his understanding that this was the only urban road in the town that did not have a footpath to the town boundary.
  - He expected that the footpath would only need to be about 100–150 metres long.
  - Mr Leach noted that the lack of footpath was a massive safety hazard. A lot of Recognised Seasonal Workers were housed on No.1 Road and walked up and down the road. Visibility of them wasn't good, especially in the dark. In his opinion it was a accident waiting to happen.
  - Mr Leach stressed that this should be a high priority for the Board.
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### 7.5 JESS BEECH – PAENGAROA SCHOOL CARPARK

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Ms Beech was in attendance, on behalf of the Paengaroa School, to discuss the refurbishment of the Paengaroa School Carpark.

- Ms Beech shared that the Paengaroa School carpark was not fit for purpose and had become a safety concern.
  - There was no safe area to pick up and drop off children, as the carpark was small and close to the road, resulting in several near misses.
  - The school conducted a two-week trial of a pick-up and drop-off zone, which proved successful.
  - Ms Beech noted that, as the carpark was on Council land, the school required Council permission for any changes.
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- She sought support from Council Transportation staff to safely redesign the carpark.
  - She requested funding of an estimated \$6,000–\$10,000 to cover refurbishment, which was expected to involve only paint markings, signage, and a small barrier along a 10-metre stretch.
  - Council staff had conducted a site visit and advised that the refurbishment funding would need to come from the Community Board.
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## **7.5 BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCILLOR JOHN SCRIMGEOUR – BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN**

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Bay of Plenty Regional Councillor John Scrimgeour was in attendance to present and promote the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Annual Plan 2026/27.

- He wanted to highlight that the Regional Council's Annual Plan was upcoming, with the draft proposal expected to be approved towards the end of the month, and encouraged Members to review it and make submissions.
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## **7.6 CHRIS POINTON – SEVERE WEATHER EVENT IMPACTS ON WELCOME BAY ROAD**

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Mr Pointon was in attendance to discuss the impacts the recent severe weather events had had on his property and neighbouring properties on Welcome Bay Road.

- Mr Pointon lived on a single-lane private driveway shared by 13 houses.
  - During the recent severe weather event, runoff from surrounding hills overwhelmed the drainage system. Mud, silt, and debris were carried down the valley to the point where two drains (which effectively became streams) meet at a culvert under Mr Pointon's access road. From there, a single drain ran approximately 100 metres before reaching the Council's culvert under Welcome Bay Road.
  - The culvert under Welcome Bay Road was overwhelmed. A contractor living on the private road advised that it was at least partially blocked and likely undersized for the volume of rainfall experienced.
  - Floodwaters backed up along the shared driveway, overtopped sections including where the private culvert ran beneath it, and inundated the lower 100 metres of the driveway and the area near Welcome Bay Road.
  - A local contractor worked for two days to unblock the two culverts and remove mud and silt from the drain, depositing the cleared material along the grass verges of the driveway. He also repaired/redesigned the culvert under the private road to restore safe access for residents and allow geotechnical engineers and power companies to access the site and reinstate services.
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- There was concern that because the driveway was shared and serviced multiple households, the situation may “fall between the cracks” in terms of responsibility and available assistance.
  - Mr Pointon encouraged Council to inspect the culvert under Welcome Bay Road to assess whether it had sufficient capacity to cope with future severe weather events.
  - Mr Pointon noted that himself and neighbouring residents were intending to apply to the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund but required clarification on:
    - a. Where silt and debris could be legally disposed of.
    - b. Whether Council had an approved disposal site for flood-related material.
    - c. The likely transport distance that would be required, so they could obtain an accurate quote to support their application.
  - Residents were also seeking clarity on responsibility for:
    - a. Funding repairs to the private culvert, given the urgent work required to ensure resident safety.
    - b. Cleaning up and removing the mud, silt, and debris cleared from the culvert and drain.
    - c. Managing debris that originated from upstream properties but was now deposited on the shared driveway owner’s land.
  - Residents were seeking advice on who could provide help in these circumstances, noting:
    - a. Insurance did not appear to apply.
    - b. The Natural Hazards Commission criteria did not apply because the damage was approximately 600 metres from Mr Pointon’s house (the assistance threshold was 60 metres).
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## **7.7 ANDY WICHERS – HERITAGE PLAZA PROJECT**

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Mr Wichers was in attendance to discuss Stage 2 of the Heritage Plaza Project.

- Mr Wichers explained that he had committed to being involved in the engagement around the artistic works for stage 2 of the Heritage Plaza project, but as he was no longer a Board member, he wished to hand these responsibilities back to the Board and staff.
  - At the end of the 2022–25 triennium he had tried to arrange a meeting between Council’s Project Engineer Transportation, Waitaha, and Tapuika, but scheduling conflicts prevented it.
  - He had not yet received the design for the artistic works from Waitaha and Tapuika.
  - It had been recommended that the artistic works represented Maunga and Awa rather than people.
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- He remained happy to be involved in carrying out the physical works of the art when the design was complete.
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## 8 MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION – TE WHAKATAU I NGĀ MENETI

### 8.1 MINUTES OF THE TE PUKE – EASTERN COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2025

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#### RESOLUTION TECB26-1.2

Moved: Member K Summerhays

Seconded: Member M Williams

1. That the Minutes of the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board Meeting held on 5 November 2025 as circulated with the agenda be confirmed as a true and correct record.
2. That the Chairperson’s electronic signature be inserted into the confirmed minutes.

**CARRIED**

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## 9 REPORTS – NGĀ PŪRONGO

### 9.1 TE PUKE – EASTERN COMMUNITY BOARD – CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

The Board considered a report dated 12 February 2026 from the Chairperson, who congratulated Member Karen Summerhays for her achievements in the Community Development Space and provided an overview the key points of her report. Further discussion was had on the items listed below.

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#### RESOLUTION TECB26-1.3

Moved: Member K Summerhays

Seconded: Member M Williams

1. That the Chairperson’s report dated 12 February 2026 titled ‘Te Puke – Eastern Community Board – February 2026’ be received.

**CARRIED**

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#### RESOLUTION TECB26-1.4

Moved: Deputy S Benning

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Seconded: Member M Williams

That the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board requests a workshop with Transportation staff to discuss the safety issues that are being caused by the vegetation on Jellicoe Street.

**CARRIED**

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### **9.1.1 INSTALLATION OF SHADE COVER**

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The Board queried how to progress the installation of a shade cover at Ben Keys Playground.

Staff advised that, as requested at the end of the 2022–25 triennium, cost estimates would be presented at a future workshop, with a formal decision to be made subject to the Board’s direction.

Board members suggested seeking community input on preferred locations for shade covers, bus shelters, and similar projects, enabling the Board to prioritise sites rather than progressing projects on an ad hoc basis.

Staff advised that this approach could be incorporated into the Community Board’s Action Plan, and the Board noted that the intent would be included.

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### **9.1.2 WELCOME BAY ROAD**

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Board members strongly advocated for Council to address damage to residents’ properties and surrounding areas on Welcome Bay Road resulting from the severe weather events of 21 and 22 January. They noted the need for immediate action and the urgent appointment of navigators.

Staff advised that Council’s Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) remained in the recovery phase, with staff working tirelessly to support vulnerable residents.

It was noted that unless service requests were logged the recovery team would be unaware of outstanding issues; prioritisation was based on highest risk and urgency.

Staff would enquire whether the EOC had planned to employ navigators to support vulnerable residents.

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**9.1.3 REMOVAL OF VEGETATION OF JELlicoe STREET**

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The Board requested that safety issues caused by vegetation on Jellicoe Street be discussed at a future workshop, noting that the project scope and associated costs would need to be determined before progressing.

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**9.2 TE PUKE – EASTERN COMMUNITY BOARD – COUNCILLORS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026**

The Board considered a report dated 12 February 2026 from Councillor Dally, who provided an overview of his report and verbal updates on the items below.

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**RESOLUTION TECB26-1.5**

Moved: Member K Summerhays

Seconded: Cr L Rae

That Councillor Dally's report dated 12 February 2026 titled "Te Puke – Eastern Community Board – Councillor's Report – February 2026" be received.

**CARRIED**

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**9.2.1 ANNUAL PLAN 2026/27**

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Council had been discussing the Annual Plan and was close to confirming its direction.

Members were informed that Council staff would attend the Board's upcoming workshop to discuss the Annual Plan prior to community engagement commencing on 20 March 2026.

Pre-engagement for the Long-Term Plan was also commence alongside the Annual Plan process.

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**9.2.2 DRAFT TE PUKE SPATIAL PLAN**

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The Draft Te Puke Spatial Plan would be going out for community engagement from 26 February – 1 April.

Staff would forward the engagement questions on to the Board prior to the start of this engagement.

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**9.2.3 CITY AND REGIONAL DEALS**

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Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Tauranga City Council had been shortlisted by Central Government for a City and Regional Deal. There were no further updates available at the time of the hui.

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**9.2.4 LOCAL WATERS DONE WELL**

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Local Waters Done Well was progressing positively, working through the joint working group with Tauranga City Council and Tangata Whenua and was beginning to make critical decisions regarding the structure moving forward.

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**9.2.5 RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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A CEO Recruitment Committee had been established, made up of Councillors who were progressing the recruitment process.

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**9.2.6 JANUARY STORM – CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY STATUS**

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A 'Pathways to Recovery' hui was being held on Monday 16 February 2026 at Summerhill. The hui would bring together key agencies involved in the response and recovery, including Council recovery leads, welfare and psychosocial support services, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, roading and infrastructure teams, NZ Police, and other partner agencies.

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**9.3 TE PUKE – EASTERN COMMUNITY BOARD – GRANT APPLICATIONS – FEBRUARY 2026**

The Board considered a report date 12 February 2026 from the Governance Advisor. The report was taken as read, and each application considered individually.

Chairperson D Snell declared a conflict of interest in the Te Puke Citizens RSA Te Puke ANZAC Committee Grant Application and withdrew from the meeting, Deputy Chairperson S Benning assumed the role of Chair for the discussion and decision on this agenda item.

The Te Puke Pony Club application which requested funds for fortnightly mowing of the club grounds was not approved as it did not align with the Boards strategic direction.

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**RESOLUTION TECB26-1.6**

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Moved: Cr L Rae  
Seconded: Member M Singh Mann

That the Governance Advisor's report dated 12 February 2026 titled 'Te Puke – Eastern Community Board – Grant Applications – February 2026' be received.

**CARRIED**

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### RESOLUTION TECB26-1.7

Moved: Member K Summerhays  
Seconded: Member M Williams

That the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board **does not approve** the grant application from the Te Puke Pony Club for the fortnightly mowing of the club grounds.

**CARRIED**

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### RESOLUTION TECB26-1.8

Moved: Cr L Rae  
Seconded: Member M Williams

That the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board **approves** the grant application from the Te Puke Pony Club for \$534.10 plus GST, if any, to cover the costs of upgrading the locks on the Club's sheds and gates to ensure the security of the club. This grant will be funded from the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board Grants Account, subject to all accountabilities being met.

**CARRIED**

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### RESOLUTION TECB26-1.9

Moved: Member M Williams  
Seconded: Cr L Rae

That the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board **approves** the grant application from the Te Puke Citizens RSA Te Puke ANZAC Committee for \$1,500, to contribute to the costs of catering and other operating expenses for ANZAC Day. This grant will be funded from the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board Grants Account, subject to all accountabilities being met.

**CARRIED**

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## 9.4 TE PUKE – EASTERN COMMUNITY BOARD – PROJECTS AND OPERATIONS REPORT –

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**FEBRUARY 2026**

The Board considered a report from the Governance Advisor dated 12 February 2026. Members noted that, although a funding contribution had been provided to the Waiari Restoration Project, the project remained ongoing. The below topics were discussed further.

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**RESOLUTION TECB26-1.10**

Moved: Deputy S Benning  
Seconded: Member K Summerhays

That the Governance Advisor's report dated 12 February titled 'Te Puke – Eastern Community Board – Projects and Operations Report –February 2026' be received.

**CARRIED****RESOLUTION TECB26-1.11**

Moved: Cr L Rae  
Seconded: Member K Summerhays

That the Te Puke–Eastern Community Board recommends to staff the installation of two metal ashtrays on Jellicoe Street - one located outside the Cava Bar and one located outside the Stadium Bar.

**CARRIED****9.4.1 FREE WI-FI AT JUBILEE PARK**

As stated in the original resolution, the Board would need to make a submission to the Long-Term Plan 2027/37 requesting that Council take over the on-going operational costs of the free Wi-Fi at Jubilee Park.

Staff would look into keeping record of matters the Board had committed to including in future Long-Term Plan (LTP) submissions.

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**9.4.2 HERITAGE PLAZA**

Members raised concerns about the large number of cigarette butts being left on the ground in and around the Heritage Plaza.

It was noted that the issue had been raised with staff, who were investigating the feasibility of installing ashtrays in the area.

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### 9.4.3 HISTORY BOARDS

The Board requested that staff get in contact with the company that had been asked to produce the Crete Tree Memorial and Historic Stock Road history boards and request a project update.

Members noted that the original image for the Historic Stock Road history board had been updated to a different image and that this would need to be communicated to the designer.

### 9.4.4 FREEDOM CAMPING

Concerns were raised regarding the two fines that had been issued to freedom campers at Otamarakau for parking in the wrong place.

Staff advised that it was a service level requirement for Council to monitor the freedom camping areas in summer.

Staff would provide the Board with reporting on the freedom camping seasonal monitoring.

## 9.5 TE PUKE – EASTERN COMMUNITY BOARD – FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

The Board considered a report from the Financial Partner dated 12 February 2026. The report was taken as read.

### RESOLUTION TECB26-1.12

Moved: Member K Summerhays

Seconded: Member M Williams

1. The Finance Partner's report dated 12 February 2026 titled 'Te Puke – Eastern Community Board – Financial Report December 2025', be received.
2. That the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board approve for the remaining committed funds from the below resolutions to be released back into the Roothing Account:

Meeting Date	Project	Account	Spent	Remaining Committed
1 Aug 2024 (TPC24-4.9)	Fairhaven Park Footpath. Approve a budget of \$50,000 from the Roothing Account for the design and installation of	Roothing	(28,634)	(21,366)

	a footpath through Fairhaven Park.			
20 Feb 2025 (TPC25-1.1)	Bramble Bridge Safety Audit. Approve to spend up to \$10,000 from the Roothing Account on the Road Safety Audit of Bramble bridge to determine what actions need to be taken to improve pedestrian safety on the bridge.	Roothing	(9,295)	(705)

**CARRIED**

**10 INFORMATION FOR RECEIPT – KŌRERO TE WHIWHIA**

Councillor D Dinsdale closed the hui with a karakia.

**The Meeting closed at 9.23pm.**

**Confirmed as a true and correct record at the Te Puke – Eastern Community Board meeting held on 9 April 2026.**

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 Chairperson D Snell  
**CHAIRPERSON**