Strath Taieri Community Board

MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Strath Taieri Community Board held in the Strath Taieri Community Centre, Middlemarch on Wednesday 21 October 2026, commencing at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Terina Geddes	
Deputy Chairperson	Ken Bain	
Members	Donna Hall	Quentin MacLeod
	Bruce Thomas	Robin Thomas
	Cr Brent Weatherall	
IN ATTENDANCE	Anna Johnson (Group Manager City Development); Jonathan Rowe (Manager – Climate Adaptation & Resilience) and Brandy Saxton (Senior Advisor – Climate Adaptation and Resilience)	
Governance Support Officer	Lynne Adamson	

1 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no Public Forum.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved (Terina Geddes/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Board:

Confirms the agenda without addition or alteration.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/046)

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arose between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Terina Geddes, Ken Bain and Quentin MacLeod provided updates to their Interest Register.

Moved (Terina Geddes/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Board:

a) **Amends** the Elected Members' Interest Register; and

b) **Confirms** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/047)

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 STRATH TAIERI COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING - 5 AUGUST 2026

Moved (Terina Geddes/Ken Bain):

That the Board:

a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Strath Taieri Community Board meeting held on 05 August 2026 as a correct record.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/048)

PART A REPORTS

6 CITYWIDE CLIMATE RESILIENCE - CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The Manager – Climate Adaptation and Resilience (Jonathan Rowe) and Climate Senior Advisor – Climate Adaptation and Resilience (Brandy Saxton) presented an update on the Council's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Programme relevant to the Board's area and responded to questions.

7 OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The Board discussed the Middlemarch River Management update provided by the Otago Regional Council.

Moved (Terina Geddes/Donna Hall):

That the Board:

Notes the Middlemarch River Management update.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/049)

8 BOARD UPDATES

The Board provided updates on activities of interest which included:

Social Media
Robin Thomas provided an update on the Facebook page.

Hyde
Quentin MacLeod provided an update on Hyde, he commented that the Hall had been painted and was looking good. He would like signage for the entrance of Hyde. He also spoke of a pothole which needed addressing.

Petition for Speed Limit Changes in Hyde and Middlemarch
Quentin MacLeod advised that the petition was still ongoing.

Middlemarch Signage
Bruce Thomas provided an update on the proposed Middlemarch entrance signage.

Hindon Road Issues
Ken Bain spoke to the roading issues in Hindon which included trees causing shading, lack of grit on the road and blocked culverts on the Lambhill-Silverpeaks side.

Moved (Robin Thomas/Ken Bain):

That the Board:

a) **Notes** the Board updates.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/050)

9 GOVERNANCE SUPPORT OFFICER'S REPORT

A report from Civic provided an update on activities relevant to the Board area which included:

Project Fund

Representation Review

DCC Homeless Outreach Service

DCC Unmarked Graves Research Project – Robin Thomas advised that he would update the Board's facebook page with this information.

Moved (Cr Brent Weatherall/Member Donna Hall):

That the Board:

a) **Notes** the Governance Support Officer's Report.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/051)

10 COMMUNITY PLAN

The Board discussed the Community Board Plan.

11 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson (Terina Geddes) spoke to her update on matters of interest which included:

Ms Geddes spoke of concerns regarding recent closures of State Highway 87 and noted that discussions had been held with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi seeking clarification on the authority and criteria used for road closure decisions.

An update was provided on the Board's contribution to the DCC *FYI* publication, with the Chairperson thanking members for their feedback and contributions.

The Chairperson advised that feedback had been submitted to the Council on the draft Ōtepoti Wheels Strategy. The submission highlighted the importance of recognising trails and riding opportunities in the wider Dunedin area and encouraged greater collaboration with neighbouring councils to support and enhance regional trail networks and connections.

Ms Geddes provided an update on the community playground project, with good progress continuing to be made. The Chairperson also noted that work on the hall floor had been completed and the refurbished floor was looking very good.

Ms Geddes reported on a recent meeting of the Strath Taieri Resilience Group, where emergency preparedness, local risks, and the development of a communication network for the valley were discussed. Flooding and fire had been identified as key risks for the area, and the importance of establishing local contacts and communication pathways during emergency events was noted.

The Chairperson advised that the Strath Taieri Historical Society had sought the Board's support for efforts to obtain heritage recognition for the Middlemarch Railway Station and Stationmaster's House. Discussions were continuing regarding the process, potential heritage protections, and any implications for existing lease and maintenance arrangements.

She provided an update on the future of the DCC Service Centre in Middlemarch following concerns raised about the continuation of the service. The Chairperson advised that correspondence had been sent to Cr Weatherall seeking guidance and advocacy, and noted that any decision would be considered through future Council budget processes.

Looking ahead, the Chairperson advised that a meeting with the new Chief Executive was scheduled and invited members to raise any matters they wished to be discussed. The Chairperson also encouraged members to consider potential uses for the Board's discretionary fund, noting that no funding applications had been received to date. Finally, members of the community were encouraged to use the Council's *Fix It* reporting system to ensure local issues were formally logged and followed up.

Moved (Terina Geddes/Cr Brent Weatherall):

That the Board:

a) **Notes** the Chairperson’s report.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/052)

12 COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Councillor Brent Weatherall will provide an update on items of interest. He advised that Council had confirmed Middlemarch as the next community to receive investment through the Community Amenity Upgrade Programme. Council staff were currently working through NZ Transport Agency requirements, with community consultation on proposed improvements expected to commence in early 2027.

Cr Weatherall noted that public consultation on the Draft Local Alcohol Policy had concluded, with hearings scheduled for November 2026. He advised that the policy sought to balance alcohol availability with community wellbeing and the reduction of alcohol-related harm.

Cr Weatherall provided an update on Council leadership changes, with Cr Weatherall acknowledging the contribution of former Chief Executive Sandy Graham and welcoming Richard Briggs to the role.

Cr Weatherall also referred to the Residents' Opinion Survey 2025/26, noting overall satisfaction with Council and highlighting key community priorities, including roading and transport, financial management, rates affordability, and infrastructure maintenance. He observed that these issues were particularly relevant to rural communities such as Strath Taieri.

In relation to concerns raised by the Board regarding the future of Council's quarterly Customer Services visits to Middlemarch, Cr Weatherall advised that no final decision had been made and that the matter remained under consideration as part of a review of operational expenditure. He noted that the Board's concerns had been communicated through the appropriate channels.

Cr Weatherall concluded by acknowledging the important role of the Strath Taieri Community Board and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting practical and affordable initiatives that benefit the community.

Moved (Cr Brent Weatherall/Quentin MacLeod):

That the Board:

a) **Notes** the Councillor Update.

Motion carried (STCB/2026/053)

13 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CHAIR

There were no items notified.

The meeting concluded at 3.43 pm.

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CHAIRPERSON