

Kūaotunu Residents and Ratepayers' Association
Minutes of Committee Meeting
held at the Library, Isabel Gilbert Palmer's house, Irishtown Road, Kūaotunu
7 April 2026

Committee members: Steve Hart, Chair; Ian Preece, Deputy Chair, Steffi Hammann-Evans, Treasurer; Dani Elliston; Kevin Crawford Secretary; Isabel Gilbert-Palmer, Chris Brock, Marguerite Muellers, Gael Coleman, Dani Elliston, Roimata Taimana

Meeting opened: 6:35pm

Present: Ian (Chair), Steffi, Gael, Marguerite, Isabel, Roimata, Kevin (minutes), Steve (attended from 7pm), Quorum (6) met

Apologies: Chris and Dani received.

Karakia – Roimata

Public: Roimata on behalf of Carolyn Wadey-Brown (apologies)

Roimata outlined the preparations underway for Matariki 10-12 July at the Hall 9 artists exhibition with artists interpretation of a star each from the Matariki constellation.

To be called: Te Toi or Te ata Matariki

Te Rerenga School kapa haka performance with Roimata assisting.

Kai in the Hall Friday night with all kai gathered from gardens or caught – try not to have or use bought food.

Support received from Creative Coromandel \$2000

Assistance in publicity requested from KRRRA on our social media and Ian noted that the upcoming Newsletter could do a feature. Promotion – flyer assistance etc. from Ian KRRRA Committee to help in setup and take down.

1.Minutes:

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting, 10 March 2026 done by Dani had been circulated by Steve at 4pm. Kevin had been asked by Steve to review.

Few changes noted – e.g. previous meeting 3 February not 11 February.

Ian noted comments on minutes to only be done by those at the meeting.

Minutes yet to be confirmed as a true and accurate record by members but if there is no comment by 5pm 10 April taken as confirmed.

Process discussion to be had for Minutes when Secretary not there.

2. Matters arising from the 10 March 2026 minutes:

Running through the Action Plan included in the 10 March 2026 minutes.

Status of various other items were briefly discussed and many deleted - most of the others are dealt with in Section 5 below:

3.Correspondence:

Significant amount of material – Committee to read KRRRA web email – material is generally not sent to personal email.

No Correspondence outstanding. Query regarding a former resident involved with a church to be addressed and refer answer to Steve. Many items in Dropbox are covered by agenda items: krra@kuaotunu.nz and when email sent cc this address.

4. Financial Report from last report 9 March February 2026 and as of 7 April 2026 **Financial Report** (Steffi Hammann)

Account balances: Kiwibank NOW a/c \$1,476.37 and Kiwibank On call a/c \$11,329.78.

Total: \$ 12,806.15

Income: Membership fees – YTD from 1 April 2026: \$20 – Since 1 April 2025: \$1890

Interest for period from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 \$ 209.14

Outgoing: No outstanding creditors.

Expenditure – 1 April – 31 March 2026 \$1,475.77 including recent \$500 donation to Te Rerenga School approved 7 October meeting.

Reimbursement for Steve – re a White board purchase for KERG \$ 236.51 pending as annual expenditure to Dropbox agreed –

Moved: Roimata

Seconded: Gael

Passed

Some investigation on the spreadsheet is still in progress regarding EOY lapsing membership fees and Russell potential membership 2yr duplication to be reviewed.

Actions –

The cost of Dropbox was noted by Steffi and Ian. **Ian** to discuss post AGM with Steve Dropbox rationalising files on Dropbox to take us back to the free data limit. Steffi noted a lot of subscription material could be resolved also.

Steffi – Audit with Pauline Stratford for AGM.

Financial report accepted.

Moved: Marguerite

Seconded: Roimata

Passed

Other Treasurer issues

Membership: 205 (as stated in the Financial Report)

Pauline Stratford will do audit of financial Report for the AGM and Steffi and Gay to liaise directly with her. Kevin noted Pauline Stratford available dates for coordinating the audit for the AGM.

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 TCDC Annual Plan – Public Consultation – Tough Choices for Lower Rates

Kevin outlined only 4 items are being asked for consultation – but only 1.9% of the 9.6 % reductions. The Proposal 1 – Reducing Mowing and Garden Maintenance was of particular interest to Kuaotunu Community. This had been circulated to the Committee along with the full document and Form link.

Other items – there was no opportunity for Consultation offered Consultation. Closing date is 28 April so this is the last time pre-AGM to discuss. Decision not to go to the drop-in session. Time constraints resulted in this item being relocated at the end of the meeting. Maintain garden less and mowing changes and Steve to manage KRRRA respond. Kevin noted demand mowing as a concept.

Action:

All - Comments to Steve by Friday 10 April on all 4 items for completion of a submission to TCDC.

5.2 Infrastructure Updates and Actions:

(report from Kevin Crawford covers period 3 February – 10 March as Kevin not able to attend 10 March meeting and Background supplied is included as part of further updates to 7 April in this meeting)

5.2.1 NZTA debris from slip outwash removal west of boat ramp.

Background: TCDC is responsible for areas above the MHWS tide level and WRC is responsible for below the MHWS. Currently, c1750 m³ material is sitting in the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) west of the boat ramp.

NZTA priority was to clear the highway and consider that it is not their responsibility to remove it as it is outside the road reserve which at that area is very close to the road edge before it splays into the boat ramp area. Kevin reviewed the road reserves and they are correct. NZTA hoped the edge of the road could be stabilised under Emergency work with a rock revetment if that was found needed after the debris material was removed by others.

Update

A number of calls were made to various parties: Flemming Rasmussen TCDC Councillor and Jamie Boyle TCDC Coastal Scientist re TCDC and Warren Maher Chair of WRC material and Greg Ryan WRC in the CMA. All correspondence in KRRRA webmail

WRC have confirmed they are not responsible for an issue that is generated by Mother Nature despite clauses cited to them from the WRC Coastal Plan that they were. They have replied that the clauses relate only to external parties such as developers.

The issue is now formally with TCDC awaiting a formal reply from Vaughan Payne - new Recovery Manager for TCDC 3 March stated *“this project is not currently in our draft plan to recover from the extensive impacts of the January storm event. I had assumed that the clean-up of the beach was not TCDC s responsibility but will review the material you have sent through and will discuss with Aileen”*. Vaughan has agreed to revisit this with Aileen Lawrie for section above MHWS. Kevin had asked if the community could find a party interested in removal would TCDC support / sponsor the Resource Consent application to WRC to remove it.

Sedimentation at the boat ramp – Council have removed sediment from the boat ramp on several occasions dug out a bit but more to be done by TCDC/WRC/NZTA. Steve has noted in

an email to Vaughan Payne an ongoing maintenance job of clearance (done by TCDC contractor from Matarangi) of sediment derived from each tide eroding the face.

Vaughan Payne is consulting with the Harbours Team on the boat ramp aspect and the costs associated with removal and stacking sediment in a vulnerable location for further event washing away versus the cost of removal of the debris that is the source of the issue.

Committee agreed that KRRRA continues to explore with TCDC and that the majority of the community would support this. Steve of a view fishermen would also support removing the sedimentation issue at the boat ramp and may put a Facebook question up to ask how they got on at Easter in launching and retrieval of boats.

Action - Kevin to follow-up with Vaughan Payne on outcomes within TCDC (Aileen Lawrie and Harbours team).

5.2.2 SH25 Gabion Wall Replacement Update

Resource Consent application made 20 January (actual date was 29 January incorporating commentary regarding the 21 22 January weather event). Concern at delays in processing may miss the mid-April – June window.

Horizontal section – NZTA will reestablish the original formation (i.e., horizontal) in their 20 Jan letter and Kevin had noted this then needs retaining c 400mm high by rocks. NZTA noted Access up from the beach will not be in the scope – The funding only permits replacement of the wall like for like and currently no access up.

Last correspondence from NZTA 25 February reiterates this aspect and confirms includes *reinstatement of the existing horizontal formation located above the revetment structure” and Final surfacing will be confirmed through the detailed construction methodology; the reinstated formation will provide a stable and durable road margin consistent with the existing function and performance of the current formation. Any future resealing works undertaken on SH25 will relate to state highway maintenance activities rather than provision of pedestrian or cycling infrastructure”.*

5.2.3 Kūaotunu Hill Summit slip update / Road Closure notices in weather events

Kevin noted second design failed and target 9 Feb for assessment of the eastern side and southwestern corner. NZTA updated that design was underway. We assume likely one-way for some time and have post meeting made suggestions to NZTA to improve continued traffic light failures and safety issues there – refer correspondence 2 April.

Considerable costs are being incurred (\$2500-\$3000 / day) for traffic management when a simple priority right of way sign over the line of sight could do the same.

Reply received from NZTA (Stephanie Slattery) 7 April with no further detail on this aspect but a reply on road closure messaging in weather events saying they were working on better updates.

5.2.4 Seavill Park Rd slip update

Kevin updated that slumping is more pronounced after further weather events. TCDC actioned the KRRRA request the coning off the kerb and channeling slumping and requesting an asphalt bund to divert stormwater away from the slip crack. This was done but not fully effective.

The walkway to Bluff Road now cordoned off after Sheryl Abbott's RFS regarding loss of metal and steep slippery surface.

5.2.5 Blackjack Road Slip – Temporary one-way traffic safety and retaining wall repair and provision for a footpath into the works.

Background

Correspondence to Acting Roading Manager Len Whittaker re road safety lack of one way and poor sight distance and provision for walkers / cyclists from Waitaia. Also, the retaining wall solution requested. Len Whittaker's reply 20 February indicated design was underway of a longer wall due to Jan 2026 weather event and Construction scheduled May-June.

The request for walking and cycling provision was to be reviewed by WSP but that NZTA FAR funding subsidy only related to replace with like for like level of service, not improvement to qualify for NZTA funding. Len will enquire as to walking/cycling area and costing and advised red threshold treatment at crossing was subject to MBCB bylaw approval.

Work has been completed to make a temporary solution with one-way signage, and a mirror together with give-way lines on the road coming out of the village.

Update

Kevin noted there was an opportunity to include a footpath because of the location of the Chorus duct in the road margin on the face of the slip and Chorus requirement for a 750mm minimum clearance from piling that would accommodate a 1.2-1.5m wide footpath as part of the work.

Letter sent to Len Whittaker and Kim Abrahamson 2 April providing the scope including the 33m to the south toward SH25 and road crossing and 20m to the north near the start of the berm up to the fire station. Crossfall would require a low retaining wall to support part of footpath. Proposed to be funded by Retained Earnings (\$183k) / Discretionary Fund and WSP to identify the costs for further discussion with MBCB. It is important that this is actioned quickly to be incorporated into the Retaining Wall works otherwise the opportunity is lost and difficult to retrofit.

Kevin asked if this should be presented to MBCB 15 April meeting – Steve suggested at minimum the correspondence be tabled so that it must be addressed and agreed Kevin contact Kim Abrahamson on best strategy.

Action: Kevin to advance this opportunity and get paper tabled / given urgency of decision attend MBCB meeting if necessary. Copy Flemming Rasmussen into next round of correspondence.

5.2.6 Completion of Speed reduction road markings – Update

Speed reduction road markings and threshold treatment and signage at Kūaotunu entrances – Reply received 24 February and still no date nominated – no funding for thresholds treatment or signage. Steve noted that some in the community had been fined for exceeding 50km/hr.

Action - Kevin follow up with NZTA Stephanie Slattery.

5.3 KRRR Community Priorities/ Footpaths and Cemetery Road subdivision – next steps

5.3.1 Footpaths into the Annual Plan / LTP

Kevin noted that there was a unique opportunity for TCDC to add a short length of footpath to the NZTA SH25 gabion wall project just east of the layby – this needed funding from the Annual Plan (not included currently) or LTP. This pitch was made on 4 Feb MBCB meeting.

Steve noted with a change of government walking and cycling likely returns as footpaths being funded by NZTA and that MBCB needed to recognize this and TCDC include it to LTP.

Kevin noted the balance may be less than we think as there are necessary process upgrades as well as water supply and Resource Consent compliance. Noted also that Tanya Patrick proposes for safety concerns – single doors opening out as new generation toilets like Buffalo Beach. The whole block needs to be reconfigured behind the mural. Tanya been asked for a “do minimum” scenario which each aspect itemized so the community can respond.

Balance of the Blackjack Reserve Conveniences upgrade FY27-28 being reallocated to footpaths – Letter received in support from Kim Abrahamson on behalf of MBCB but noting a submission needs to be made to the LTP and that any balance of monies available will go to TCDC and its allocation assessed by TCDC – there is a risk that it won't be reallocated to Kūaotunu community and footpaths.

Kevin received material from Heather Bruce - detail of the 2018-2028 LTP footpaths costing and could assess approx. cost but needs to work on scope and cost with TCDC officers using today's costs so that it gets into the LTP. Decision on route of the footpaths which side of road Waitaia to village etc. needs.

Steve noted demand Kūaotunu West to village and traffic count of walkers and cyclists 500 on Easter Saturday one - way done by MRRAI and so in his view the remaining footpath Kūaotunu West to boat ramp and onto Kingfisher Way should be the priority on safety and usage grounds.

Kevin noted he will be away in late May for 2 months and needs assistance and continuity and Steve suggested next committee form a subcommittee of say three to assist. Ian noted availability – Steve not available June. Ian not available in June.

Kevin noted Kingfisher Way west to retaining wall where grass has overgrown the kerb – Tanya is trying to add it to TCDC contractor's scope and proposes to spray out so the contour of the ground be understood and grass better maintained. Noted it was unsafe to mow or line trim / weed wack and requiring traffic management.

Action: Kevin to follow up with Tanya on Conveniences “do minimum” detail.

Kevin to assess footpath data 2018-2028 LTP and contact Heather Bruce regarding TCDC staff to develop details of costings for the LTP 2027-2028.

5.3.2 Cemetery Road subdivision

Steve and Dani have continued monitoring consent tracker at TCDC. No progress posted. Dani is writing a letter to TCDC and WRC asking for status update and time limits on the applicant to respond. Noted that WRC have taken samples of the silt for arsenic testing.

5.4 AGM and Election Preparations – Committee task allocation

AGM timeline for preparations used last year reviewed by Ian with Steve

Notice of AGM provided via Kūaotunu Katchup 15 March and Public Notice up on the Noticeboard.

Calls for nominations need to be got out before 13 April.

Existing members complete nominations by 7 April – and Committee members need to be financial. Steve advised those who needed to renew 31 March 2026 on.

Actions

Ian / Steve Detail of election process – online and at the actual meeting to be discussed further and then a separate meeting called.

Ian – call for nominations out via Mailchimp – adapting existing Public Notice

Ian – mailout of nominations for voting - to add that members need to be financial to vote.

Steve – call for nominations out on Katchup.

5.5 Community Projects and proposals – progress – brief updates

5.5.1 Macrocarpa Trees Cemetery

Background

TCDC initial outcome was that Council is not going to take any action about the poisoned trees. Through Community action we have now got Council concerned as kaka/native bats use the trees for nesting. No admission as to who poisoned the trees from Council.

Update

Council in poisoning the trees have created an unnecessary problem of potential property owner damage and loss of habitat for kaka and bats. Council on site three weeks ago and again recently. An independent arborist has been appointed to review the background of the poisoning of the macrocarpa trees. TCDC will not reveal who the staff member was that instructed the arborist to do the poisoning or the party that did the poisoning. A further second review by another independent arborist is underway.

TCDC have told Lee Barraclough that if a macrocarpa falls on his garage, then it is his problem Marguerite suggested claim against TCDC via the Small Claims Tribunal by Lee in this eventuality. TCDC noted if it falls into the cemetery, it is a TCDC problem.

Steve followed up with a letter to TCDC and noted head of TCDC Parks and Open Spaces, was Derek Thompson and proposed to escalate this to him. Overall budget of \$10,000 District wide for closed cemeteries.

Action:

Steve: to consider an LGOIMA request if information is not further forthcoming from TCDC and also to escalate to Derek Thompson TCDC.

5.5.2 Community Project presentation (Isabel)

Isabel detailed a series of projects described as giving the community a heart and “taking back ownership” of our community and inviting the community with iwi to develop projects that enhance the community.

The projects included in her handout:

- Blackjack Reserve walk to be tidied up to Blackjack Road
Including tidy of Cliff Heraud’s monument and inviting his family and Kauri 2000 supporters to join
- Village Artwalk including highlighting art works that exist in the village and a mural at the store like Lukes / Kawhe wall.
- Explore heritage place labelling and memorial seats (creating guidelines in liaison with TCDC and their guidelines)
- Food Forest Rescue – ongoing mowing (currently by Darren from Vegetation Control Matarangi) and signage on the gate
- Request a Dark Sky Project update.

She had a slide show and wanting to know of KRRRA Support – via a community working bee. Committee agreed in principle to support. Isabel has not advanced the funding issues. Kevin noted an earlier arrangement of a Reserves Community Group which took care of reserves paid by TCDC and possibly given the TCDC consultation, this may be an option for the future.

Isabel clarified that the ArtSpace project is currently on hold because of Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Tamatera decision issues.

Food Forest status as a TCDC reserve queried and Community support needs to be further identified. Sharon Brass has expressed interest.

Decision that the Committee support the objectives and that it is discussed at the AGM led by Isabel and the next Committee take it forward.

5.6 Website Update

Remains in progress. Ian provided a paper on the future form of the website and did not receive any feedback. Background – see earlier minutes.

Ian to advance the plan after the AGM and bring it back to the Committee. Ian to develop design components and noted comms to the community important.

5.7 Library

Marguerite advised that the Kūaotunu Library had received an email from TCDC 30 March 2026 giving prior notification that Council was reviewing their Community Leases and Licences to Occupy Policy.

The review will result in a Facilities Management Agreement for all facilities for “greater clarity and certainty” and that will apply to Kūaotunu Library. It noted the library at present is not subject to rates and building insurance is covered by TCDC and that “no significant changes to current processes are anticipated at this time”. It noted that any future insurance costs should apply would be based on a prorata allocation of the whole building.

The above is a watching brief for within KRRR and awaits further detail and a response to TCDC by the Library Committee.

6. AOB

6.1 Dunecare Zone 10 Planting

Kevin advised that on April 29 KRRR \$500 donated trees are to be planted in conjunction with Air NZ every corner and Kaitiaki Good for your Soul donated trees with TCDC involvement. Ian notes that this is useful Newsletter material.

6.2 Watching Brief

KERG meeting on 8 April regarding upcoming Cyclone Vaianu Sunday and further heavy rain later next week. Concern at state of Blackjack Rd village entrance and use of Hall.

Matarangi 4 Square had donated a Resilience food stock – much fresh or with expiry dates and agreement now had that it would be available on demand rather than the issue of KERG storage.

Upcoming Meetings / KRRR attendance

Next MBCB meeting – 15 April, 3 June 2026

TCDC Full Council meetings – 23 April, 26 May 2026

Mercury Bay North Community Chairs – TBC - Whitianga MBCB room

WATCHING BRIEF

- KERG preparation for next emergency event/Civil Defence equipment location
- Weather/Cyclone Recovery – Kuaotunu Hill wall reconstruction/Grays Beach culvert
- Cemetery /road Subdivision.
- Proposed Community Facilities Charges by TCDC

Closure – Roimata Taimana

Meeting closed: 8.05 pm approx.

Next Meeting: 26 April 2026 AGM at the Hall 3-5pm

ACTION SUMMARY 7 April 2026 (carried over from previous minutes & current actions)

who	What	As of 7 April
Steve	<p>Discuss with Ian about how Community Survey 2026 is resourced establish a Subcommittee.</p> <p>Continue to monitor TCDC Consent Tracker re Cemetery Rd.</p> <p>AGM and Election actions – (refer Item 5.4)</p> <p>Issue and upload to website March 10 Minutes after any Committee inputs due April 10 (refer Item 2)</p> <p>Collate Committee inputs on all 4 items for completion of a submission to TCDC re response to Tough Choices for Lower Rates. Refer Item 5.1</p> <p>Macrocarpas Cemetery Road consider an LGOIMA request if information is not further forthcoming from TCDC and escalate to Derek Thompson (Item 5.5.1)</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p>

Kevin	<p>Maintain correspondence with TCDC and NZTA progressing each of the infrastructure items 5.2.1-5.2.6</p> <p>Bluff Road / Gray Ave culvert – Dune damage – follow up TCDC refreshing KRRRA Request and noting their undertaking for action before FYE 24 (30 June 2025)</p> <p>Follow-up with Vaughan Payne on SH25 debris outwash removal outcomes within TCDC (Aileen Lawrie and Harbours team) (Item 5.2)</p> <p>Advance footpath Blackjack Road village entrance opportunity and get paper tabled / given urgency of decision attend MBCB 15 April meeting if necessary. (Item 5.2)</p> <p>Follow up with NZTA re SH25 gabion replacement design of revetment slope, walkable area adjacent highway and beach access issues. (Item 5.2)</p> <p>Assess data on footpaths from the LTP 2018-2028 to inform LTP 27-37 KRRRA funding requests.</p> <p>Speed reduction road markings and threshold treatment and signage at Kūaotunu entrances –follow up with NZTA Stephanie Slattery.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Ian	<p>AGM and Election actions - refer Item 5.4</p> <p>Discuss with Steve the subcommittee for the survey to be initiated after the AGM.</p> <p>Discuss post AGM with Steve rationalising and reducing Dropbox data volumes to get back to the free limit.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p>
Steffi	<p>Some investigation on the spreadsheet regarding EOY lapsing membership fees and Russell potential membership 2yr duplication to be reviewed.</p> <p>EOY Audit with Pauline Stratford for AGM.</p>	<p>Pending</p> <p>Pending</p>

Isabel	Community Project presentation for AGM – discuss with Steve	Pending
Dani	Continue to monitor TCDC Consent Tracker re Cemetery Road. Encourage Cemetery Road residents to become members. Liaise with Lee re Macrocarpa trees poisoning by TCDC	Ongoing Ongoing
All	Comments to Steve by Friday 10 April on all 4 items for completion of a submission to TCDC re response to Tough Choices for Lower Rates. Suggest content to Ian re Newsletter for Post AGM Consider resources to share Committee workload within Committee and External to the Committee and advise ideas to Steve. Consider being part of Community Survey Committee Regular check of correspondence in webmail - Ideas of Revamp of website /incremental improvements to Ian	Pending Pending Pending Pending Ongoing Pending