

## WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UTILITIES AND ROADING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY, 18 JUNE, AT 9AM.

#### PRESENT

Councillors P Williams (Chairperson), R Brine, N Mealings, P Redmond, J Ward, and Mayor D Gordon (from 9.12am).

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors B Cairns, T Fulton

J Millward (Chief Executive), G Cleary (Utilities and Roading Manager), K Simpson (3 Waters Manager), J McBride (Roading and Transportation Manager), J Recker (Stormwater and Waterways Manager), J Fraser (Infrastructure Planner), S Allen (Water Environment Advisor) and A Smith (Governance Coordinator).

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

Moved: Councillor Williams

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**THAT** an apology for absence be received and sustained from Councillor Ward.

**CARRIED**

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

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

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

##### **3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee held on Tuesday 28 May 2024.**

Councillor Williams referred to Item 5.1 in the minutes, relating to the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) discussion on existing planting projects dying. It was agreed that the plants not surviving and the explanation for this provided by staff be included in the minutes.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**THAT** the Utilities and Roading Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee held on 28 May 2024, as a true and accurate record, with the addition of comments in Item 5.1, as referred to above.

**CARRIED**

##### **3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4 DEPUTATION/PRESENTATIONS**

There were no deputations or presentations.

## 5 REPORTS

### 5.1 Commence Public Consultation on Amended Stormwater Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw 2024 – J Fraser (Infrastructure Planner) and J Recker (Stormwater and Waterways Manager)

The approval of the Committee was sought to undertake public consultation on the amended Waimakariri District Council Stormwater Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw 2024, using the Special Consultative Procedure. The Council was required to update this bylaw and the report also sought the appointment of two Councillors to the Hearing Panel. It was proposed that the Bylaw be open for public submission on Thursday 20 June 2024, with the Bylaw documents available on the Council website, in Service Centres and Libraries. The consultation period would close on 29 July 2024, with a tentative date for hearings set for 25 September 2024. The recommendation from the Hearings Panel would then go to the Council 4 November 2024 meeting.

Councillor Redmond queried the reference in the Bylaw document under Cultural to a Resource Consent for drain cleaning. It was advised that the Council had a drainage maintenance consent from ECan in place for several years. This was a global consent for all council drains in the district and there were quarterly meetings with ECan staff to monitor the consent. There was no change in the requirements for this consent which had been in place for some time.

Councillor Mealings referred to Item 13.1.3 in the Policy on where planting was allowed. For clarification J Recker advised that planting was allowed however there needed to be provision allowed for access for the Council contractors to carry out maintenance. J Recker advised that staff were working on making this information more available to the public (via LIMs) so that the public had a better understanding of the rules of the Stormwater Bylaw. Councillor Mealings said landowners need to be aware of what their responsibilities were and J Recker agreed there was a need for education on the importance of maintenance of the waterways.

Councillor Fulton queried where the responsibilities for enforcement sat, and if this was something that the Council could reinforce, or if issues needed to be referred to Ecan. J Fraser responded that ECan had the enforcement tools under Section 15 of the RMA. The Council was required under the Land and Water Regional Plan to manage the discharges from 1 January 2025 from site and activity. Initially, the Council had to follow procedures in the Bylaw and the network conditions prior matters being handed over to ECan.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Williams

**THAT** the Utilities and Roading Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. TRIM 240328049935.
- (b) **Approves** the attached proposed Stormwater Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw 2024 and Statement of Proposal for public consultation using the Special Consultative Procedure outlined in the Local Government Act 2002.
- (c) **Appoints** Councillor Williams (portfolio holder), Councillor Redmond and Councillor Fulton to hear submissions on the proposal and to recommend decisions to the Council.
- (d) **Notes** the proposed hearing / submissions deliberations date is Wednesday 25 September 2024.
- (e) **Notes** that upon adoption, the Bylaw will be renamed the Stormwater Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw 2024, to reflect the date of its last review.

- (f) **Notes** that, once adopted, the Stormwater Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw 2024 will not be required to be formally reviewed for another 10 years, however it will be able to be reviewed in the intervening period, if required.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

5.2 **Private Well Study – Results from 2023 Study – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

S Allen spoke to this report which provided information on a study of private wells which was undertaken in 2023. The Council, alongside Environment Canterbury and Canterbury District Health Board had been recommended by the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) to develop a programme for testing and reporting water quality and nitrate levels in private drinking water supply wells. The studies commenced in 2019 with samples from Eyreton, Cust, Carleton and Swannanoa. The results showed similar to the previous years, with one well having levels above the limit for drinking water.

In addition to information provided in the report, it was advised that ECan would be carrying out a study in the coming spring of deep wells in the Eyrewell area, of both public and private wells.

Councillor Fulton asked if the information booklet could be made more readily available. S Allen advised that there was an update currently being undertaken on information in the booklet, and once this had been included, there would be further push on promoting the information.

Councillor Mealings asked what happened to the data from the samples taken from these private well samples. It was advised that any information that the Council got was placed on the relevant property files.

Moved: Councillor Williams                      Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** the Utilities and Roading Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240520080417.
- (b) **Notes** the findings of the 2023 study, with one well above the nitrate-nitrogen Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) set in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (2022). Of the wells sampled, 57% of the wells in Eyreton, 60% in Cust, 25% in Carleton and 20% in Swannanoa sampling areas were above half of the MAV (5.65 mg/L).
- (c) **Notes** that the median nitrate concentration for Eyreton and Cust sampling areas, as sampled in the 2023 study, exceed the limit of a median of 5.65 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen set in Plan Change 7 of the Land and Water Regional Plan for private water supply wells, while Swannanoa and Carleton sampling areas did meet this limit.
- (d) **Notes** that Waimakariri District Council and Environment Canterbury staff will continue to raise awareness of the health impacts of high nitrates, and to encourage private well owners to test water regularly, including updating and wider distribution of the publication of a 'managing a private well supply' pamphlet for the District.
- (e) **Notes** that Waimakariri District Council proposes to repeat this study in spring 2024 (with 10 wells in each of the four sampling areas (40 wells total). Well owners from the previous sample rounds will be approached for repeat annual sampling, to allow for assessment of trends over time.

- (f) **Notes** that statistically robust trends for nitrate concentration over time are not able to be concluded from data for only five years, or three years of data for Swannanoa and Carleton sampling areas.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to the Council, Community Boards and Waimakariri Water Zone Committee for information.

## **CARRIED**

Councillor Williams emphasised that this study was of private well water supplies and that all the Council's public water supplies had nitrate levels which were well below the required levels for drinking water standards.

Councillor Mealings said the longer these studies could be carried out, the more beneficial the data would be from the samples taken. Councillor Mealings was thankful to the property owners who had allowed the water in their wells to be studied.

Mayor Gordon supported the sampling and testing of private wells, noting that the Council had spent considerable time in the last few weeks reassuring the community that the Council's drinking water was safe, and the Council undertook rigorous testing. Mayor Gordon noted this testing was unlike the recent water testing undertaken by Greenpeace and expressed his disapproval of Greenpeace's testing as its methodology was questionable. Mayor Gordon reiterated that if any residents had concerns, to contact the Council and they would be given the right advice on how to manage that. Thanks were extended to staff for providing the results of these studies and for the management of these important matters.

Councillor Redmond supported the motion. In reference to the new information brochure that was being produced, Councillor Redmond suggested that these could be distributed to North Canterbury lawyers and possibly wider afield. It would make legal advisers aware that when people were purchasing properties, the testing of water in private wells was the owners responsibility.

In reply, Councillor Williams reiterated the comments made by Mayor Gordon and refuted the scaremongering that had been occurring on the quality of local drinking water supplies. Councillor Williams believed the quality of Council water supplies were probably the best in New Zealand.

## **6 CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

## **7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

### **7.1 Roading – Councillor Philip Redmond**

#### **Focus areas for staff:**

- Re-metalling was being carried out on unsealed roads and maintenance grading was continuing.
- High shoulder removal was currently underway on a number of unsealed roads (removed with a grader). Noted that there had also been a new machine in operation working on high shoulder removal.
- Ice gritting was continuing on an as required basis around the district.
- The Resealing Programme for 2024/25 had been developed and staff were currently inspecting and agreeing pre-reseal repairs with the maintenance contractor. These repairs would be carried out in the spring.
- The Pavement Rehabilitation Programme had also been developed and pre-testing of sites to help determine the design was beginning.
- Over the next month the focus would shift onto designing for the 2024/25 financial year.

### **Capital:**

- The Waimakariri Gorge Bridge Deck Replacement was nearly complete. Guardrail had been completed on the southern approach and installation is continuing on the northern approach (WDC side of the bridge). The scaffolding was being removed and this would take approximately two weeks to complete. Additional works were undertaken to clean the beams under the bridge and repair a crack in the abutment which was non-structural. The deck would receive a further reseal in the summer to ensure it remained waterproof. There had been some issues with sealing around joints, and this was something that staff would be addressing in time, in warmer temperatures.
- The Island Rd / Ohoka Rd traffic signals had been commissioned and intersection works are complete. Councillor Redmond congratulated staff on this project and believed the traffic signals were working well.
- Kerb and Channel Renewal work in Geddis Street was now complete.
- Palmer Street Upgrade work was continuing. Berms and shoulder sealing were the last tasks to be completed and this was planned for the next week.
- Ashley Street kerb and channel and footpath works were also now complete.
- The last of the footpath renewal projects had been completed for this financial year. This was the footpath renewal on Douglas Street.

### **Other works:**

- Doubledays Footbridge remained closed. Repairs to the pier cap were currently underway.
- South Belt pavement works adjacent to the new development were now complete.
- Work was continuing to underground the trunk watermain on Townsend Road at the culvert. The cut-in of the main was planned to occur overnight late June / early July with the road closed overnight to allow the connection to be completed.
- 16 new permanent flooding signs have been installed in known flooding areas. These fold down signs were quick and easy to open during a flood event.
- Work was undertaken to remove tree debris from previous floods which had become stuck against the bridge piers at the Mandeville and Mafeking Bridges.
- There was work coming up to install water, stormwater and sewer mains through the Blackett St / King St roundabout. This was continuation of the Rangiora Sewer Upgrade project. The roundabout would need to be closed to accommodate these works. Start date 1 July with the intersection closed for 6 weeks. There would be several contractors working on this site at the same time to get the project completed with minimum disruption.

### **Events:**

- The Kaiapoi Lights from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June.
- Kaiapoi Matariki Event is coming up on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Road Safety:**

- The Waimakariri Road Safety Working Group meets this Wednesday. The purpose of the group is to provide a forum for collaboration on road safety functions and initiatives.

Councillor Fulton sought information on the joins in the new deck on the Waimakariri Gorge bridge and queried if this would need to be redone in spring/summer. In response, G Cleary advised that the bridge itself was a steel structure and was not entirely rigid, so there was some movement due to the decking being wooden. Each wooden plank was structurally sound, and there had been packing used to get the surface as level as possible. When vehicles, especially heavy trucks, travelled over the surface, the bridge would move. To

accommodate each wooden plank, the design had allowed for some movement. There was a sealant between each plank and then a chip seal surface. The movement had been constrained as much as it could be. There were no concerns about the structural integrity of the bridge, however it was not strong enough to hold concrete panels. It was agreed that there could be an information update provided to the public on the timeframe for the extra coating going on the bridge deck which was scheduled for summer. G Cleary noted that technology was advancing, and the planks were not available in the past and they are now, and had been used successfully on other bridges, including the Rakaia Gorge Bridge.

Regarding the speed humps, G Cleary said these had been installed to slow traffic during the construction period, however they may be removed later. G Cleary would follow up with the contractor and Selwyn District Council to get confirmation of this.

Mayor Gordon also endorsed the need for some communication to go out to the public, about the additional coating to go on the bridge deck in the summer. Mayor Gordon also suggested that there could be information included in a publication of the Oxford Observer to keep the community updated on this matter.

## 7.2 **Drainage, Stockwater and Three Waters (Drinking Water, Sewer and Stormwater) – Councillor Paul Williams**

### **Water**

- The UV treatment installation project was progressing relatively well. The new UV unit at the Pegasus Water Treatment Plant was installed and currently being commissioned. The works at the other sites of Darnley, Peraki, South Belt and Domain would not be completed until September 2024.
- Taumata Arowai were going to be visiting the Pegasus Water Treatment Plant in July as part of the Woodend Pegasus chlorine exemption application.

### **Wastewater**

- Featherstone Ave, Kairaki sewer lateral and manhole repair works were complete and would be monitored in the next spring tide and heavy rainfall events.

### **Drainage**

- Cones Road Drain Upgrade was almost complete, with the remaining reinstatement works to be completed by the end of June.
- Wolffs Road drainage improvements were almost complete. The culvert was successfully installed without the need for sheet piling or dewatering.
- Greens Road culvert in Tuahiwi has been installed and the downstream drain regrading and widening will be complete by the end of the month.
- Cam River heavy maintenance works were complete.

## 7.3 **Solid Waste– Councillor Robbie Brine**

Councillor Brine took the opportunity to advise of the passing last night of Gareth James. He had previously been an employee of the Council, as Manager Services (which at the time also included Community and Recreation). Gareth had in more recent years been involved with the regional landfill at Kate Valley and had won numerous awards for his engineering skills and expertise. Councillor Brine considered it a privilege to work with Gareth over a number of years, initially during construction of the Kate Valley facility and then as a Board Member of Transwaste.

1. Budget announcement – changes to waste disposal levy & Waste Minimisation Act
  - Revenue from the waste disposal levy going into the contestable fund would be spent on a wider range of projects in addition to minimising waste:
    - Projects that support the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as restoring freshwater catchments and freshwater improvements.
    - Help cover the costs associated with disposal of waste generated by an emergency such as a cyclone, and to clean up contaminated sites and landfills vulnerable to severe weather events.
  - The landfill disposal levy would continue to be increased by \$5/tonne from 2025 to 2027.
  - At this stage Councils would still receive 50% of the levy revenue, but that would be reviewed when the Act is reviewed.
  - There won't be any impacts on the 2024/25 budgets from this change, and staff would work through these as part of the Annual Plan process.
2. On Monday 17 June (which is “Global Garbage Man Day”) our comms team put out a media story and video about “a day in the life of a collection truck driver” which puts a face to the kerbside collection drivers. Leanne Winter has been driving the recycling truck for many years, and she has highlighted the challenges and good things about collecting bins in Waimakariri.

Solid Waste is busy as usual, but Councillor Brine had nothing of concern to report.

As Councillor Brine was unable to attend, Councillor Mealings had recently attended the Waste Minimization Conference in May 2024 and considered this an excellent conference and provided some feedback from the conference. Matters highlighted at the conference included construction demolition waste, composting, waste reduction, food waste, waste minimisation levy and best practices used in other districts. One of the main speakers was the Minister for the Environment.

#### 7.4 **Transport – Mayor Dan Gordon**

Mayor Gordon noted there were still further announcements to come on the Woodend Bypass project. The status of the Woodend Safety Improvements was still to be provided, Mayor Gordon noting that these were needed regardless of what stage the Bypass project was at. The Council was advocating for walking and cycling to be included in the bypass design. This was an important project for the district and thanked the Council staff for their involvement in the design.

Currently there was discussion on road tolling at Government level, and this may be considered for the Woodend Bypass. This was yet to be defined. Councillor Mealings said by having a toll on this bypass, this may discourage people from using the bypass, and to still drive through Woodend.

Mayor Gordon noted the Council had been eligible for the Emergency works funding, and without this, it would have been a significant challenge for the Council, to deal with the regular adverse weather events. Mayor Gordon commented that without this emergency funding available, it would have put extreme hardship on the Council and many smaller councils across the country. He suggested that if this funding was to cease, there needed to be another mechanism to allow Central Government funding available for Councils in cases of weather emergency.

## 8 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

There were no questions.

## 9 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no urgent general business.

## 10 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

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 is moved:

Moved Councillor Redmond

Seconded Councillor Mealings

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

11.1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes from 28 May 2024.

11.2 Report from Management Team Operations 27 May 2024.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each 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 are as follows:

Item No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public.
11.1	Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes from 28 May 2024	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	As per Section 7(2)(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to “enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities” and For reasons of protecting the privacy of natural persons and enabling the local authority to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial) negotiations and maintain legal professional privilege as per LGOIMA Section 7 (2)(a), (g) and (i).
11.2	Report from Management Team Operations 27 May 2024	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	As per Section 7(2)(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to “enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities”

**CARRIED**



**CLOSED MEETING**

**Resolution to resume in open meeting.**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** open meeting resumes and the business discussed with the public excluded remains public excluded unless otherwise resolved in the individual resolutions.

**CARRIED**

*The public excluded meeting commenced at 10.05am and concluded at 10.21am.*

**OPEN MEETING**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee will be held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 9am.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.22am.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson  
Councillor Paul Williams

16 July 2024  
Date