

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 3:30PM.

PRESENT

Councillors R Brine (Chairperson), B Cairns, A Blackie, P Redmond, and Mayor D Gordon.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors T Fulton, J Goldsworthy, and J Ward.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), P Eskett (Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager) 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

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 12 December 2023

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 12 December 2023 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

5 REPORTS

5.1 Community Team Year in Review Report 2022/2023 – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)

T Sturley spoke to the report which provided a review of the team's year. She highlighted item 3.3 of the report which reviewed the full suite of the Community Team across three areas, safe communities, welcoming communities, and empowered communities which was focused on making Waimakariri a better place to live work and play.

There were no questions from members.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 240207017577.
- (b) **Notes** the collaborative, community-led approach adopted by the Community Team as part of business as usual and Civil Defence response and social recovery.
- (c) **Notes** that, as detailed in the Community Team Year in Review Report 2022/2023, all population and performance measure targets for the Community Development Strategy 2015 -2025 have now been met or exceeded.
- (d) **Notes** the pending review of the Community Development Strategy, due for completion before June 2024.

CARRIED

Councillor Blackie commented that it was an excellent report.

Councillor Cairns concurred with Councillor Blackie noting that the work that the Community Team did was wonderful.

5.2 **Libraries Update to 29 January 2024 – P Eskett (District Libraries Manager)**

P Eskett took the report as read and highlighted the Biblioteka hardware installation. The new RFID technology was installed in late January 2024 and it had been a huge success. Libraries staff had a lot of positive feedback from the community regarding the improved accessibility. Many users had not needed any assistance with it. The smart shelves meant that people were putting their books on it which automatically returned them and had a high novelty factor.

Councillor Cairns enquired if staff reviewed the opening hours of the library regularly. P Eskett replied that they had explored ways that the change in hours could work. Prior to Covid she was surprised at the limited hours the library was open on a Sunday. Staff had discussed more Sunday hours in keeping with other libraries however had not done any operational budget planning.

Councillor Fulton noted the groundbreaking virtual reality experience in the Sir Edmund Hilary Hut. He asked if it was groundbreaking in the sense that there was not a lot of virtual reality in the libraries and queried where libraries could take the virtual reality experience. P Eskett replied that the definition of the goggles was groundbreaking and improved the images that people were able to experience. Currently the Wiamakariri Libraries had not done anything in this space however in 2023 Libraries had set up a new team called the Digital Discovery Team, which were investigating the experiential technology which libraries could harness.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No.240208018003.
- (b) **Notes** the customer service improvements.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Cairns commented that he loved going to the libraries.

Councillor Redmond thanked P Eskett for the report. He thought this was an example that libraries were more than books.

5.3 Aquatics February Report – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

M Greenwood spoke to the report which provided a summary of the Aquatic Facilities progress as measured against the Units most significant Key Performance Indicators. Attendance continued to rise over the last few years. There was information included in the report regarding upcoming planned maintenance work at both the main facilities. He also provided an update on the customer satisfaction survey which was run in late 2023 which had an overall satisfaction rate of 96% which was up from the previous year.

Councillor Ward asked how the pools were currently placed with staffing shortages after Covid. M Greenwood noted that they were improving and were currently recruiting and had received 40 applicants for the last advert. They were also looking to ensure they had a decent pool of casual staff members.

Councillor Ward asked if there had been any cancellations of programmes due to staffing shortages. M Greenwood explained where previously people may have pushed through and turned up to work with a cold however since Covid this was no longer acceptable and this did impact on staffing levels at times.

Councillor Redmond noted that he had seen a complaint from a woman who was unable to get her child into swimming lessons. He asked if that was a current issue. M Greenwood noted that it was an issue. Staffing was an issue. Due to the economy there had been a number of local providers which had not survived the Covid lockdown and which essentially created a boom for Council. Currently there were 300-400 children in the market for swimming lessons which took every spot the Council had.

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240207017098.
- (b) **Notes** Aquatic Facilities progress against key performance indicators including facility Attendance and a Financial result, \$16,000 better than budget.
- (c) **Notes** upcoming programmed maintenance closures will impact levels of service but allow us to complete works to refresh facilities and maintain key plant systems.
- (d) **Notes** a result of 96% for overall customer satisfaction as part of our biannual customer satisfaction survey.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

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

- Huria Mahinga Kai Reserve project was progressing well. They had tenders in for the next stage which they rejected due to the high cost.
- Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust – the General Manager had resigned which meant the Trust would be recruiting for a new General Manager.
- Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Review – currently out for public consultation. Signs had been put up at all entry points to the beach with QR codes which linked to an online survey.

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

- Major discussions during the Long Term Plan Budget meetings.
- Councillors had received an invitation to a Southbrook Sports Club meeting.

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

- Immigration through the fast track visa process would see around 250,000 immigrants coming into New Zealand. As to what impact that would have on the Waimakariri was uncertain however, in December 2023 he delivered welcome bags to new residents and every family he spoke to was not born in New Zealand. It was wonderful to hear why they chose Kaiapoi and the Waimakariri as a place to live or buy a home.
- Oxford Area School hosted a dinner to welcome the new Filipino families which now made up the third highest ethnic group at the school, the highest being New Zealanders followed by Māori.
- GLOW (Global Locals of Waimakariri) - The group meets the first Thursday of the month from 5-7.30pm at the Plough. The group was made up of around 10 ethnic groups.
- Accessibility Training was scheduled in the Council Chamber on 6th March from 9am to 12pm and would give an insight in to what it was like to navigate the district with a disability.
- Back to Basics workshop 20th April in Rangiora.
- Volunteer expos being held on 8th March in Rangiora, 14th March in Kaiapoi and 21st March in Woodend.
- North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support was reviewing its vision, values and strategy (huge thanks to W Howe)– would like, at some point, to present to the Council, on the Getsready program and its capability and what it can do to help Council and Civil Defence in times of emergency.
- Thanked T Sturley and her team for the support offered to those impacted by the Loburn fire. Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the Police dealt really well with the people that were worst affected.
- Food banks were still experiencing the same high levels of demand. They said they were having to deal with far more complex issues due to food insecurity.
- Dark Sky accreditation – they had to provide three educational events per year, and noted he would be looking forward to them appearing on the events calendar.
- Had a number of people call regarding Tiny houses, and the team led by W Taylor was dealing with this however it showed a growing acceptance of living in smaller accommodation.
- Dr Martinez spoke to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board about Blue Zones which looked up “live to 100” on Netflix as a starting point. Have made contact with the doctor and would assist him to connect with S Hart and the strategy team along with T Sturley.

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

Nil.

8 QUESTIONS

Councillor Ward submitted the following Question under Section 21 of the Standing Orders for the Council:

Following the Business Awards in 2023, Enterprise North Canterbury expressed a concern that the awards may not continue due to the cost of hiring the MainPower Stadium. Councillor Ward understood that the Council was in the process of negotiating a new Management Agreement with the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust, which managed the MainPower Stadium, which will include an increase of \$100,000 to assist with the operational costs of the

community court. She noted that the Business Awards was a major community event in the Waimakariri District, mainly organised by volunteers. Councillor Ward, therefore, enquired if the Council would consider underwriting the event to avoid being hosted at a smaller venue as MainPower had withdrawn their sponsorship of the event.

C Brown confirmed that the Council was renegotiating the Management Agreement with the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust as part of the draft 2024/34 Long Term Plan process. As part of the negotiation process, the Trust and Council would agree on a draft Management Agreement, which would include Key Performance Indicators the Council expected the Trust to achieve. The Council could have a conversation with the Trust about community and commercial events. There may also be conditions that the Council could include a draft Management Agreement to attract community events to the venue.

9 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 3.30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.05pm.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson

19 March 2024

Date