

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE RANGIORA-ASHLEY COMMUNITY BOARD HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2025, AT 7PM.

PRESENT

J Gerard QSO (Chairperson), K Barnett (Deputy Chairperson), R Brine (arrived 7:02pm), I Campbell, M Clarke, M Fleming, J Goldsworthy, L McClure, B McLaren, J Ward, S Wilkinson and P Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor D Gordon, Oxford-Ohoka Community Board members M Brown and P Merrifield.

S Hart (General Manager Strategy Engagement and Economic Development), K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader), S Allen (Water Environment Advisor), C Taylor-Claude (Parks Officer), A Paterson (Assistant Librarian – Community Connections), T Kunkel (Governance Team Leader) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer)

Five members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board – 11 December 2024

Moved: B McLaren

Seconded: P Williams

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and accurate record, the circulated Minutes of the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board meeting held on 11 December 2024.

CARRIED

3.2. Matters Arising (From Minutes)

T Kunkel noted that the Roading staff had yet to provide an update on the report regarding the 'Request approval of No-Stopping Restrictions on Railway Road', which was tabled at the previous Board meeting. Also, no date had been set for the proposed Loburn Quarry hearing.

3.3. Notes of the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board Workshop – 11 December 2024

Moved: B McLaren

Seconded: J Gerard

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated Notes of the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board Workshop, held on 11 December 2024.

CARRIED

4. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1. Cust Domain Equestrian Club – Chris Neason and Sarah Alcom

C Neason spoke to the Board, noting the Cust Domain Equestrian Club was concerned with the proposal to install soccer pitches at the Cust Domain. The Club was surprised that the Cust Domain was now a designated sports ground. They felt they had a duty of care to their members, as horse riding was intrinsically risky. In their opinion, high-energy sports such as soccer and horse riding were incompatible. The Club had been operating out of the Cust Domain for 16 years and had 170 members aged five to seventy-five. The membership entitled riders to free access to the grounds at any time and on monthly club days. The Club fundraised by hosting two events a year to raise money to improve the facilities, and it had recently spent \$14,000 putting sand down in its arena and \$5,000 for cross-country jumps.

In addition, the Club had horse riders using the roads around the Cust Domain; if the proposal went ahead, traffic would increase. Also, parking at the domain was minimal; there were always motorhomes parked there, and upwards of 40 dogs were walked by their owners daily.

S Alcom explained that horses were fight-or-flight animals; it was instinctive. It did not matter how much they were trained; you could never remove that instinct. Some horses would cope better than others with stressful circumstances. The concern was that soccer had several triggers, such as noise, crowds, and stray balls. Therefore, the Club believed that from a health and safety point of view, soccer and horse riding were incompatible.

P Williams enquired about other people using the Cust Domain for recreational purposes. C Neason explained that many children ride their bikes in the domain, which is also very popular with motorhome owners, people running, flying drones and aeroplanes, and dog walkers.

P Williams asked what effect the dogs had on the horses. C Neason noted that there had been no concerns, as there was signage reminding people to keep control of their dogs when entering the Equestrian Club area.

Responding to a further question from P Williams, C Neason confirmed that many of the Club's 170 members were from Cust; however, members came from as far as Loburn and Oxford.

J Goldsworthy sought clarity on the preferred safe distance that the horses had to be from the noise to ensure health and safety. S Alcom did not believe there was a scientific safe distance.

S Wilkinson enquired if the Club had a view on working with the Oxford Soccer Club to resolve their concerns. C Neason noted that the Club had not collaborated with the soccer club.

I Campbell questioned when most of the Equestrian Club mainly used the domain. C Neason said that the Club was most active on weekends.

B McLaren noted that the Equestrian Club's gate on Ofarrells Road was locked, which gave him the impression that it was private property. He was confused about the Club's relationship with the Council. C Neason explained that there was free access to the Equestrian Club from the Cust Domain. The gate was only locked for security reasons.

M Fleming asked if people currently kicked balls around at the domain. C Neason noted that individual children did.

J Ward questioned if the Equestrian Club would consider sharing the Cust Domain so young children could coexist safely. C Neason noted that children were catered for at Oxford, and the two proposed pitches at the Cust Domain were for adults.

K Barnett enquired if the Club objected to playing sports at the Cust Domain. C Neason noted that the Club did not object to sports; however, the type of sport raised a health and safety concern.

4.2. Oxford Football Club – Keith Gilby

K Gilby spoke to the Board, noting that over the last five years, he had led the rejuvenation of the Oxford Football Club. He was a resident in Cust, and his son participated in many athletic events at the Cust Domain; as a family, they continued to have picnics at the domain and walk their dog there. A wide range of concerns had been raised by the Equestrian Club, many of which had been discussed on social media, such as excessive noise, whistles, crowds and supporters, traffic problems and balls flying into the horse arena.

The Oxford Football Club was the smallest out of the 26 Canterbury clubs. The Club was a small voluntary charitable society governed by eight local parents. The Club covered a large rural area that attracted members from across the Waimakariri, Christchurch and north Selwyn Districts. The Club had approximately 160 members, of which 80% were younger people aged between four and sixteen who participated for free. Over a third of the Club's members were residents of Cust. Unfortunately, many smaller clubs had closed or were swallowed up by larger united super clubs.

New Zealand Football focused on participation growth through the centralisation of sports clubs. The rising cost of using sports facilities was ultimately passed to the young participants and through Mainland Football onto clubs such as the Oxford Football Club. The Club absorbed most of the rising participation costs by reducing overheads and cutting back on investment. Eventually, their numbers became unsustainable to support the minimum operating costs they had every year. Football training facilities were in high demand; the Club did not have access to Kendall Park, which Waimak United used. Mainland Football recommended that the Club merge with Waimak United; however, they felt that was not in the best interest of their community.

K Gilby stressed that having access to local fit-for-purpose football facilities that met the requirements for reaching competition was essential. The two full-size senior pitches proposed at the Cust Domain would be used by a combined maximum of 60 players for three hours on a Saturday afternoon. Therefore, the likelihood of significant disruption to the Equestrian Club would be minimal. The Club worked comfortably with the Equestrian Club in 2024 with no issues.

B McLaren asked if the Oxford Football Club had explored alternative locations. K Gilby explained that the Club had been in ongoing negotiations for approximately three years regarding the proposed two pitches at the Cust Domain. The Club had to cater to junior and senior players, so it looked at leasing private fields, which it could not afford. The Club also researched other domains, and whilst some were useful, most of them were already used or not large enough.

B McLaren noted that the land at Cust Domain was undulating and enquired if work would be needed to ensure the pitches match the standard. K Gilby pointed out that the main senior pitch was at Pearson Park, Oxford. The Club would, therefore, need to spend about \$15,000 for new goals and line marking at the Cust Domain.

Responding to a question from M Fleming, K Gilby confirmed that the two pitches at the Cust Domain would only be used between February and mid-September.

M Clarke questioned how the Oxford Football Club would manage with the limited public toilets at the Cust Domain. K Gilby noted that the Club would only use the facilities for three hours one day a week; it was no different from the Cust School gathering in the Cust Domain. Therefore, he did not believe that the limited public toilets would be an issue.

K Barnett asked what happened to the Oxford Football Club's pitches at the Oxford Showgrounds. K Gilby noted that the Club currently has three pitches on the showgrounds. As part of this plan, the Council had agreed to carry out some work at the showground to allow for the creation of two more junior pitches.

K Barnett asked if the development of the second pitch would necessitate removing trees in the Cust Domain, and K Gilby confirmed that no trees would be removed.

K Barnett noted that K Gilby had stated that the Oxford Football Club worked comfortably with the Equestrian Club in 2024 with no issues. However, the Equestrian Club had advised their members not to use the domain on match days because it was too dangerous. She asked how he responded to that. K Gilby suggested that the Board review the instructions published to members on the Equestrian Club's Facebook page. The Oxford Football Club provided their complete fixture list to the Equestrian Club so members could decide if they wished to use the domain on match days.

K Barnett enquired if K Gilby thought there was any health and safety risk to the simultaneous soccer and horse riding. K Gilby did not believe there was any actual health and safety risk and deemed there to be sufficient space at the Cust Domain to minimise risk to allow sports to coexist.

P Williams asked what hours the Oxford Football Club trained, and K Gilby noted that training was from 6:30pm to 8:30pm twice a week.

5. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Cust Domain Football Proposal – K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader)

K Howat took the report as read.

J Gerard noted that the two clubs had a difference of opinion. He asked if staff had tried to convene a meeting with both parties to address the concerns. K Howat advised that the Council had not facilitated a meeting, as it was not believed that the parties would be able to agree.

J Ward queried how the Council could provide different accesses for both Clubs to coexist. K Howat noted that the current proposal was to establish a second senior field at Cust Domain; field one would be 67 metres, and field two would be 40 metres away from the boundary with the Equestrian Club. There was a suggestion of using the front paddock for access, but it would be a significant cost.

S Wilkinson sought clarity on the Council's arrangement with the Equestrian Club. K Howat explained that the Equestrian Club had a license to occupy a section of the Cust Domain. They managed that facility in a way that suited the purpose of their activity.

L McClure asked if staff could facilitate a meeting between both Clubs. K Howat noted that staff would abide by the Board's decision.

P Williams inquired about the Council's strategy for having a large number of people at the Cust Domain with limited public toilets. K Howat noted that there was currently one male and one female toilet, with no plans to upgrade them. Events with a higher number of participants are currently hosted in the domain, with no negative impact on the public toilets.

P Williams questioned whether the public toilets were connected to the sewer system, and K Howat confirmed that they were on a septic tank.

Furthermore, P Williams asked if the septic tank had a holding tank. K Howat could not comment on the sewer capacity. However, if required, the tank could be emptied before a big game.

B McLaren asked if the Equestrian Club's locked gate on Ofarrells Road was as per the agreement with the Council. K Howat noted that the Council was aware that the gate was being locked for security reasons to keep the Club's equipment safe.

K Barnett enquired if the Cust Domain Management Plan was consulted when looking at this proposal and what discussions staff had with the Cust Domain Advisory Group. K Howat noted that the Council adopted the Sport and Recreation Reserves Management Plan in 2015, which was the current document that staff worked on. He was unsure what consultation was carried out with user groups in 2015. The Community Consultation Report was shared with the Cust Domain user groups.

P Williams noted that dogs were prohibited on the Waimakariri District's sporting grounds. However, many people walking their dogs seemed to use the Cust Domain. K Howat explained that the domain was designated as a sports park, and people, therefore, needed to keep their dogs on a leash and off the sports fields.

Moved: K Barnett

Seconded: P Williams

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Lays** the report on the table until the next meeting so there was time to consult with the Council appointed Cust Domain Advisory Group.

CARRIED

6.2. **Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan 2025-40 consultation – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

S Allen took the report as read.

K Barnett was concerned about the high readings of the level of contaminants in the South Brook and sought clarification on the actions being taken to improve its water quality. S Allen explained that there were exceedances sometimes; however, the samples were between 0-20% at the time, whereas the North Brook were at 80%; it was a comparative issue.

M Fleming asked if any consideration was being given to installing rainwater tanks in new residential developments. S Allen noted that the Engineering Code of Practice included a design; however, it was not a requirement.

B McLaren questioned whether the Council was satisfied with the work being done to manage stormwater in the Waimakariri District. S Allen believed more investment could be made, as there could be no perfect system without spending much money; however, the Council was striking that balance.

Furthermore, B McLaren asked how the Council compared to other councils. S Allen noted that the Waimakariri District had much newer stormwater infrastructure than other councils. The older catchment areas were updated as part of the Council's retrofitting projects. She believed that the Council was doing comparatively well.

In response to a question from P Williams, S Allen explained that the Engineering Code of Practice included a concept of stormwater neutrality, which required the Council to ensure developments did not have any downstream effects.

Moved: K Barnett

Seconded: P Williams

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250127012889.
- (b) **Notes** the Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan 2025-2040 draft circulated for consultation and feedback from the Community Board.
- (c) **Notes** that it is intended to submit the Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan 2025-2040 to the Utilities and Roding Committee for consideration on 25 February 2025, then to Council on 1 April 2025 for approval to submit to Environment Canterbury.

CARRIED

K Barnett supported the motion and commended staff on the comprehensive report. She suggested that communities should be educated on stormwater management.

P Williams also supported the motion and thanked staff for the work being done.

6.3. **StoryWalk in Northbrook Wetlands – C Taylor-Claude (Parks Officer), Grant Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader) and A Paterson (Assistant Librarian – Community Connections)**

C Taylor-Claude took the report as read, and there were no questions from elected members.

Moved: J Gerard

Seconded: L McClure

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250130014741.
- (b) **Approves** the installation of a permanent StoryWalk at Northbrook Waters, Rangiora.
- (c) **Notes** that the Council installed successful temporary StoryWalks at Northbrook Wetlands and Honda Forest/ Te Korotuaheka Wetlands in 2022, which were met by the community with great success with over 70 positive feedback responses to the Council.

- (d) **Notes** that the StoryWalks will be made from ACM steel with interchangeable boards, allowing stories to be easily changed as needed.
- (e) **Notes** that the StoryWalk will be installed from existing Greenspace Budgets in the 24/25 financial year.

CARRIED

P Williams against.

J Gerard supported the motion as the StoryWalk at Northbrook Waters had been very popular.

P Williams commented that although he agreed that the StoryWalk at Northbrook Waters was an outstanding initiative, he could not support the motion due to the cost to the ratepayer in the current economic times.

B McLaren supported the motion, as he concurred that the StoryWalk at Northbrook Waters was a terrific initiative for young families and children.

J Ward also supported the motion, noting that it was good value for money.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

8.1. Chair's Diary for December 2024 and January 2025

Moved: J Gerard

Seconded: K Barnett

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 250130015067.

9. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 9.1. Oxford-Ohoka Community Board meeting Minutes 4 December 2024.
- 9.2. Woodend-Sefton Community Board meeting Minutes 3 December 2024.
- 9.3. Woodend-Sefton Community Board meeting Minutes 12 December 2024.
- 9.4. Parking Bylaw 2019 Section 155 Review Assessment – Report to Council meeting 3 December 2024 – Circulates to all Boards
- 9.5. Adoption of Road Reserve Management Policy with Revisions - Report to Council meeting 3 December 2024 - Circulates to all Boards
- 9.6. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report November 2024 – Report to Council meeting 3 December 2024 – Circulates to all Boards
- 9.7. Annual Report and audited accounts for Enterprise North Canterbury for the year ended 30 June 2024 and Promotion of Waimakariri District Business Plan Report to June 2024 – Report to Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 10 December 2024 – Circulates to all Boards
- 9.8. School Cycle Skills Education Programme “Cycle Sense” – Report to Utilities and Roding Committee meeting 10 December 2024 – Circulates to all Boards

- 9.9. Herbicide Update and Usage by Council and Contractors in 2023/24 – Report to Utilities and Roading Committee meeting 10 December 2024 – Circulates to all Boards
- 9.10. Rangiora Stormwater Annual Report 2023/24 and Monitoring Programme Report 2023/24 – Report to Utilities and Roading Committee meeting 10 December 2024 – Circulates to all Boards
- 9.11. Approval to Enter into Agreement with Auto Stewardship New Zealand for Removal of tyres under the Tyrewise Product Stewardship Scheme – Report to Management Team Operations meeting – Circulates to all Boards

Public Excluded

- 9.12. Partial Property Acquisition – 1030 Loburn Whiterock Road, Loburn – Report to Council meeting 3 December 2024 – Circulates to Rangiora-Ashley Community Board

Moved: J Ward

Seconded: R Brine

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Items 9.1 to 9.11.
- (b) **Receives** the separately circulated public excluded information in Item 9.12.

CARRIED

10. MEMBERS' INFORMATION EXCHANGE

B McLaren

- Attended Art on the Quay's 10th anniversary.
- Attended the Landmarks Committee meeting – brass plaques versus acrylic.
- North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support / Civil Defence:
 - Appointed by the Board.
 - Civil Defence Volunteers BBQ – Ohoka Domain.
 - New Community Hub open days.
 - Sefton Hall.
 - Kaiapoi North School.
 - Kaiapoi Borough School.
 - Te Matauru School.
- Waitangi Day celebrations - Attended Waitangi Day celebrations at Rangiora Borough School and Trousselot Park, Kaiapoi. Given the polarising nature of media coverage of events around the country, he was delighted at how whanau-focused these events were. They were fun and relaxed, had good weather, great music, and kai.
- Rangiora Community Patrol – Concerned at the escalation of crime from what appeared to be one or two groups of youths. He witnessed damage to the Rangiora Christmas tree outside the Council Service Centre, which was caught on camera. The New Zealand Police were called and responded in seconds. He was also aware that the Kaiapoi Christmas tree had been vandalised, and a staff member had been attacked on her way home from work. At the last Board meeting, he reported that a group of youths were breaking bottles on High Street, Rangiora. Since then, they have blocked off High Street with large commercial bins and seemly tried to hijack a car. The female driver was snapping a photo of the roadblock when the youths emerged from the shadows and moved towards her car. Thankfully, she managed to drive away, but these events strengthened the Board's request to have a permanent police presence once again in the Rangiora town centre.

- Sefton Solar Farm - He had intended to attend the public meeting to listen to the various views, but he was called away beforehand. However, he had visited the area to see what the situation was and came away having formed an opinion on this matter. He respected that the matter was subject to a resource consent application.

K Barnett

- Attended Civil Defence functions.
- Snap, send, solving around the district.

M Clarke

- Ryman Health was concerned about not having a pedestrian crossing from the west to the east so that people could easily reach the main building.
- GreyPower expressed many concerns about the footpaths. He was pleased that the Council had inspected them and did a good job replacing the footpath along Ashley Street.
- Visited the proposed solar farm site.

J Ward

- Attended Annual Plan Budget meeting – A 4.98% rates increase was being proposed.
- Attended Council's beginning-of-year function.
- Attended various Council meetings and workshops.

P Williams

- Catching up with ratepayers.
- Attended Waitangi Day celebration at Trousselot Park, Kaiapoi which was well attended.
- Attended various drainage meetings – concerned where the water would end up.
- Attended Muscle Car Madness, which was well attended.
- Attended Wings and Wheels in Oxford.
- Attended the public meeting on the proposed solar farm on Upper Sefton – the expert speaker highlighted the positives and negatives of solar farms.

M Fleming

- Attended Waitangi Day celebration at Trousselot Park, Kaiapoi.

R Brine

- 2025/26 Draft Annual Plan Budget meeting – He was delighted that the proposed rates increase would be under 5% subject to submissions.

S Wilkinson

- Attended the Waitangi Day celebration at Trousselot Park, Kaiapoi.
- Attended Muscle Car Madness.
- Attended the public meeting on the proposed solar farm on Upper Sefton.

I Campbell

- Attended Market in the Park at Victoria Park.
- Visted the Cust Domain – hoped the two clubs could work together.
- Attended Wings and Wheels in Oxford.
- I attended the public meeting on the proposed solar farm on Upper Sefton—it was very interesting. The residents were not opposed to solar farms; it was just the location that concerned them.

- Complaints from locals in Loburn about stones and holes on the road past the Loburn Domain.

J Goldsworthy

- Attended Emergency Community hub openings.
- Privileged to be invited by a few volunteer organisations to see in the New Year and hand out a few awards.

L McClure

- Waimakariri Health Advisory group—Concerns were raised about ambulance staff shortages. Rachel Pickles was elected the new Chairperson.
- Attended Waitangi Day celebration at Trousselot Park, Kaiapoi.
- Impressed with the New Zealand Police presence in the district.

11. CONSULTATION PROJECTS

11.1. Libraries Survey 2024

<https://letstalk.waimakariri.govt.nz/libraries-survey-2024-25>

The Board noted the consultation project.

12. BOARD FUNDING UPDATE

12.1. Board Discretionary Grant

Balance as at 31 January 2025: \$9,785.

12.2. General Landscaping Fund

Balance as at 31 January 2025: \$28,646 not allocated.

The Board noted the funding update.

13. MEDIA ITEMS

Nil

14. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Nil

15. URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Nil

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

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

Moved: J Gerard

Seconded: K Barnett

In accordance with section 48(1) 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 (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it was moved:

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

16.1 EV Charger Upgrade in the Rangiora Service Centre Carpark

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 No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public-
16.1	EV Charger Upgrade in the Rangiora Service Centre Carpark	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To protect information where making it available would disclose a trade secret, as per LGOIMA Section 7 (2)(b(i).

CLOSED MEETING

The public excluded portion of the meeting commenced at 8.46pm and concluded at 9.12pm.

Resolution to resume in Open Meeting

Moved: J Gerard

Seconded: J Ward

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Resolves that** open meeting resumes and that the body of this report remain publicly excluded in accordance with Section 7, 2 (b)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, which supports the protection of information to enable the Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). However, recommendations (a), (b) and (e) be released publicly.

CARRIED

OPEN MEETING

16.1 **EV Charger Upgrade in the Rangiora Service Centre Carpark – V Thompson (Senior Advisor Business and Centres)**

Moved: K Barnett

Seconded: B McLaren

THAT the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250204017631.
- (b) **Approves** Option One, which accepts Meridian's proposed upgrade of the 22 Kw AC Chargers on Council land at the Rangiora Service Centre to high-capacity DC fast chargers and the proposed extension to the existing Operational Term.

- (e) **Notes** that the body of this report is publicly excluded in accordance with Section 7, 2 (b)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, which supports the protection of information to enable the Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). But recommendations (a), (b) and (e) can be released publicly.

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board was scheduled for 7pm, Wednesday 12 March 2025.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:17PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date