

## WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY 19 JULY 2022 AT 1PM.

#### PRESENT

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor P Williams.

J Millward (Acting Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Community Greenspace Manager), P Eskett (District Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

#### **1** APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor R Brine

Seconded: Councillor W Doody

**THAT** an apology for absence be received and sustained from Councillor A Blackie, and an apology for lateness be received and sustained from Councillor Williams.

**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 31 May 2022

Moved: Councillor Doody

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 31 May 2022, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

#### **4** MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

## **5 DEPUTATIONS**

### **5.1 Kaiapoi Food Forest – Brent Cairns**

B Cairns thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address them about the Kaiapoi Food Forest (the Forest). He noted that the Poū had been installed at the Forest, thereby linking Kaiapoi as one of New Zealand's most important historic trading posts for food and pounamu. Kaiapoi Food Forrest Trust (the Trust) had done much education during the last five years on building the Forest. However, the actual time spent on building the Forest was decreasing, whereas the growth of their education programmes was increasing.

B Cairns advised that the Trust had presented to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board about erecting a covered open education workshop area. They now also had a toilet on site. The Trust was part of the Food Secure Communities North Canterbury, which had received funding from the Ministry of Social Development, and a small portion of this funds would be used to fund the project. The remaining funding would be sourced externally. He noted that the Trust had access to many volunteer labour to erect the building.

Regarding education, B Cairns reported that during the last year, they had twenty-three requests to assist with establishing food forests throughout Canterbury, the most successful was in Hanmer Springs. The Trust would like to implement a similar model to the food forest in Hanmer Springs in the Waimakariri District, where residents did not need a License to Occupy to create a food forest. Residents in Woodend and Pegasus were interested in setting up a scaled-down food forest at Gladstone Park. Approximately 150 people also approached the Trust from Rangiora that would like to set up a small food forest in one of the local parks. The Trust was suggesting that instead of residents going through the process of setting up an incorporated society or a charitable trust, they could work with the Council's Greenspace Team to take over a small portion of a park for setting up a food forest.

In conclusion, B Cairns explained that they were restructuring the Trust. He noted that he would be stepping down as the Trust's Chairperson and would only focus on the Forest's management.

Councillor Doody enquired if the food forest had been successful in planting kumara. B Cairns responded that the kumara was planted too late, hence they still formed but not as large.

Mayor Gordon thanked B Cairns for the work that he had done on this project and noted that one day he would look back on the project with a sense of pride. He commended the addition of the Poū to the food forest.

Councillor Mealings endorsed Mayor Gordon's comments. She applauded B Cairns' relentless enthusiasm in the face of all odds to establish a food forest. Also, to roll out the initiative to other interested areas in Canterbury. The way that Trust brought together communities from all walks of life was phenomenal, she again thanked him for his efforts.

Councillor Mealings questioned if the Trust was still presenting online courses. B Cairns explained that they were trying not to replicate work, the videos would still be online. He was also setting up another website to assist food forests which would include online courses that people could undertake.

Councillor Mealings further noted that 40 to 50 trees had recently been stolen from the food forest and asked if it was the native shelter. B Cairns confirmed that it was a native shelter. Southern Woods Nurseries approached the food forest and asked if they wanted a pile of natives, which he collected and shared with the Kaiapoi East Residents Association. The association planted

them in the red zone in Kaiapoi, and the other trees were planted along the food forests windbreak, however, these trees were stolen soon after planting.

## 6 REPORTS

### 6.1 Arts Strategy Development Report – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)

T Sturley spoke to the report noting it provided an overview of the progress in developing a Waimakariri District Arts Strategy. This work was currently being facilitated as part of the Community Development Special Projects Portfolio, which essentially dealt with Covid-19 recovery projects. The idea of developing a district-wide Arts Strategy came from a Covid Recovery Forum held in 2021. The Council had received \$32,200 from Creative Communities New Zealand to fund the development of an Arts Strategy. Staff believed that this work would provide an opportunity for the arts to play a role not only in the social recovery of the district but also in the district's general attraction and economic development.

T Sturley noted that given the rich Maori heritage of the Waimakariri District it was important that the Council applied a bi-cultural approach to the development of the strategy, so staff had approached Mahaanui Kurataiao for assistance to navigate the best process. A survey had been developed for the Council to gain insight into the public perception of art developments in people's lives, opportunities as seen by the public, and the levels at which the public may engage. A separate survey was developed to capture the local arts sector's issues, aspirations and needs. The surveys would be run via the Council's Let's Talk platform and would also be circulated through some of the Community Team's networks and the libraries.

In conclusion, T Sturley highlighted the process undertaken in developing the Arts Strategy spearheaded by Councillor Blackie as the Arts Portfolio Holder.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Doody

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 220707116011.
- (b) **Notes** that staff acquired \$32,200 from Creative New Zealand to resource Community Development staffing hours, fixed term, to see the project through to its completion in 2023.
- (c) **Notes** the collaborative approach that would be applied to the development of the Arts Strategy.
- (d) **Notes** that, in preparing toward this piece of work, staff investigated strategies adopted in other, similarly sized communities across the motu; particularly Whanganui District and Dunedin City.
- (e) **Notes** that Councillor Al Blackie was the appointed portfolio holder for this project.
- (f) **Notes** that staff had approached Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd (MKT) to identify the most appropriate way forward in ensuring a bicultural, partnership approach was applied to the development of the Arts Strategy.

- (g) **Notes** progress to date, including a mapping of the local arts sector, establishment of a Project Control Group to guide the process, and development of stakeholder surveys, seeking feedback from both the local arts sector and the wider community.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Gordon thanked Councillor Blackie for leading this initiative and T Sturley for the work being done. He believed it was the right time to develop an Arts Strategy for the district. He commented that the Creative Communities New Zealand funding was welcomed because the district was home to many arts organisations that struggled with funding, such as the Oxford Arts Gallery. There was a strong focus on the arts throughout the community and the Council, therefore, needed to consider the next steps in developing the arts.

Councillor Doody supported the project and felt that any initiative to improve the art and culture in the district was important. She noted that at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 19 July 2022, Enterprise North Canterbury talked about their applications to Creative Communities New Zealand for developing two movies. She thought that the Arts Strategy may assist them with the process.

Councillor Mealings thanked T Sturley for her report, noting that this was important work and was right on time. She applauded the staff for securing the \$32,200 grant to facilitate the project. She also commended them for liaising with the local Rūnanga before public consultation. She commented that Councillor Blackie was perfectly suited to this role.

## 6.2 **Aquatics July 2022 Update – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

C Brown spoke to the report noting the effort to keep the service levels at the Aquatic Facilities as they were. Communication had been excellent in letting the public know when the facilities would close early, although this had not happened often. However, he noted that attendance numbers were down, which was attributed to people in the community isolating due to Covid or other seasonal illnesses. There was, unfortunately, nothing that staff could do about this other than try their best to keep the facilities open.

C Brown noted that the Council would introduce several improvements over the next six months to further increase the standard and quality of its Waiswim Learn to Swim Programme. Skills Active, the Industry Training Organisation, had been working with the Council to develop an in-house training programme that was unit standard based and delivered high-quality, consistent results. The Council would therefore be able to run its own internal training lifeguard courses that could be tailored to our community's needs.

Councillor Williams noted there had been several young surf lifesavers that did not quite qualify to serve as lifeguards. He asked if staff had considered training these young people to prepare them for emergencies. C Brown noted that many of the young people were underage, so the Council could not allow them to work as they did not meet the current standards for being in that environment. However, the people could be contacted so that they knew that they could access extra training to become lifeguards when they reached the right age. The recruitment campaigns undertaken this year had been successful in terms of having access to enough people to man facilities. The next recruitment campaign would be to man the Oxford facility during the summer, so keeping in contact with those surf lifesavers could be key.

Furthermore, P Williams noted that some of the surf lifesavers coming of age in summer 2022 could still be trained. If they did the training now, they would be available when staff needed them in November 2022. C Brown noted that M Greenwood had been working with Human Resources on a talent pool that staff could draw from, however, the surf lifesavers could not be brought in till they came of age.

Councillor Redmond questioned if the notable decline in attendance numbers at the Kaiapoi and Dudley facilities would significantly affect the Aquatic facilities' budgets. C Brown explained that it would affect the income, some of the Learn to Swim participants that had already paid but did not turn up for several sessions sometimes got refunded. In addition, recreational swimming was also down, directly affecting the income.

Councillor Mealings enquired if the proposed new training framework would follow through to change the Learn to Swim Grading Framework. C Brown was unsure, however, he advised that the training framework focused more on staff training as opposed to the grading of kids and adults.

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 220627108943.
- (b) **Notes** Aquatic Facilities progress against key performance indicators including Financial results, Water Quality and Customer Satisfaction.
- (c) **Notes** the efforts taken to maintain service levels with the ongoing impact of staff sickness.
- (d) **Notes** updated training practices for Waiswim staff to ensure the Council continued to deliver a high quality robust programme which meets community need.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Doody thanked M Greenwood for the work being done and acknowledged the pressures that he and the Aquatics Team had been under for some time.

Councillor Redmond commended the staff and M Greenwood for working in difficult times and maintaining almost 100% service levels in these circumstances. However, he commented that the Council needed to be conscious that some community members may consider blaming Covid for lack of service as an excuse when it was actually very real.

## **7 CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

## **8 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

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

#### **Wind event response from Asplundh.**

- Three crews were ready to go out this morning at first light to East side, Oxford and Pegasus.

## **General**

- Capital spending on new burial/ash berms was programmed for Rangiora and Kaiapoi.
- Noted district-wide Capital spending on infill planting i.e. replacement plants in street gardens and reserve.
- Poor Asset Renewal Programme was underway – Multiple seats throughout the District.
- Bollard/cable was installed in selected areas of Pearson Oval to prevent grass berm damage by vehicles.
- Pre tender contract discussions for the Parks and Reserves Maintenance Contract begin this month – new contract would commence on 1 March 2024.
- Tree planting was ongoing.
- The design phase for capital projects was underway for the 22/23 financial year, with forecasting having been drafted, the next step was for Greenspace staff to attend Community Board meetings to outline projects and programs of work over the coming 12 months for each area.
- West Oxford Reserve Toilet was now installed and would be open to the public shortly. The final landscaping around the toilet block was being completed.
- Townsend Playground consultation and design were nearly completed. Final signoff would be taken to Rangiora-Ashley Community Board in September 2022.
- Millton Reserve development was ongoing. Planting day had been organised with the Soroptimists on 10 August 2022 to plant the trees that they donated. The contractor would be back on site in spring once the soil had hardened to complete areas which still need levelling.
- Pathways in the Mahinga Kai reserve within the Kaiapoi Recovery Zone were currently being constructed with an estimated completion of mid-August.
- Opus was surveying Coopers Creek to determine heights and exact property boundaries to inform the development of a master plan for this area.
- Staff were exploring options to resolve the flooding issues at the Pines Oval playground. This may include relocation of the playground. A report would be submitted to the Community and Recreation Committee in either August or September 2022.
- Staff were organising a trial for a product to be used for the rowing access way at Murphy Park. This would be put in the river for a few weeks in mid-August 2022 to determine if it was the best product for the job.
- The Council's ecologists were going to trial a plot of grasses that required less maintenance, more detail to follow as this progressed.

## **Silverstream Reserve footbridge installed**

- The recent installation of the new footbridge at Silverstream Reserve had been a great addition to the reserve and met the local community's aspirations.

## **Taranaki Reserve – inanga spawning site planted (ZIPA funded)**

- The recently re-profiled banks of Taranaki Stream adjacent to the flood gates at the estuary had now been planted by the rangers. The 800 seedlings were mostly wetland species, many of which had adapted to the intertidal zone with temporary water inundation providing habitat for inanga.

## **Huria Reserve/Mahinga kai site winter planting completed**

- After the inaugural community planting at Huria Reserve in May 2022, the rangers continued to plan the remainder of the 2000 seedlings plus an additional 2,000 seedlings donated by Environment Canterbury.

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

- The Community Networking Forum in Oxford was excellent.
- Matariki celebrations in Oxford were wonderful. She commended the Oxford Promotions Association on organising this event. The children's light story at the Oxford Library was also a success.
- She accompanied Mayor Gordon and Councillor Mealings to Oxford to judge the Lights Festival, which was very interesting as people had done much work decorating their houses. .
- She noted that she had been delighted with the Storywalks® at the Northbrook Wetlands. So many families along the walk took their children to read the 'Little Kiwi's Matariki' on all the placards.
- She was pleased about the west Oxford toilet.

Mayor Gordon questioned if the Storywalks® could become a permanent fixture because it was a fantastic initiative and the interpretive panels meant a lot to people. G MacLeod explained that staff were assessing this trial event's success, operational impact and costs. If the Council could make the signs out of something more durable, operational costs would be reduced. P Eskett would be bringing a report on the Storywalks® to the Committee's August 2022 meeting.

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

See above.

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

Nil.

9 **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

10 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

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

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Brine

**THAT** the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

**CARRIED**

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public was excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, were as follows:

Item N°	Report for Information:	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
11.1	Report from MTO	Report for Information	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution was made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public were as follows:

Item N°	Reason for protection of interests	Ref NZS 9202:2003 Appendix A
11.1	Protection of privacy of natural persons To carry out commercial activities without prejudice	A2(a) A2(b)ii

**CLOSED MEETING**

**Resolution to resume in Open Meeting**

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Mayor Gordon

11.1 **CON 2022/04 - Maria Andrews Toilet Block Upgrade**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Item 11.1 and the business discussed with the public excluded remains public excluded.

*The public excluded portion of the meeting took place from 1.49pm to 1.55pm.*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 1.55pm.

**CONFIRMED**



Councillor Niki Mealings  
Chairperson

16 August 2022  
Date