

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 3:30PM.

PRESENT:

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), Councillors R Brine, A Blackie and N Mealings.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors T Fulton

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), B Dollery (Ecologist - Biodiversity), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), W Howe (Team Leader Vibrant Communities), K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader) and K Rabe (Governance Advisor).

1 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Received** and sustained leave of absence from Mayor D Gordon and Councillor P Redmond.

CARRIED

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 17 September 2024

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 17 September 2024 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3.3 **Notes of the Community and Recreation Committee Workshop held on 17 September 2024**

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated notes of the Community and Recreation Committee workshop, held on 17 September 2024.

CARRIED

4 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

5 REPORTS

5.1 **Arohatia te Awa Programme of Works – B Dollery (Ecologist – Biodiversity)**

B Dollery was in attendance to present the report which sought the approval of the proposed ten-year programme of works for the Arohatia te Awa project. The project was dedicated to enhancing water quality, biodiversity and recreational access across the district. The works undertaken would not exceed the budget and to fundraising, requests for 'work in kind' or downscaling of plans where necessary would ensure that work was kept within the budget.

Councillor Fulton asked if the budget was from the Waimakariri District Council or if the funding originated from other sources. B Dollery replied that this was a Council budget, however there was a possibility that landowners may contribute to the programme which worked with volunteers and community groups to achieve its outcomes.

Councillor Cairns asked if any shortfall would be found through funding applications or contributions from landowners. B Dollery acknowledged that not all the costs were currently known however the programme would be tailored to the budget and no overspends would occur.

In response to Councillor Fulton's query regarding adventure tourism, B Dollery stated that this was an unknown at this stage and consultation with landowners and the public would need to be carried out to see if there was any appetite for this type of recreational activity.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Brine

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241113200896.
- (b) **Approves** the Arohatia te Awa Programme of Works for years one to ten years allowing the Arohatia te awa Working Group to continue operations.
- (c) **Notes** staff will report back to the Community and Recreation Committee during the last quarter of the financial year to update on the status of the project and budget.
- (d) **Notes** that any programme changes will be reported to the Community and Recreation Committee.
- (e) **Notes** that the project currently has a budget of \$472,802 with an annual budget of \$110,000 ongoing.

- (f) **Notes** that whilst the Programme of Works exceeds the current budget (below), work undertaken will not exceed the available budget and actions will be taken to fundraise, request “work in kind” and down-scale plans where necessary.

Year	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	5-Yr Sub-total
Approved Budget	\$472, 802	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$912,802
Total (All Works)	\$152, 500	\$217, 500	\$282, 500	\$230, 000	\$245, 000	\$1,127,500
Remaining Budget/Shortfall	\$320, 302	-\$107, 500	-\$172, 500	-\$120, 000	-\$135, 000	-\$214,698
Year	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	10-Yr Total
Approved Budget	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$1,462, 802
Total (All Works)	\$140, 000	\$145, 000	\$145, 000	\$150, 000	\$150, 000	\$1,857, 500
Remaining Budget/ Shortfall	-\$30, 000	-\$35, 000	-\$35 ,000	-\$40, 000	-\$40 ,000	<u>-\$394, 698</u>

- (g) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings commented that the programme scheduled was a good way forward with four projects being worked on simultaneously.

Councillor Brine noted that the report was informative and the programme environmentally important however warned that this programme may be under risk during the coming election process with finances under scrutiny due to the economic pressure felt by many in the district.

Councillor Cairns agreed with Councillor Brine’s assessment, however supported the planting of trees and biodiversity initiatives in any form.

5.2 **Fee Waiver Grants Scheme Update – K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader)**

K Howat presented the report which updated the Committee on the Fee Waiver Grants scheme. The scheme was overseen by the Fee Waivers Subcommittee and waived fees on charges for community facilities and approved grants towards building and resource consent costs for community groups. This initiative had a positive impact on the community especially those who attended programmes who lived on a fixed income.

Councillor Blackie noted that the Rangiora Rotary Club had received a fee waiver for an event run out of the Rangiora Town Hall and queried what event this was. K Howat stated this was an annual primary school competition.

Councillor Cairns asked how many groups hired the council’s facilities district wide. K Howat was unable to answer however noted that many were regular users over many years.

Councillor Fulton asked why the Oxford Town Hall was under utilised and K Howat replied that most community groups used the JC Hall at Pearson Park.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241113200505.
- (b) **Notes** that fee waivers for facility hire costs totalling \$3,819 were approved to 14 groups and consent grants totalling \$17,111.25 were approved for four community groups.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine noted the Fee Waiver Committee was set up originally when a councillor objected to a 0.50c increase in facility charges while this initiative had resulted in a cost of \$46,000 to the Council. However now resource consents were also being considered by the Committee and he had questioned why the Kaiapoi Croquet Club had received a fee waiver when the Rangiora Croquet Club had not.

Councillor Cairns noted that the fees and chargers set by the council were appropriate as borne out by the small number of groups who had applied for assistance. If the fees were excessive then the number of groups applying for waivers would be much higher than the fourteen who had applied for a waiver.

5.3 **Aquatics November Report – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

M Greenwood was in attendance to present the report which provided the Committee with a summary of the aquatic facilities year and sought the approval for the introduction of three new entry passes for pools and support for the Coastguard fundraising initiative, the Big Swim, which would potentially generate further income.

M Greenwood noted that the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board had requested a summer pass for the Oxford pool which had resulted in new pass options presented in the report. The Coastguard held an annual Big Swim fundraising event which required people being sponsored to swim pool lengths. The proposal was that if the person raised \$100 or more for the coastguard, the swimmer would be allowed a free one-month pass to pools in the district.

M Greenwood also gave a brief overview of the maintenance works which had been necessary at Dudley Pool.

Councillor Cairns asked if there were different passes for each pool and M Greenwood replied that passes could be used at any of the four pools in the district. In response to a question regarding the Big Swim event, M Greenwood noted that the request had been denied for the 2023 season as it was the first time that Waimakariri District Council had been approached and there was insufficient time to set up the required administration, however everything had now been worked out. People who had donated \$100 or more would be issued with a red wrist band by the Coastguard and when presented at the pool would be issued with a month's free pass.

Councillor Cairns then requested information regarding the recently installed pool lift and the proposed building works to allow the pool to be accessible for disabled swimmers. M Greenwood responded that an architect had been employed to design the area however there would be no increase in the pool's footprint. All works would be contained within the current building.

Councillor Cairns noted that operational expenses had shown to be less than expected and queried the reason for this. M Greenwood noted that the current power invoice was still to be paid and that due to winter illnesses and a lack of staffing had resulted in pool closures. However this was set to improve with 15 new life guards being employed recently.

Councillor Mealings acknowledged that the season pass (15 week pass) had addressed the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's request in a broad manner, however given that this pass was designed to be available for all pools missed the point slightly. The current pass was costed to take into account the higher costs of heated and better equipped pools at Rangiora and Kaiapoi, whereas the Board was looking for an Oxford specific pass which would be cheaper given this was an unheated pool with no extra equipment. She queried if this could be progressed further. M Greenwood replied that fees and charges were set during the Long Term/Annual Plan process and the Board would need to request this variation during its Annual Plan submission in 2025.

Councillor Fulton agreed with Councillor Mealings and requested that further investigation be done on the possibility of progressing an Oxford only pass. M Greenwood agreed to do research and get back to the Board on the outcome.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241104191022.
- (b) **Notes** the progress on current and planned maintenance activities to support the ongoing operation of the facilities.
- (c) **Approves** support for the Coastguard Big Swim fundraising initiative by offering free lane swimming for the month of June 2025 for those participating in the fundraising for the event.
- (d) **Notes** that while there is no direct cost to the Council for being involved, an estimated likely impact to income is around \$650 for 10 people however this is likely to be recovered from further repeat business.
- (e) **Approves** the trial of three season pass ticket prices at the Oxford Pool for the coming season, being Adult \$244.40, Senior/community service \$183.80 and Child \$138.70.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine started that pools cost a lot of money for upkeep, however the public expected swimming facilities to be provided at low cost. Pools were important in providing swim programmes which was vital in a country surrounded by oceans and populated with many rivers and lakes. He noted that teaching people to swim from an early age was important and stated that he would be buying his grandchildren learn to swim lessons for Christmas rather than toys.

Councillor Mealings thanked M Greenwood for a good report and acknowledged the work he had done on the summer pass.

Councillor Cairns appreciated the readiness of taking on new initiatives by pool management and was pleased to hear that new lifeguards had been hired. He also stated that he thought that Councillor Brine's gift idea was a good one.

5.4 **Community Team Year in Review Report 2023/24 – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

T Sturley and W Howe were in attendance to present the report which provided an overview of activity undertaken by the Team, on community development, community safety, youth development and opportunities and civil defence welfare. She also acknowledged W Howe's work over the past 12 years.

Councillor Fulton asked if difficult engagements with people behaving badly were logged and T Sturley replied that it depended on the details. If there was danger to people or property it was reported to the police however other matters were often referred to the appropriate agency. She stated that the Next Steps app allowed the public to be proactive in keeping themselves and their families safe and they encouraged people to take ownership rather than relying on the council to manage their situation.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 241112199722.
- (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 2023/2024, 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 2025.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings expressed her awe at the way the team worked collaboratively with other groups and agencies to achieve a caring wrap around service for those in need. She commended T Sturley and W Howe on their team's ability to achieve tangible outcomes.

Councillor Cairns noted the great programmes that were in place and when speaking to the community had heard positive and grateful comments from migrant communities, the youth, the elderly and people with disabilities. He especially noted the work of W Howe and her colleague M Pugh.

5.5 **Libraries Update from 5 September to 14 November 2024 – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

L Sole was in attendance and spoke to the report which provided an update on library services and programmes offered by the libraries. L Sole gave a brief summary of the report highlighting the Lego Robotics Club initiative which had resulted in a fourth placing in the LEGO League Robotics Competition. Other programmes included Eco Educate which focused on activities and stories related to sustainability, school workshops and evening session to connect with local gardening and community groups to learn how to grow fruit and vegetables and gain knowledge about seed saving and raising, support offered to students sitting NCEA and Te Wiki o te Reo Māori celebrations.

Councillor Cairns noted that the libraries had provided 1,166 events or programmes during the year and asked how that had been achieved. L Sole replied that Waimakariri

had worked with Christchurch and Selwyn libraries to achieve this. Councillor Cairns queried if the other libraries had shown as much growth as the Waimakariri and was told that there was a strong lending culture in the Waimakariri and the community was driven by books. However there had been a disappointing attendance at some evening events and staff were reviewing this as well as getting feedback from the community themselves.

Councillor Fulton noted that the libraries had to be much more flexible as they were not just about books. L Sole agreed saying that the library now needed to provide community space for meetings, studying and offer programmes and education which meant that space had to be maximised to serve the community appropriately.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241118203393.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, with reference to increasing visitation, lending, and event attendance for 2023/2024-year, recent achievements with digital initiatives, and record attendance for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine thanked L Sole for a quality report.

Councillor Mealings stated that libraries were getting better and better and were becoming a community hub providing reading, learning, socialising and shelter to the community. She commended the staff's knowledge, skill and kindness when dealing with the public.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

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

- Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust
 - Huria Reserve planning going well however the wooden entrance had to be replaced.
 - New head ranger employed and a summer ranger also to start shortly.
- Silverstream Reserve - Southbrook School gave each student a tree or shrub for its 150 anniversary and students were bussed to the reserve to plant their trees. Each had the students name attached so they could bring their family to see the tree planted.
- Ashley Gorge Advisory Group – completed its accessible track to the lookout trail.
- Pines Beach fairy forest opening and further houses added.
- Attended the West Eyerton school cultural day which was well attended and a great success.
- Fred Brooks from Environment Canterbury spoke to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board and agreed to investigate concerns raised regarding the Kaiapoi and Cam rivers.
- Murphy Park rowing precinct had received a donation from a St Margaret's parent towards a pontoon which would allow better access for rowers. This project is the last of the earthquake budgets and projects to be completed.

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

Councillor Brine had been away for two months however had attended a briefing on current matters from C Brown. He noted that staff reorganisation which would result in better outcomes in the future.

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

Briefly regarding Local Government Conference that both Neville and I attended last week:

- Water Done Well - the need to install water meters which was going to come at considerable cost, however with the benefit of being able to increase debt levels up to 500%. Water levy - unsure as to what that cost would be. Water services and the various models and the benefits of each were explained.
- Discussion was had about 'capping of rates', with two speakers from Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) talked about how a government department each year would set the cap, often well below CPI ie they talked about one year CPI was 3.7% and the government agency set a cap of .7%. Councils then had the option of applying to rate above the cap. Government provided councils grants for roading etc it was unclear as to what levels, by population. Australia had a higher number of Local Councils than New Zealand. In NSW, DC's are around \$120K for section sizes of 400m².
- Electricity prices next year are set to rise 10-15%

Pines Beach

- Residents would soon start local community engagement, requesting help with trees and plants and other services in creating a food forest on a narrow piece of land behind the hall.
- Pines Beach had a well-run and well attended community Christmas event over the weekend.
- Pines Beach have installed a fairy forest near the Pines Beach car park. The opening was well attended and already had added an additional 12 fairy houses built.
- The Pines Beach hall was having issues with vandals and were looking at installing cameras, both inside and outside.

Other

- Harvey Normans Ravenswood had opened and was really busy, especially the tech side.
- Community Wellbeing do incredible work in the community, helping the most vulnerable residents. Reported a deficit at its AGM. It was spending more on food (to go into food parcels) which was one service that was unfunded.
- The Community wellbeing trial of providing families which collect food parcels received potted vegetables such as tomatoes, lettuces, peas, strawberries, potatoes was going well with over 75 families starting to grow their own food. Families using the potted vegetables to connect with children, children measuring the growth of the plants, growing their own food provides a sense of empowerment and benefits wellbeing.
- Toot for Tucker next Tuesday.
- Residents of the Oxford community recently held a meeting calling for community funded cameras to be installed.
- Signage for coastal cycle trails were being installed, which would be great for those cyclists that had reported they have become a little lost. Thanks to ENC, with the help of Pete Daly.
- Rangiora Promotions held its Celebration Night in Victoria Park, with a good number of stall holders and foodies and a reasonable crowd numbers for this evening event.
- Kaiapoi Promotions had chosen to move its Sounds of Summer music event indoors and the community reaction had been challenging. The committee, in my view, had made the right call to move the event due to lower than expected ticket sales. Making

the decision now to move the event had removed the risk of having to try and fund considerable costs like this outdoors.

- Waimak Football were in planning mode re holding a master's football tournament in February 2025, it would be the largest tournament of this type in the country.
- Lesley Ottey of Eco Educate was taking soft toys and giving them a new life. Repurposing them into Pals for children who like to hold on to weighted soft toys in class.
- Food Secure North Canterbury recently held a workshop focusing on "food security at a time of disruption" the mapping of local producers and manufacturers was being considered which would be a first in New Zealand.
- Dalice Stewart, the manager for North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support, had been appointed a Neighbourhood Support National Board member.
- Vaping information evening at Mainpower Stadium reported that nationally there were 8000 stores selling vapes, compared to 900 pharmacies.
- Art on the Quay Art Gallery in Kaiapoi celebrate its 10 year anniversary on 9 January 2025.

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

- Hortens Signage had donated a sculpture to the Waimakariri and this would be sited in Victoria Park within a flower beds in an effort to mitigate vandalism and to alleviate having to manoeuvre round the sculpture when mowing.
- Attended the opening of the Raymond Herber sculpture in Silverstream. Good turnout for the opening.
- All paintings help by the Arts Trust needed to be catalogued and re-insured. Valuations scheduled to be carried out early in 2025.
- Art on the Quay – 10 year anniversary. Artists having to book a year in advance for space for an exhibition.

In response to a question regarding maintenance on sculptures, C Brown replied that there was a maintenance budget for public artworks and staff regularly monitored artworks to ensure they were kept in good condition. Most of the public artworks had major maintenance after the earthquakes and were in good condition currently.

8 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions under standing orders.

9 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no urgent general business.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 1pm.

The Chairperson thanked the Committee for their work during the year noting that this was the last meeting of the year.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.046PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date

UNCONFIRMED