

## WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 3PM.

#### PRESENT

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors N Atkinson, J Goldsworthy, T Fulton, J Ward and P Williams.

C Brown (General Manager - Community and Recreation), P Eskett (District Libraries Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

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

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

#### **3 DEPUTATIONS**

##### **3.1 Request for the removal of the memorial at Victoria Park, Rangiora**

The resident elected not to attend the meeting to address the Committee.

##### **3.2 Judith Roper-Lindsay – Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust**

J Roper-Lindsay noted that the purpose of the deputation was to introduce the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust (the trust) and highlighted the proposed activities and projects the trust intended to undertake during 2023.

In 2018 the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee recommended that there should be community support for biodiversity in the Waimakariri District. To achieve this, the Committee envisioned a trust overseeing any biodiversity activity within the district. Therefore, in 2021 the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust was formed and registered as a charity, reflecting the need for community advice and resources regarding the protection and restoration of native biodiversity.

The trust consisted of six trustees and met for the first time in mid-2021. Its ambition was to identify vibrant, healthy, indigenous ecosystems and to encourage community engagement which could also increase community resilience. The trust's purpose was to provide the necessary information, education, and resources to assist the community in protecting, restoring, creating and sustainably managing indigenous biodiversity.

The trust had received \$20,000 from the Council for its establishment process and \$5,000 from the Environment Canterbury Zone Committee for a Visioning Workshop. The purpose of the Visioning Workshop was to identify suitable projects. Councillor Blackie facilitated the workshop, which included several ecologists and environmental staff from the Department of Conservation, the Council, Environment Canterbury (ECan), the QE2 National Trust, Waimakariri Irrigation Limited, and a few independent ecologists. The group looked at the gaps in providing information and assistance in biodiversity matters and how the trust could best fill those gaps. One of the advantages was the trust's independence and ability to coordinate and facilitate work between people, organisations, and groups.

The trustees met again with a professional facilitator and focussed on the number of projects they wanted to move forward. The trust had a range of ideas which needed developing in 2023, such as prioritising the human and financial resources required. The trust had contracted Andrew Thompson as a coordinator for its establishment phase. The trust planned to be a voice for native biodiversity in the district and to work in with the community, with ecological expertise and local knowledge and therefore partnered with the Council to host a series of public talks on various biodiversity topics, which proved to be very popular.

Councillor Williams asked how many people were involved in the trust. J Roper-Lindsay noted that they had six trustees and one coordinator. One of the tasks for the next few weeks was to assess the number of trustees required and source sponsors, supporters, and volunteers. Councillors Williams also enquired if the trust would need volunteers for planting. J Roper-Lindsay noted that could be one of the ways the trust could achieve its aims.

Councillor Cairns commented that he had attended most of the public talks in the Winter Series, which had been superb. He asked if J Roper-Lindsay was familiar with the Green Philanthropy Fund, which was looking to fund projects with a proven ecological impact and innovative ideas that could be game-changing for farms and individuals or organisations who needed ecological support.

## **4 REPORTS**

### **4.1 Library Update to 17 November 2022 – P Eskett (District Libraries Manager)**

P Eskett took the report as read and highlighted the Ako Collection, launched during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori in September 2022 and was a new service for Waimakariri Libraries. The collection intended to extend whanau's use of Te Reo Māori in their homes. Each book was a language learning guide, and the libraries offered free photocopying within the legal parameters of the Copyright Act 1994, to allow continued learning after the books were returned. Eighty items were loaned in September, and 113 during October 2021.

P Eskett also provided a brief update on the Rangatahi engagement. In January 2022, the libraries diverted their security budget, with Council's approval, to a Rangatahi Engagement Coordinator based at the Kaiapoi Library. Since this initiative started, there had been no trespasses or a ban at the Kaiapoi Library. The Rangatahi Engagement Coordinator, R Morland, continued to build a warm, welcoming mana-enhancing culture with the Rangatahi. R Morland hosted staff workshops earlier in the year on engaging with Rangatahi, which supported their mana. There had been a noticeable improvement in staff confidence and a more relaxed environment throughout the seven-day service. The Community and Greenspace Teams partnered with Libraries on an initiative called Rangatahi Fridays, which would be held on the last three Fridays of January 2023. There would be a free barbeque and games from 11am to 2pm to create activities for the community's youth.

Councillor Redmond noted he was intrigued by the information on printing from devices software installed at the Libraries. He questioned how the Council charged for copying services. P Eskett explained that with the new system, assigned the income from copies a specific GL Code that enabled it to be reconciled with the costs of Aotearoa Peoples Network Kaharoa (APNK). Waimakariri Libraries were among the first to be invited to access this facility in New Zealand.

Councillor Williams acknowledged that the acquisition of the Ako Learning Packs had been funded from existing budgets, however questioned the cost of the bags. P Eskett advised that the twenty bags cost was just over \$1,500 and had been sourced locally. The artwork was done by the Council's Creative Admin Team in-house, so costs were kept very low. Councillor Williams questioned what the cost of the full service would be. P Eskett explained that it was announced in 2019 that Waimakariri Libraries would commit \$15,000 per year to Te Reo Māori resources. However, this commitment had been challenging to keep because the publishing sector seemed to have a gap in the quality and the range of resources for non-academic use needs.

Councillor Williams enquired if the Libraries were intending to make similar resources available for other cultures as well. P Eskett noted that There was a budget of \$10,000 allocated to a world languages collection which concentrated on seven world languages that were the most dominant outside English within the Waimakariri district, which included Tikanga, so the culture, as well as language, were emphasised. Te Reo Māori, as an official language of New Zealand, was the prototype for the Learning Packs and other languages could be added in future.

Councillor Cairns commented that he had attended several presentations by Library staff, which promoted the vision that libraries were more than just books. He loved the idea of the Libraries, Greenspace and Community Teams working together on projects such as the StoryWalks, which many families enjoyed. He questioned if the Libraries intended to make the StoryWalk panels a permanent display, noting that some were being vandalised and damaged. P Eskett replied that it was dependent on the available budget. The two events this year were prototype exercises. From a sustainability point of view, the Libraries would support the displays to be permanent.

Councillor Atkinson asked if New Zealand Sign Language would also be promoted and how much budget would be needed to include sign language in the World Languages Collection. P Eskett advised that the Libraries had staff with a basic knowledge of sign language, and pre-covid, they were exploring whether their existing professional development budget could be used to upskill staff in this area. They had also explored some virtual training during the lockdown, which was not taken to a proficiency level. In addition, all new services regarding collection diversification had come from within the existing budget.

Councillor Fulton noted that, in his experience, reading was an immersive process, and people tended to read in an environment they were most comfortable. Therefore, he asked what community outreach programmes the Libraries had initiated, such as visiting community halls and interacting with community groups, play centres and toy libraries which often funded their own activities. P Eskett explained that the Libraries received a significant amount of funding from New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme in 2020 to strengthen library services, especially during covid. Waimakariri Libraries, therefore, had two staff members working outside the library by concentrating on community meetings, friendship groups, rest homes, Karanga mai.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 221117200310.
- (b) **Notes** the customer service improvements, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, events including Word Christchurch Festival that had contributed positively to community outcomes by Waimakariri Libraries from 9 September to 17 November 2022.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to all the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Mealings thanked P Eskett for the comprehensive report. She appreciated the new Ako Collection, as she loved languages, cultures, and history. She had learned quite a few languages. However, she had not started learning Te Reo Māori until she was elected to Council. The reason was that there were few resources for non-academic purposes to assist people who wanted to learn the language. She, therefore, believed that the Ako Collection was an essential addition to Waimakariri Libraries. She was encouraged by the news that there had been no incidents at the Kaiapoi Library since they had diverted the security budget to a Rangatahi Engagement Coordinator.

Councillor Cairns commented that the libraries provided exceptional service in communities and was lifting the bar very high.

#### 4.2 **Aquatics November Update – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

M Greenwood took the report as read, noting customer attendance continued to grow, returning to levels before covid. However, it still varied from the figures forecasted in the Council's 2021/31 Long Term Plan, which developed prior to covid. Staffing continued to be a challenge, and the Aquatic Team worked hard to identify, develop, and retain the talent within the Council. However, after speaking to other Councils and local employers, retaining staff seemed to continue to be difficult. In conclusion, M Greenwood noted that the summer pools were now open.

Councillor Ward enquired if there was sufficient budget for the upkeep and painting of the Dudley Aquatic Centre, including operating expenses. M Greenwood confirmed that there was adequate budget, however, it was difficult to schedule some of the work as it required the pools to be closed, which meant that swimming lessons could not be held.

Councillor Cairns noted he was mindful of the number of drownings in New Zealand, commenting that Christchurch City Council provided free entry to pre-schoolers at its Aquatic Centre to build their water confidence and, in time, take on swimming lessons. He enquired how it would affect the budget to provide the same level of service. M Greenwood noted that he was keen to investigate this initiative further and would report back to the Committee.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 221107193267.
- (b) **Notes** Aquatic Facilities progress against key performance indicators, including Financial results, Water Quality and Customer Satisfaction.
- (c) **Notes** the successful progress in recruitment activities despite a turbulent market, ahead of the busy summer season.

- (d) **Notes** the preparations for the opening of summer pools was progressing as scheduled.
- (e) **Notes** the assessment of facilities, procedures, and staff ahead of next year's Poolsafe audit.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to all the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Redmond thanked M Greenwood for the report. He hoped the customer attendance numbers would pick up over the summer months. He acknowledged the good work occurring in the aquatics area.

Councillor Brine expressed his concern about Aquatic Facilities struggling with retaining staff and not having sufficient staff to teach swimming lessons.

Councillors Atkinson noted that it was admirable for the Council to investigate initiatives such as free entry to pre-schoolers. However, the impact of these initiatives on the Council's budget and rates should also be considered.

**4.3 Community Team Year in Review 2021/22 – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

T Sturley took the report as read and highlighted the collaborative manner the Community Team tried to work, which attracted significant funding for community initiatives, particularly in the last twelve months. As a result, a broad range of high-impact initiatives was being developed across the district, such as food security and establishing a community hub in Kaiapoi. Creating a 'Next Steps' website would also enable people to directly link into support, assistance, and opportunities across the district.

T Sturley noted the development of the Council's Art Strategy, which would contribute to the Waimakariri District as a highly attractive and desirable place to live by empowering local artists. In addition, a series of capability-building workshops would be held to ensure that organisations and community groups were well-resourced to apply for funding, retain volunteers and operate sustainably.

Councillor Blackie enquired about the progress in drafting the Council's Arts Strategy. T Sturley explained that a reasonable number of responses from both practitioners and the public were received. It had been heartening to see a generous proportion of responses from local Iwi and Māori arts sectors, as it was essential to reflect the bicultural heritage of the district in the Arts Strategy. A forum was planned at the end of December 2022 involving those who responded to the public consultation.

Councillor Williams asked if the mobile community hub had arrived. T Sturley replied that it had not, however, the Council was working with a fit-out company which operated out of Ohoka. A steering group of local providers were currently working on the design that should fit comfortably within the Council's budget. The Hub was scheduled to arrive in February/March 2023 after the fit-out had been completed.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Mayor Gordon

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 221117200298.
- (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 2021/2022, all population and performance measure targets for the Community Development Strategy 2015 -2025 had been met or exceeded.
- (d) **Notes** the pending review of the Community Development Strategy, due for completion in June 2023.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Gordon commended the excellent report. He acknowledged all the Community Team's work and the exciting opportunities they were constantly investigating. He was particularly excited about the possibility of the Mayor's 'Taskforce for Jobs'.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the recently retired Chairperson of the Age-Friendly Advisory Group, J Gumbrell, and noted her significant contribution to the successful Age-Friendly Plan. He appreciated the considerable depth of experience she brought and her service to the community. Mayor Gordon wished the new Chairperson and Group well for the future.

Councillor Redmond acknowledged the outcomes that the Community Team achieved. He noted that the team had exceeded or met all their performance measures which were very pleasing.

## **5 CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

## **6 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

### **6.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor AI Blackie.**

- Fire on Te Kohaka O Tuhaitara Trust land – He did a tour with the trust's rangers, which could have been much worse. The large pine windbreak along the dunes remained, which was critical for dune restoration. On the first count, the trust had lost approximately 1,500 mature native trees. However, the fire had cleared a lot of gorse and broom. He chaired a restorative justice meeting with the perpetrator of the fire.
- Ashley Gorge Residents Advisory Group meeting – Had a walk around the area of the gorge.
- Mahinga Kai meeting to initiate stage two - Stage one was almost complete with the paths and planting. There were 4,000 trees planted. Stage two was more of the same to the east and south and included a cultural build going in towards the riverbed. A small ceremony would be held when the Te Kohaka O Tuhaitara Trust officially signed the lease.
- The Council Council's Regeneration Kaiapoi' Project won the Outstanding Project award at the Recreation Aotearoa Awards held in Nelson, where the General Manager - Community and Recreation, Chris Brown, presented the Council's Regeneration Plan as a recreation plan. He congratulated the Regeneration Team.

C Brown noted that the Council entered twenty large and excellent projects, which spanned a long time. He did a few twenty-minute presentations in which he identified all the projects, such as the Food Forest, the Motor Caravan Association and the Honda Forest. He also gave more detail about how the Council worked with the community, enabling them to again connect with the land.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the considerable work done by the Council, noting that the Council could be particularly proud of the engagement led in partnership by Elected Members and staff.

Councillor Williams asked if the Council was insured against the damage done by the fire. Councillor. C Brown explained that there was not much insurance on the dune protection trees, but the commercial forestry was insured. However, the forest had not been affected by the fire for the most part.

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

- There were 27,000 cases of Covid reported in the last week, which would impact the Council's services and facilities. There were currently staff shortages at the Council's Aquatic Centres.
- Southbrook Pavilion – Meetings had progressed, and the main focus was finding partners to build a new facility to replace the old one.
- Ravenswood and Pegasus Community Centres – Discussions were ongoing with staff and a presentation on this matter would be done at the next Community and Recreation Committee meeting.

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

- Food Security within the North Canterbury Region - He attended a Food and Budget Forum where groups reported problems regarding food security. For instance, the Salvation Army had reported an 85% increase in food insecurity since July 2022. In addition, Vision West, a national housing provider in the Waimakariri, had seventeen houses in Beachgrove, Kaiapoi and five in Rangiora. They did a recent survey of their tenants and 80 to 85% reported food insecurity.
- St John had an unprecedented increase in callouts and had to explore different ideas on how to raise funding. Instead of going to schools requesting funding they were asking for towels. St John in Rangiora had almost maxed out their space and urgently needed a permanent base in Kaiapoi and a hub space in the Waimakariri.
- North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support was now working with the likes of the Pegasus Residents Group and other groups to make the community safer and more resilient.

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

- The Waimakariri Public Arts Trust projects were proceeding. In addition, the trust was in the process of appointing three new Trustees.

7 **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

**8 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

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

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**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
9.0	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
9.1	Protection of privacy of natural persons To carry out commercial activities without prejudice	A2(a) A2(b)ii

**CLOSED MEETING**

*The public excluded portion of the meeting commenced at 4:07pm and concluded at 4:22pm.*

**OPEN MEETING**

**Resolution to resume in open meeting**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

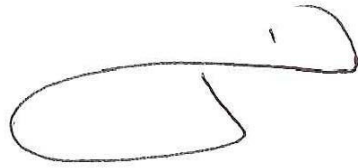
**THAT** open meeting resumes and the business discussed within the public excluded portion of the meeting remain public excluded.

**CARRIED**



THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:22pm.

**CONFIRMED**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a smaller loop and a short horizontal stroke.

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Chairperson  
Councillor Philip Redmond

21 February 2023  
Date