

## WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2022 AT 1PM.

#### PRESENT

Councillor N Mealings (Chairperson), Mayor D Gordon, Councillors A Blackie, R Brine, W Doody and P Redmond.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Williams,  
C Brown (Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Community Greenspace Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatic Facilities Manager), P Eskett (District Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), M McGregor (Senior Advisor Community and Recreation), A Smith (Governance Coordinator)

#### **1** APOLOGIES

Moved: Mayor Gordon                      Seconded: Councillor Blackie

**THAT** an apology for lateness was received and sustained from Councillor Doody.

**CARRIED**

#### **2** CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

#### **3** CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

##### **3.1** Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 14 December 2021

Moved: Councillor Brine                      Seconded: Mayor Gordon

**THAT** the Community and Recreation committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 14 December 2021, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

#### **4** MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

#### **5** DEPUTATIONS

##### **5.1** Wellbeing North Canterbury Yearly Update

Deidre Ryan, Manager Wellbeing North Canterbury, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation which provided the Council with an update on the Trust's work for the past year and the services offered. Thanks were extended to the Council for its ongoing support and contribution to the work that was carried out in the community.

Recent developmental work had involved the refresh the Trust branding and also was also currently in the process of updating the Trust website. The Trust had recently moved into new office premises to 200 King Street, Rangiora. The mission of the Trust was acknowledged *“Strengthen wellbeing in our community supporting our district as a caring place to live”*, and how this aligned with the Council’s Long Term Plan.

The Trust had been operating for more than 30 years, working hard to make a resilient North Canterbury community in Hurunui and Waimakariri, which was a large geographically reach. Originally the Trust started as a small group in Kaiapoi and the Council involvement commenced with the employment of a Community Worker. The Trust had grown significantly from there and had a long and trusted history in the district. D Ryan noted an eleven year association with the Trust herself. There were now 38 paid employees, and 60 dedicated volunteers, working from three operational bases being 200 King Street, Rangiora, Kaiapoi Community Support at 27 Sewell Street, Kaiapoi and the Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre based at Kaiapoi High School.

The North Canterbury-wide free services that were available through the Trust were highlighted. These included

- Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre (which currently had a full role).
- Food Bank at Kaiapoi Community Support, working closely with the Food Secure Network.
- Two North Canterbury Social Workers.
- Mana Aki initiative, which was a DHB contract working with young people in Years 1 to 8.
- Counselling and wellbeing support for young people, which was all provided by registered social workers.
- Restorative Justice service provided for adults ,contracted through the Ministry of Justice.
- Two “Next Steps” staff had recently been appointed part time, specifically to support those people affected by Covid-19. One each based in Hurunui and Waimakariri Districts. One more full time staff member was to be appointed soon.
- A Hurunui specific family worker, with funding secured following the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake.
- Provided a base to host the Social Services Waimakariri Facilitator, Niki Carter who worked closely with the Council in this role.

In January 2022 a three day Surfwise Ocean Based Therapeutic Experience was conducted for young people who needed support. This was very successful, with positive feedback from the young people who attended. It was hoped to be able to secure funding to hold more of these courses.

A breakdown on the sources of funding were highlighted, which assists in keeping the Trust operating. Approximately 73% of funding was received from grants and the Trust had to secure the remaining 27%. The Council was thanked for the ongoing financial support and the help that it provided to the Trust. Local business partners included Bayleys, Ray White, and Stadium Cars who helped to secure good vehicles for staff enabling them to travel throughout the district. Local Clubs such as the Rangiora Lions and the Soroptomist Club also provided much valued support. The Leos Club at Rangiora High School had also undertaken some fundraising for the Trust. Under current Covid restrictions, many of the fundraising activities planned for in 2022, have had to be cancelled or postponed.

Mayor Gordon noted the reliance of the Trust on discretionary funding and asked what the current challenges were in providing services. D Ryan responded that the lack of certainty made things an ongoing struggle and to retain good staff the Trust needed to be able to offer long term employment contracts to retain staff. The Trust kept working at securing funding and noted that the funding available from the government was improving. It was noted

that there were no government grants available to cover the employment and vehicle costs.

Following a question from Councillor Doody on the Trust's paid employees, D Ryan confirmed that some staff were part time which equated to 34 full time employees. Councillor Doody asked if the current staffing level was sufficient for the increased pressures being felt in the community. D Ryan said that as there was more need, staff were being asked to do more but believed that the team were doing well. The Trust management needed to make sure that staff were taking breaks and also looking after their own wellbeing. Recently the DHB had approached the Trust to provide resources to support at risk young people and it was hoped to make an appointment for this role in the next two weeks.

Chairperson Mealings thanked D Ryan for the update and her presentation, noting that the work of the Trust was valued in the community.

## **6 REPORTS**

### **6.1 Southbrook Park Pavilion – M McGregor (Senior Advisor Community and Recreation)**

M McGregor presented the findings of the Southbrook Park Pavilion and Change Facility Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study was commissioned following the submission from the Southbrook Community Sports Club to the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) and was carried out by Recreation Sport Leisure Consultancy Ltd. The Club's LTP submission focused on the financial difficulties the Club was having and the operational costs of running the pavilion. Key findings were that the buildings were not fit for purpose and recommended demolition of the building. As noted in the report, the Southbrook Community Sports Club do not have the capability or capacity to resolve this situation without Council support.

Councillor Blackie questioned the demolition costs quoted in recommendation (f) and considered that these were quite high. M McGregor said further detail would need to be sought on the figures. C Brown added that these were high level estimates at the moment, taking into consideration possible asbestos within the building, which was not known at this time. If there proved to be no asbestos, the cost of demolition would be less. A quantity surveyor was used to ascertain the figures and could be checked as well.

Councillor Williams had concerns that other community facility buildings in the district that may also require to be demolished. G MacLeod referred to the renewals programme of asset management, noting that there would be more thorough and detailed information available once this work is undertaken. C Brown added, by way of background, that the Council had taken ownership of the Gatekeepers Lodge at Ohoka domain, the Rangiora Museum, the Edwards Street Sport and Recreation Trust building and the Maria Andrews Park pavilion. There were also many privately owned facilities that received funding from the Council. This Southbrook Park pavilion was not fit for purpose and there was also a lot of maintenance required and a lack of volunteers to keep the building operating. Councillor Williams requested a report on all the community facility buildings and a value on the priorities. C Brown replied that the Council had already received an update. This report suggested that the Council continue to support the Southbrook Sports Club up until the next Long Term Plan.

Councillor Mealings asked if there were any opportunities for public/private partnership for some of the buildings. C Brown pointed out that there were many clubs that had fundraised and built their own facilities and kept these maintained.

*At this time, 1.39pm the meeting adjourned to allow those present to take time to acknowledge the lives lost in the Christchurch terrorists attack, which occurred on this day three years ago. The meeting reconvened at 1.45pm.*

Councillor Doody asked if the changing room building was suitable for use by both males and females. C Brown noted that the current facility was not suitable for both, and any future building was still subject to design work, but would include facilities for both male and female. To keep consistent with the levels of service provided to other clubs, the Council would not provide funds towards club rooms, but would for changing rooms, infrastructure and parking. All sources of funding would be investigated in the future would go towards new changing rooms.

Councillor Redmond enquired about the Club's access to any funding and M McGregor responded that the Club had the same opportunity to apply for funding from various sources as other clubs did. This facility struggled with functionality and the Club had been falling short with operational costs, which was why they were seeking assistance from the Council. There were other aging sports club facilities around the district, but noted that this building was moved to its current site from another location, having previously been built as the Rangiora Town and Country Club. The main clubs that used the facility were touch rugby in the summer and during the winter it is a base for the Saracens Rugby Club. The club rooms would be used after weekly senior touch rugby competition in the summer and by the rugby club following games during the winter.

Moved Mayor Gordon

Seconded Councillor Blackie

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. TRIM 220308032591.
- (b) **Receives** Southbrook Pavilion Feasibility Study completed by Recreation Sport Leisure Consultants (RSL) TRIM: 220308032594
- (c) **Supports** officers to continue to work with stakeholders to progress the recommendations within the feasibility study, including further consultation, development of designs and the creation of a funding strategy. This work would inform a submission to the 2024 LTP.
- (d) **Notes** the study's finding that there was sufficient need for a pavilion and change facilities at Southbrook Park.
- (e) **Notes** the study's finding that the existing Pavilion and change facilities were not fit for purpose and it was not viable to repair or retrofit.
- (f) **Notes** that the study estimates the cost of a new Pavilion at \$2,216,400, changing sheds at \$1,360,000 and demolition of both facilities at \$304,000. Total demolition and replacement cost estimated \$3,880,400.
- (g) **Notes** that the Current owner of the pavilion and changing facilities Southbrook Community Sports Club does not want to own or manage any future facilities.
- (h) **Notes** the study's finding that the best chance of progressing the recommended course of action of rebuilding facilities was for Waimakariri District Council to lead the project and coordinate stake holders in preparation for the 2024 LTP.

- (i) **Notes** that without financial support the provision and operation of the current facilities by the Southbrook Community Sports Club was not sustainable.
- (j) **Notes** that officers have proposed budget to cover the operational costs in the 22/23 draft annual plan. Staff have approached an alternative funder on behalf of the Sports Club for this quantum with an update on that process provided to the annual plan in due course.

## CARRIED

Mayor Gordon noted that this building was currently not fit for purpose, although this direction was not committing the Council to building a new facility, the feasibility study would be used in future work by the Council for the next Long Term Plan. He supported the Council continuing to assist the Club with its ongoing operating costs. The population in the Southbrook area was growing with few other public facilities.

Councillor Blackie supported this motion, however with some caution and expressed concern with a precedent being set should the Council contribute funding for a new clubrooms. He noted that there were several volunteer run sports clubs across the district that had funded and provided their own clubrooms – for example the Northern Bulldogs Rugby League Club in Kaiapoi, and the combined Rangiora and Southbrook Tennis Club facility at Coldstream Road. Councillor Blackie questioned if this was something that the ratepayer should be funding. Councillor Blackie agreed with the Council continuing to provide ongoing support for the club with its current operating costs up until the next Long Term Plan.

Councillor Brine provided some history on the operations of the Clubrooms over the years. The Council initially agreed to a loan to the Club of \$150,000 and for some time the Club was able to service the loan and became even more successful with the combining of Southbrook Rugby Club and Rangiora Rugby Club with Southbrook Park being the home ground of the combined club. Following the initial success, in recent years the Club has had to ask the Council to provide financial support and the club rooms had required maintenance, including furnishings and curtains, for which no funding was available. Councillor Brine believed it was clear that the current facility needed to be demolished and further discussions on a replacement facility required.

Councillor Doody said it was important to keep supporting this Club, noting that Southbrook Park was a large area and could accommodate several different sports. The Southbrook Cricket Club was not strong at the moment and Councillor Brine advised that Saracens Rugby Club had brought out the cricket clubs membership of the Southbrook Combined Sports Club as there was a cost involved for each club. This season, the cricket club had struggled to field a senior team.

Councillor Williams observed that some smaller clubs in the district appeared to be able to fundraise and maintain their facilities and have support of members but the bigger clubs struggled for volunteers and members support. Councillor Williams suggested that these clubs should be supporting themselves and fundraising.

In reply, Mayor Gordon reiterated that there was no commitment at this stage by the Council, and there would need to be a commitment from the Clubs to fundraising. Clubs needed to have this feasibility study to plot a pathway forward and there may be consideration given to a joint partnership in the future.

6.2 **Covid-19 Social Recovery Update – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

T Sturley presented provided an overview of Community Team activity, for the key project areas for Covid-19 social recovery for the period of August 2021 to February 2022, which aligned with the Community Development Strategy 2015-2025 and Covid-19 Recovery Strategy 2020.

There were three projects that had made significant progress, being the Food Secure project, the associated Kaiapoi Hub project, and the “Next Steps” support and information website. The Food Secure project received favourable support from the Ministry of Social Development. The lead for social recovery was from the Ministry of Social Development, with partnership with the Council for the success of the districts recovery.

Compared to two years ago, the district was in a stronger position to ensure that this recovery work was effectively planned and delivered. Having a designated Social Recovery staff member within the Community Team, ensured that the projects were planned and facilitated well. The appointment of the Next Steps Facilitator would also ensure that people were responded to in a holistic manner. T Sturley suggested that the strength of the success of this plan was communication and connection. There was a wide range of community support and services involved in these local responses.

The districts recovery would go well beyond the period of Covid response and there would be the need to continue to support local business owners. There was also a pastoral care element and Community Team staff were working with ENC to discuss future care being provided to businesses. The current requirement for Covid Vaccination Certificates was noted and the social divide in the community, particularly in the last six months. There would be some work required to bring people back together and healing wounds.

Councillor Doody asked if there was to be another function to be held this year focused on mental health, family harm and alcohol related issues. T Sturley confirmed there was to be one organised for the trade sector but this would be available for the whole community.

Councillor Mealings commented that there had not been good communication regarding the temporary closure of Oxford Hospital and the Oxford Community Trust were wanting information on this. Mayor Gordon said the timeframe that the hospital will be closed for was not known. It was hoped that it would be reopened as soon as possible. Any concerns from residents should be raised by people through their GP, in the first instance. If the answers were not forthcoming through this avenue, Mayor Gordon would be happy to follow up on behalf of residents. T Sturley added that if there were issues with services being provided, she was also able to take this to the Social Services Waimakariri for a response. Sir John Hansen, the Chair of the Canterbury District Health Board had recently visited the Oxford Hospital with the Mayor, Chief Executive and Tessa Sturley and during the visit, the importance of this facility was reinforced to Chair Hansen.

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 220308033266.
- (b) **Notes** the evidence-based, collaborative approach applied to the facilitation of social recovery from COVID-19.

- (c) **Notes** that, while some of this work sits under existing portfolios, several key projects had arisen, requiring additional staff resource. These included Food Security, the Kaiapoi Community Hub, support for the newly unemployed and the establishment of the 'Next Steps' website, including the acquisition of funding for its development, promotion and maintenance.
- (d) **Notes** that, with Central Government's significant financial contribution; and the collaborative approach, sound governance and planning applied to date, key funders, including Rata Foundation and Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) had expressed significant interest in supporting the further development of the Food Security and associated community hub projects.
- (e) **Notes** that recent feedback from MSD related to the attached Food Secure North Canterbury report had been extremely favourable.
- (f) **Notes** that, with adequate community development provision and an increasingly across-portfolio approach, staff had maintained appropriate levels of service and the ability to respond to emerging issues and opportunities, in line with community-identified priorities.

#### **CARRIED**

Councillor Doody thanked staff for the report, and spoke on the impact of having to move the elderly patients out of the Oxford Hospital during its closure. In addition to this, there were many meals provided by the kitchen staff at the hospital and it was now good that this service had been reinstated so meals on wheels were able to continue to be provided from this facility.

Councillor Redmond said it had been mentioned by Canterbury District Health Board that they may be looking at different ways of providing services rather than through "bricks and mortar", but it was felt that communities would have a preference for retaining a local hospital facility. The provision of the meals on wheels service, as mentioned above by Councillor Doody, was a good example of this.

Mayor Gordon highlighted the good work of the Community Team and their Covid response, noting that last week T Sturley had presented to the Regional Leadership Group, which included all the Canterbury Mayors, Department of Primary Industries and Ministry of Health Officials, on the model that had been developed here in the Waimakariri in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development. Mayor Gordon acknowledged this presentation and the work of T Sturley and the team.

Mayor Gordon noted that the Oxford Hospital was 100 years old and had been a long time facility in the town. There had been a Friends of Oxford Hospital Group existing for almost the entire time and who had provided a huge investment to the facility. There had not been good communication from the District Health Board, and he acknowledged that the provision of health facilities to the community was very important.

T Sturley and the members of the Community Team were thanked for the work they had undertaken in supporting the community.

### **6.3 Aquatics March Update – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

M Greenwood presented this report, which provided a summary of the Aquatic Facilities progress to date for the year against the Key Performance Indicators.

The Aquatic Facilities had once again been credited with Poolsafe status. This followed assessment of standard operating procedures and a day of onsite audits by an external assessor. Poolsafe was the industry best practice setting which ensured robust process and health and safety policies, to ensure that the customers had a safe environment to visit and recreate.

The aquatic team worked hard to maximise opportunities however requirements at Covid Red setting involved a lot of community spread and customer requirements. Staff resources were limited and being stretched by the isolation requirements. This was a constantly changing environment with changing rules weekly. With the number of staff resources currently available, the opening hours at Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre had been temporarily limited, by closing earlier over the weekends. This would enable sufficient staff resourcing to be better utilised and was in line with some of the actions of neighbouring Councils.

The recent customer satisfaction survey received an overall rating of 91%. While this was down from the last the survey results of 96%, it met the target and was pleasing under the current Covid climate.

Councillor Doody appreciated the difficulties in the current environment and thanked staff for keeping the users of the pools up to date with information. Regarding the Oxford Pool, it was advised that it had only needed to be closed for one day, due to not being able to provide cover for a staff sickness. The pool was able to reopen the following day. The season for this open pool finished last weekend. Prior to next season it was planned to approach the High School to highlight the benefits of the current training programme which was Unit standards based, which may result in opportunities to hire local lifeguard staff rather than those from outside the community.

Councillor Williams expressed concern regarding the robustness of staff levels enquiring if the Council was advertising for more lifesaver staff. M Greenwood advised that there was a minimum age requirement of over 16 for poolside lifesavers and confirmed that advertisements for staff were circulated to all the appropriate sites in order to attract staff. Councillor Williams suggested there were members of the community with surf lifesaving qualifications who would be willing to volunteer for roles at the pools on a casual basis, rather than be fulltime employees. Staff would consider enquiries from any suitably qualified applicants.

C Brown noted that the issue with closing facilities was directly related to Covid. Some other neighbouring Councils pool management staff had approached the Waimakariri aquatic centres asking if there were any staff available that could be loaned to these other facilities. The current lifesaving staffing shortage was not just an issue here in Waimakariri but throughout the industry. The impact of Covid would continue due to people needing to isolate at home.

Following a question from Councillor Redmond on the requirement of vaccine passes for patrons, M Greenwood advised that there had been feedback received from members of the community who were not in favour of the Councils position on My Vaccine pass. M Greenwood pointed out that there were many who were also in support. The requirement for having a Covid Vaccine Pass had also not had a major impact on the numbers of applicants for jobs.



Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Brine

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 220222024060.
- (b) **Notes** Aquatic Facilities progress against key performance indicators including Financial results, Water Quality and Customer Satisfaction.
- (c) **Notes** the impact of Covid on Facility Attendance across our network.
- (d) **Notes** the approach to maintaining service levels throughout Covid's RED setting.
- (e) **Notes** steps taken to manage impacts from staffing limitations across the network.
- (f) **Notes** that following an external audit by Recreation Aotearoa, the Waimakariri Aquatic Facilities had been accredited as Poolsafe facilities.

**CARRIED**

6.4 **Library update to 3 March, 2022– P Eskett (District Libraries Manager)**

P Eskett presented an update on the libraries activities for the period from 2 December 2021 through to 3 March 2022. It was highlighted that there would soon be four unique designs for library cards. These were designs from Creative Admin staff member Lucas Fernandez and three staff members of the Libraries team. Examples of the card designs were shown plus an example of the current card. A new campaign would be run once the cards were available, and would be called "One Card Endless Possibilities". A local supplier had been contracted to supply the cards.

P Eskett provided an update on the adjusted layout of the library. Libraries were receiving support from the Community Facilities Team and were awaiting a formal quote to remove the obsolete radiators from Rangiora Library, maximise floor space. The Citizens Advice office, soon to be the Library Technology and Learning Hub, had been scoped for work and was awaiting the contractor to undertake this. The supply chains for materials continued to be disrupted with further delays in the supply of steel for shelving.

P Eskett noted how proud she was of the library staff in turning the regular library services to an online service as much as possible, during the Covid Red alert level. There were no waivers maintained on copyright in Alert Level Red and so there had been a lot of learning by staff to adjust to this and create original content. Craft Clubs had been taken on line and were still proving popular. The Click and Collect service was being well utilised, particularly by those without vaccine passes. The online orders were placed in brown paper bags and placed outside in the library foyers for the public to collect. P Eskett highlighted a positive interaction with a customer as a result of the use of the click and collect function.

There were no questions from members.

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 220303030689.
- (b) **Notes** the customer service improvements, community feedback, events, and use of New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme funding to contribute positively to community outcomes by Waimakariri Libraries, from 2 December 2021 to 3 March 2022.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

The library staff were thanked for the great work that they do for the community.

## **7 CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

## **8 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

### **8.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Robbie Brine.**

- Councillor Brine noted that the current Covid restrictions were impacting on some sports clubs ability to conduct competition games within the rules. This was causing some frustration.
- The Fernside Hall carpark sealing was now completed and the remainder of the car park upgrade would commence shortly, to be completed by the end of April 2022.
- The Milton Reserve tree clearance had been completed and additional items including fencing was in the work programme.
- Councillor Brined advised that some work that had previously been programmed, may not proceed due to the current market conditions and the low response to tenders.

### **8.2 Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls, Museums and Community Housing) – Councillor Wendy Doody.**

Councillor Doody did not have any update.

### **8.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Wendy Doody.**

Councillor Doody did not have any update.

#### 8.4 **Arts and Culture – Councillor Al Blackie.**

- Councillor Blackie noted the Kaiapoi Expo had made a generous donation to the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust, which was to go towards a sculpture to be located in Rangiora.
- The gift of the sculpture from the Marshall family of Ohoka, was now in the Ohoka Domain.
- The design of the mural on the public toilets in Oxford had been approved by The Trust and would be going to the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board for final approval before the local artists commences this work.
- The maintenance of the Pous at the entrance to Pegasus had been completed.

#### 9 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

#### 10 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no urgent general business.

#### 11 **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

Due to time constraints, the public excluded item of business was held over, to be received for information at the next meeting of the Committee.

#### 12 **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 3.30pm on Tuesday 31 May 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.58pm.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson  
Councillor Niki Mealings

31 May 2022

Date