

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY, 28 MAY 2024, AT 3:30PM.**

**PRESENT**

Councillors R Brine (Chairperson), A Blackie, B Cairns, P Redmond, and Mayor D Gordon (arrived at 3:38pm and left 4:05pm).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors T Fulton and P Williams.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Community Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), L Sole (Acting District Libraries Manager), I Clark (Project Manager – Community and Recreation), B Dollery (Ecologist - Biodiversity) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

**1 APOLOGIES**

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** an apology for absence be received and sustained from Councillor Mealings.

**CARRIED**

**2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts declared.

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 19 March 2024**

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 19 March 2024, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Matters Arising (From Minutes)**

There were no matters arising.

**4 DEPUTATIONS**

Nil.

## 5 REPORTS

### 5.1 Kaiapoi Community Hub – Reallocation of Budget – I Clark (Project Manager – Community and Recreation)

I Clark spoke to the report, noting that approval was being sought for the reallocation of funds from the Land Purchase Ravenswood Community Centre Budget to the Kaiapoi Hub Budget to allow completion of services and electrical at the Kaiapoi Community Hub. The installation of services and electrical was not included in the initial tender or budget allocation, as the lessees were deemed responsible for their installation. The Kaiapoi Community Hub Trust was established in 2022 to improve fundraising opportunities, own and manage buildings, and install services. However, the trust model was reviewed and placed on hold due to the trust's dissolution.

I Clark noted that the provision of services to the street boundary would not be adequate and would become a barrier to the site's development in the immediate and long-term future. In addition to the need for additional services through the resource consent process, it was also determined that the site would require carpark lighting, which was also not included in the original budget.

Councillor Redmond noted that the Kaiapoi Croquet Club (the Club) was exchanging its current property for two new greens being built by the Council. He questioned the purchase price of the Club's property. C Brown explained that the Council was not purchasing the land. The agreement was the Club would transfer the property with the understanding that the Council would develop two greens at its new site.

Councillor Cairns enquired if the reallocation of funds would jeopardise the purchase of the land for the Ravenswood Community Centre. C Brown noted that the valuation of the preferred property was far less than the allocated budget. Thus, there was no risk of not having sufficient funding.

Responding to Councillor Blackie, I Clarke advised that the Council was currently working on the establishment of the two lawns, which were not yet ready for handover. The Club had been granted \$10,000 to move soils for establishing their other lawns. It had been gifted a clubhouse and was currently investigating the structural engineering of the clubhouse. The Club was also fundraising for a maintenance shed.

Councillor Blackie enquired as to what would happen to the Club's current clubrooms. I Clarke noted that clubrooms would be included in the Murphey Park Project that staff were currently working on. Staff were developing a Master Plan for the area, which would include the demolishing of the clubrooms, which had been included in the budget.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240426066065.
- (b) **Notes** that the main contract for the construction of the car park and Croquet Lawns at the Kaiapoi Community Hub has been tendered, awarded, and is near completion. This has created more certainty around the allocated budget for this project.
- (c) **Notes** the progress that has been made over the last year through staff working with the key Kaiapoi Community Hub user groups, including completion of the carpark, croquet lawns and infrastructure design along with lease negotiations and commitments from these community groups to the Hub.

- (d) **Approves** Option 1 to reallocate \$327,000 from the Land Purchase Ravenswood Community Centre budget to allow completion of services and electrical at the Kaiapoi Community Hub site. This will leave a budget which is considered adequate of \$3,973,000.00 in the Land Purchase Community Centre Ravenswood for the purchase of land in the North Woodend area.
- (e) **Notes** that the Council will own and maintain the services installed in the design attached (Trim: 240430067899), the lessee will be responsible for their services beyond this.
- (f) **Notes** that the Lessees will be responsible for connecting services from their building to the central systems.
- (g) **Notes** that the Kaiapoi Croquet Club are currently working with Council Staff to finalise a Sale and Purchase agreement for the Council to receive their current site located at 8c and 10c Revell Street in exchange for the building of two new greens at the Kaiapoi Community Hub Site. At the settlement of the Sale and Purchase Agreement the Croquet Club will own the lawns constructed by the Council, the club is responsible for the construction of the storage shed and club rooms and will own these assets.
- (h) **Circulates** this report to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board for information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Blackie thanked staff for the report. He noted that the reallocation of funds would not jeopardise the purchase of the land for the Ravenswood Community Centre. If the Council did not install services and electrical, it would halt the project. Councillor Blackie, therefore supported the motion.

Councillor Cairns concurred with Councillor Blackie. He commented that the Men's Shed, Satisfy Food Rescue and the other groups relocating to the Kaiapoi Community Hub would be extremely grateful for the Council for providing the additional level of service.

5.2 **Changes to Criteria for the Biodiversity Contestable Fund – B Dollery (Ecologist - Biodiversity)**

B Dollery spoke to the report, noting that the Biodiversity Contestable Fund was open as a continuous fund allocation available to Waimakariri District landowners of significant natural areas (SNAs) listed in the District Plan. The Fund had a current balance of \$98,370 and an annual budget of \$15,000, with an increase of \$10,000 each year after that.

However, currently, the Council has received many requests for funding from landowners who did not have mapped SNAs on their land and also requests for the funding of ecological plans. Requests were also received for funding to create SNAs; however, no funds were available. It was therefore suggested that the fund be opened to include landowners who did not have SNAs listed in the District Plan with stringent criteria assessing representativeness, rarity, connectivity, protection, size, and collaborations. It was recommended to have two funding rounds to allow for projects to be considered against other similar applications and ensure the fund was being used to the best potential. There was also some funding available to landowners from the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) budget, which had allocated \$20,000 per annum for community groups.

Council Blackie sought clarity on the definition of a 'legal obligation' as contained in the Information Sheet for Biodiversity Contestable Fund Application. B Dollery explained that landowners who were obligated to plant an area as a condition of an approved Resource Consent, could not apply to the funding of the planting.

Councillor Williams asked if the Council conducted site inspections to ensure the plantings' success. B Dollery explained that staff liaised with the applicants throughout the project, and applicants had to show work done at the end. Also, staff would normally visit the sites throughout the projects.

Councillor Fulton questioned the process when an SNA was owned by multiple landowners. G MacLeod noted that the Council had previously received an application where for a wetland area owned by three landowners. Although the proposed work would have benefitted the entire wetland, the landowners could only apply for funding for their own properties. However, such matters would be addressed as part of the evaluation process.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Mayor Gordon

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 230529078453.
- (b) **Notes** the amount available in the Biodiversity Contestable Fund totals \$98,370 (with \$8,459 allocated to a Significant Natural Area (SNA) landowner in December 2023, Report No. 231124189477).
- (c) **Approves** extending the criteria to include landowners who do not have SNAs listed in the District Plan, with improved criteria assessing six areas: Representativeness, Rarity/Distinctness, Connectivity, Protection, Size, and Partnerships and Collaborations.
- (d) **Approves** the recommendation to have two funding rounds per annum for the fund to allow for projects to be considered against other similar applications and ensure the fund is being used to the best potential.
- (e) **Approves** the administration under the Biodiversity Contestable Fund of the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) budget of \$20,000 per annum for organisational support (Recommendation 2.8) with separate criteria.
- (f) **Note** that the adoption of the changes will mean that the Council only considers the fund twice a year and has specific measures against which to judge merit.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Blackie supported the motion and commented that he believed that having two funding rounds to allow for projects to be considered would be beneficial to the community.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the work being done by staff and noted that the Council could make a real difference in this area in ensuring the protection of the natural environment.

### 5.3 **Aquatics May Report – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

M Greenwood took the report as read; however, he highlighted the request received from Westpac Rescue Helicopters Service to subsidise swim training for its medics at the Council's Aquatic facilities. He also noted that it was recommended that the Council continue to offer a 25% discount off the standard entry price for a parent and preschooler following a successful trial six-month period.

Councillor Redmond enquired if Selwyn District Council was subsidising swim training for Westpac Rescue Helicopters medics. M Greenwood had no information on Selwyn District Council's position on this matter. However, to his knowledge, the majority of Westpac

Rescue Helicopters Service staff lived in Christchurch, where they were offered a free swim membership.

Councillor Cairns asked if it was a legal requirement that the medics swim to retain their accreditation to serve on rescue helicopters. M Greenwood noted that the medics were required to swim 16 lengths in nine minutes and be confident in the water to remain flight ready.

Councillor Redmond noted that the Council offered discounts to various groups, including Rangiora High School staff. He asked what the rationale was for the discount. M Greenwood explained that the 30% discount was offered to various groups, including schools. However, Rangiora High School was the only school that had taken the Council up on the offer.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240430067634.
- (b) **Notes** strong attendance at the Aquatic Facilities with April up 1400 visits against last year.
- (c) **Notes** a financial result of \$133,000 better than budget.
- (d) **Approves** the request for seven free annual memberships for staff of the Rescue Helicopter service to ensure they are able to continue to meet physical health and swim test requirements.
- (e) **Approves** facilities continuing to offer a 25% discount off the standard entry price for a parent and preschooler entry in line with its wider pricing structure following a successful trial period which saw 612 parents with a preschooler who hold a community services card.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Gordon thanked the staff for the report. He commented that there had been many challenges for Aquatic facility staff over the last few months. Despite the challenges faced, it was satisfying to see high overall customer satisfaction. Therefore, Mayor Gordon supported the motion.

Councillor Cairns concurred with Mayor Gordon's comments. He believed that the Westpac Rescue Helicopters Service medics would be pleased with the free annual membership. He also supported the continued 25% discount off the standard entry price for a parent and preschooler.

Councillor Redmond supported the motion. He noted that it was hard to compare the various groups that currently receive discounted fees because they were all doing different but equally good work in the community. He suggested that the Council's sponsorship of the Westpac Rescue Helicopters Service should be made public, and that the Council should take their offer to promote its Aquatic facilities.

#### 5.4 Libraries May Update – L Sole (Acting District Libraries Manager)

L Sole reported that the Waimakariri Libraries were working towards becoming an accredited dementia-friendly network as part of the Alzheimer's New Zealand Dementia Friendly Recognition Programme. The Waimakariri Libraries were the first in the region to complete the training programme, which would enable staff to support members of the community with diverse needs. Staff had also invited people with dementia to the Kaiapoi Library and engaged with them via the Council's local heritage collection and artefacts at the Kaiapoi Museum.

L Sole advised that the Council had launched Code Club in the final three weeks of Term One, which was already at capacity. It involved groups of 10 to 12 young people coming to the Rangiora Library and engaging with the coding platform. It was an informal opportunity to build social skills, which staff were looking to extend to the Kaiapoi and Oxford Libraries.

In response to a question from Councillor Redmond, L Sole could not provide information on the number of people with dementia visiting the libraries. However, as the Waimakariri District's population aged, the number of people with dementia was growing.

Councillor Cairns questioned whether the Council was considering providing library services to rest homes for people who could not visit the libraries. L Sole acknowledged that it was a service that staff would like to offer.

Councillor Cairns enquired whether the number of people who visited Waimakariri Libraries during the April 2024 school holidays increased by approximately 16,500. L Sole clarified that the total number of people who visited Waimakariri Libraries during the April 2024 school holidays was approximately 16,500, which was an increase from the April 2023 school holidays.

Councillor Cairns also asked if the Code Club was being taught by Council staff or if there was an external trainer. L Sole explained that the Code Club was a social enterprise that relied on volunteers, and the person running the project was a high school teacher.

Councillor Fulton asked whether there would be costs associated with extending Code Club to the Kaiapoi and Oxford Libraries. L Sole noted that the programme was run as a non-profit by volunteers. In other parts of the country, partnerships with local tech firms were established.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240516078963.
- (b) **Notes** the establishment of the Rangiora Library Code Club.
- (c) **Notes** that operational expenses are currently tracking under budget due to vacancies being carried throughout this financial year. This has put pressure on the team, and recruitment is underway. However, this will likely result in a year-end saving.
- (d) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Cairns thanked L Sole for stepping up as acting Libraries Manager. He praised the work the staff did in the libraries and supported the opportunities that the Code Club would be opening up.

Councillor Redmond congratulated the staff on a good budget. He commended staff on the work being done to create a dementia-friendly network.

## **6 CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

## **7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

### **7.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Al Blackie.**

- Huria Mahinga Kai was progressing well.
- Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust had a new General Manager, Nick Moody. One of the Trusts funding sources had withdrawn.
- The Menz Shed was making seats for Council reserves.
- Sourced some free wooden reels from a company in Christchurch that would be used in the dog parks and reserves.

### **7.2 Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums) – Councillor Robbie Brine.**

- The Southbrook Sports Club - Meetings were held to discuss the funding as proposed in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. It was agreed that the \$1.3 million for the clubhouse upgrade would be pushed out to year four of the Long-Term Plan to allow the Club time to raise its share of the funding.
- MainPower Stadium—The stadium received a Solar Panel proposal from MainPower. They were considering the possibility of covering part of the building with solar panels to offset operations expenditures.
- Dudley Aquatic Facility – A mobile adult hoist had been ordered.
- Rangiora Library—The shelving design had been finalised before going out to tender. The new shelving layout could affect the castle, which was in the middle of the library. Staff were working through what that may mean.

### **7.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Brent Cairns.**

- A Virtual Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) trial had been set up in Hurunui, allowing clients from Culverden and Cheviot to meet with WINZ via Teams. This trial could be extended and could be valuable to clients who are unable to visit the Rangiora office.
  - Some immigrant families faced challenges with the lack of support for those looking after a family at home, additional costs they have to pay, e.g., for education, and substandard rentals. Hence, some people were crowded into one rental and had language issues.
- Citizens Advice assisted 314 visitors in March 2024 and 319 in April 2024, there were more complex issues they were having to deal with.
  - Their recent Op Shop fashion show raised \$4,600 for the group.
  - Their English language classes were in demand, with many people attending with nil English.
- The Kaiapoi High School Leadership Program (Cactus) had started up again after a number of years in hiatus.
- Met with Lions group keen to provide a considerable amount of land in Woodend to grow food for the community. Connected with Food Secure North Canterbury, which, in turn, was looking at raising funds for seed, etc.

- Met with the Council's Civil Defence Team to discuss their presentation to the June 2024 All Boards session regarding North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support (NCNS).
- A few complaints were received regarding the community-funded cameras, which may require the Council's Communications Team to send out a consistent message as to the camera's purpose and who can view the footage. Pegasus had donations totalling over \$11,000 for community-funded cameras. Sovereign Palms have completed and winding up their activity.
- The Woodend School Cultural event had a really good turnout for hangi; student performances from Woodend and Kaiapoi High were impressive.
- Attended Waimakariri Access Group meeting; issues raised included Mobility Parking time limits, Dudley pool fees, Bocca Court, and markings at MainPower stadium. Almost all issues have been resolved by the Council.
- Attended Police Constable Tony Maws' farewell function. For many years, T Maws supported and helped NCNS. His departure left a large gap in the service and information that NCNS provided to their supporters/followers.
- Attended the Food Secure North Canterbury meeting. The group was looking at funding for edible trees and plants to help communities create pocket food forests.
- There were a number of interested groups willing to help with creating food forests, especially in Rangiora and Oxford.
- Attended the Back to Basics day in Rangiora. There were slightly fewer numbers than in 2023. However, those who did attend stayed longer to learn more.
- Kaiapoi Farmers Market, after many years of operation, had decided to share some of its surplus funds for two building projects: the Kaiapoi Food Forest education building and the Menzshed building at the Community Hub.
- The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) Kaiapoi Park was still doing well, with strong visitor numbers. Campers loved the location and its close proximity to the town and shops.
  - Selwyn District Council took advantage of the recent NZMCA show at Wolfbrook Arena and in Christchurch by giving away carry bags along with promotion material.
- Attended and was one of the speakers at the Grow Your Garden for Birds event in Woodend. This was well attended, and there was lots of great interaction regarding plantings on public land of food forests.
- Attended Youth Futures event at MainPower stadium – Brad Olsen from Infometrics spoke.
- Visited Christchurch Community housing developments. Learnt about the designs, the numbers of units and the mix for things to work best. Viewed lease-to-own units. three bedroom, max income of the couple \$150,000 per year, lease the land when wanting to sell back the owner gets purchase price plus CPI increases. \$450,000, which was the build price.
- Chaired North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support meeting, updated Vision, Values and Strategy, applied for funding, and made a submission to the Council's 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Now have Council representation from Hurunui on the committee.
- Multiple school and group visits to the Kaiapoi Food Forest. A large group came from Loburn School to learn and volunteer. Kaiapoi Food Forest Last held its Annual General Meeting last week and had the educational shed priced so it could start applying for funding.
- Attended both Kaiapoi and Rangiora Museum' Annual General Meetings, both well attended, showing the wide community support for museums. The Kaiapoi Museum had a challenge with storage as it struggled to access the mezzanine. The Rangiora Museum had issues with the roof on the Cob cottage and was advocating for some presence in the Rangiora Library once it had been redeveloped. Both showed positive financial results for the year and strong visitor numbers.



- Caught up with the Community Wellbeing Team in Kaiapoi – they had indicated there were 33 people living in their cars in Kaiapoi alone. One of those people was over 65, and the Team got them housed within a week.

7.4 **Waimakariri Arts and Culture – Councillor Al Blackie.**

- The Art Strategy Launch function had been held. The audience was fairly small but very passionate. T Sturley was currently collating a job description for the position.
- Arts Collection Trust was having a meeting to discuss four of five paintings that it may put back on the market.

**8 QUESTIONS**

Nil

**9 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee would be held on Tuesday 23 July 2024 at 3.30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.14pm.

**CONFIRMED**



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Chairperson

23 July 2024

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Date