

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2024 WHICH COMMENCED AT 1PM.**

**PRESENT**

Mayor D Gordon (Virtual), Deputy Mayor N Atkinson (Chairperson), Councillors A Blackie, B Cairns, J Goldsworthy, T Fulton (Virtual), N Mealings, J Ward, and P Williams.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

J Millward (Chief Executive), G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Roothing), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), J McBride (Roothing and Transportation Manager), P Christensen (Finance Manager), K Simpson (3 Waters Manager), C Fahey (Water and Wastewater Asset Manager) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

There were six members of the public present.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Moved: Councillor Goldsworthy

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

**THAT** the Council:

- (a) **Receives and sustains** apologies for absence from Councillors Brine and Redmond.

**CARRIED**

**2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Item 7.1 – Mayor Gordon declared a conflict as he had been attending Compass FM meetings in an advisory capacity.

**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Deputy Mayor Atkinson acknowledged the North Canterbury Sports Awards presented at a gala dinner hosted at the MainPower Stadium on 2 November 2024. This year's awards recognised the achievements of local athletes, coaches, administrators, clubs, and events over the last two years. He congratulated all the recipients.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Waimakariri District Council held on Tuesday, 1 October 2024**

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Williams

**THAT** the Council:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and correct record, the circulated Minutes of the Waimakariri District Council meeting held on Tuesday, 1 October 2024.

**CARRIED**

**4.2 Minutes of a meeting of the Waimakariri District Council held on Tuesday, 15 October 2024**

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Williams

**THAT** the Council:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and correct record, the circulated Minutes of the Waimakariri District Council meeting held on Tuesday, 15 October 2024.

**CARRIED**

## **MATTERS ARISING (from Minutes)**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

### **6. ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

Nil.

### **7. REPORTS**

#### **7.1 Compass FM Relocation Support – G Steele (Property Acquisitions and Disposals Manager) and K Brocas (Senior Advisor Project Delivery)**

S Hart spoke to the report and noted that representatives of the North Canterbury Radio Trust (Trust) made a deputation to the Council in August 2024 seeking the Council's support for the relocation of the Trust's Compass FM radio station, which currently operates from an office on High Street, Rangiora. The report highlighted a number of potential options that the Council could consider regarding the level of support that it may provide.

There were no questions from elected members.

Moved: Councillor Ward

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

**THAT** the Council:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241017180171.
- (b) **Approves** staff's use of local networking to assist the Trust in finding new suitable premises — land, building, or both (Option 2 referred to in Trim. 241017180171).
- (c) **Notes** that subject to the Option directed to further investigate in recommendation (b), staff will prepare a future report that stipulates further details, including any specific financial implications and terms for Council approval (if applicable).

**CARRIED**

Councillor Ward believed that Compass FM was essential to networking and the well-being of the Waimakariri District and that the Trust deserved some Council assistance. Therefore, she supported the motion.

Councillor Blackie commented that the matter had been extensively discussed at a Council workshop. He noted that the proposed options did not commit the Council to any financial expenditure and thus supported the motion.

Councillor Mealings also supported the motion, as she was in favour of the Council assisting the Trust in finding suitable accommodation. However, she believed that although Compass FM provided a really important service to the community, they should remain independent of the Council.

Mayor Gordon supported the Council by using local resources and networking to assist the Trust in finding new suitable premises. He did not support the sale of the Parkside Portacom at this time.

Councillor Fulton agreed with previous speakers and thought it was important for the Council to assist Compass FM; however, that they retain their independence.

### **8. MATTERS REFERRED**

#### **8.1 Saline Incursions in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

*(Referred to the attached copy of report Trim no. 240918159973 to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board meeting of 21 October 2024).*

K Simpson spoke to the report, noting the report was prepared on request from the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board due to the high level of public interest in the weed and freshwater mussels dying back in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers. He noted that there had been previous die back of weed beds observed post the Canterbury earthquakes and in 2017. At the time, Environment Canterbury (ECan) investigated the matter and concluded in 2018 that salinity intrusion was the primary cause. Salinity data from 2014 to date showed that there had been a clear increase in salinity levels recorded in the Kaiapoi River at the Mandeville Bridge. It was believed that the minimum flows in the Waimakariri River, due to 2024 being a very dry year, contributed to increased salinity in the lower Cam and Kaiapoi Rivers.

K Simpson advised that the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board added a recommendation (d) to support the broader work to identify the cause of the increase in salinity in the lower Cam and Kaiapoi Rivers.

Councillor Williams asked at how many sites there were salt intrusions being measured. K Simpson noted that ECan had installed a monitor at the Mandeville Bridge in Kaiapoi, which continuously monitored the salinity of the Kaiapoi River. ECan also conducted water quality tests at the Kaiapoi boat ramp. There were three additional sites where water quality was measured upstream coming from the Cust, Ohoka and Silverstream tributaries.

In response to a secondary question from Councillor Williams, K Simpson noted that he understood that some of the plants growing closer to the coast were more tolerant to the saltwater intrusion than others.

Councillor Williams enquired whether the Council should employ independent resources to conduct the testing in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers. G Cleary stated that the Council had no reason to question the Council or ECan test results. There was no indication that there was any cause to be concerned about their objectivity.

Councillor Cairns asked whether ECan had the funding to do this modelling. K Simpson explained that this would be part of the Council's discussions with ECan in the coming weeks.

Councillor Fulton questioned if there was data showing a correlation between low flows and increased salinity. K Simpons noted that the report prepared by ECan in 2017/18 provided some time series data showing that the years of low flow within the Waimakariri Catchment Area correlated with higher salinity levels measured in the Kaiapoi River. K Simpson noted that obtaining more data would, over time, build confidence in that correlation.

Councillor Fulton asked if the ongoing studies would include an impact analysis of the previous modifications to the river. K Simpson confirmed that it was within the scope and noted that the ECan report did refer to some of the changes that happened to the riverbed level and profile of the Kaiapoi River post-earthquake.

Councillor Goldsworthy noted how widely distributed saltwater intrusion seemed to be across the country. K Simpson explained that New Zealand was in an El Nino period, so we were more prone to dry events and warmer currents on the East Coast and definitely for the Canterbury Region. There had been a dry season and lower flows in all the rivers across the region.

Councillor Williams requested that the toxicity of chemicals that could potentially be released into the rivers be included in the report. K Simpson noted that for the future.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

Seconded: Councillor Williams

**THAT** the Council

- (a) **Requests** for modelling to be led by Environment Canterbury to establish the key drivers of saline incursions in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers, which incorporates tides, river flows and salinity data.
- (b) **Requests** that Environment Canterbury determine and employ methods to monitor water quality and aquatic ecology trends of the tidal section of the Kaiapoi River.
- (c) **Circulates** this report to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee at a Council-Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga meeting and to all the Rural Drainage Advisory Groups.

- (d) **Requests** staff ascertain from Environment Canterbury what type of testing could be done, including costs and time frames, to deliver evidence of what is happening in the Kaiapoi River.

**CARRIED**

Deputy Mayor Atkinson commented that it was made very clear at the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board meeting that this project should be led by ECan, as ECan was responsible for maintaining the Kaiapoi River. He agreed that the low flow in the Waimakariri River was a real problem. However, he did not believe it was the only reason for the saline incursions in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers. He supported the Council working with ECan to obtain more information on this matter

Councillor Williams was not convinced that the spraying of weeds on the river banks was not contributing to the weed and freshwater mussels dying back in the Kaiapoi and Ruataniwha Cam Rivers. If only salinity intrusion was to blame, he wanted clarity as to why there were weeds in the lower Kaiapoi River and not further up.

Councillor Fulton noted this was an opportunity to work closely with ECan and ensure that the Waimakariri District residents received value for paying Regional Council Rates. He had some concerns that some of ECan's increased rates were not being directed to this sort of essential work.

Councillor Cairns noted that from a commercial point of view, the Kaiapoi River was the jewel of the crown. He highlighted the economic reasons for ensuring that the river was the best it could be. There are many boats on the river now, and the river itself attracts people to Kaiapoi. The New Zealand Motorhome Association ranked Kaiapoi as the third or fourth most popular park because of its proximity to the river.

Councillor Mealings supported the motion. However, she was dismayed that the Council had been having this conversation for several years and was still no closer to a solution.

Mayor Gordon also supported the motion and agreed with the observations expressed. He thought it was timely that the Council received a report on this matter. He would like to know what the main drivers of the saline institutions were; however, it was important that ECan lead any investigation. He acknowledged the work the staff had been putting in and thanked the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board for their advocacy.

In his right of reply, Deputy Mayor Atkinson noted that ECan had expertise in these matters, so they should lead the investigation.

8.2 **Request for Sealing of Riverside Road and Inglis Road and Establishment of a Targeted Rate for the Area** – J McBride (Roading and Transport Manager)

*(Referred to the attached copy of report Trim no. 241001168468 to the Hearing Panel for the Sealing of Riverside Road and Inglis Roads on 11 October 2024)*

J McBride spoke to the report, noting it related to the setting of a targeted rate for the sealing of Riverside and Inglis Roads. She explained that the Council approved the sealing in principle in December 2023, subject to residents agreeing to top up to the 30% required under the Council's Rural Sealing Extension Policy. In September 2024, the Council approved the commencement of the Special Consultative Procedure for the targeted rate. There were 22 properties in the rating area, and during the consultation, 16 submissions were received, 14 for and two against.

J McBride noted that a hearing was held on 11 October 2024, and one submitter presented. Subsequent to the hearing, she conducted a review of the submissions for two reasons. Firstly, she received a call from a resident who asked that their submission be recorded. Also, having reviewed the submissions, she found two errors in the information summary. However, staff now had responses from 20 out of the 22 properties: 15 in support, four opposed, and one had mixed thoughts. The Hearings Panel's recommendation was that Option One of the report be taken forward to include the targeted rate in the Council's 2025/26 Annual Plan. The targeted rate was assumed to be for a 20-year period based on work that had been tendered.

Councillor Williams asked if there were any future development contributions that could be forthcoming from the Riverside/ Inglis Roads area. J McBride explained that when setting the targeted rate, staff looked at all properties that had access to the road. One large property on the western side of Riverside Road could still be subdivided. If the property was subdivided within the 20-year targeted rate, the rate would be recalculated.

Councillor Williams noted that currently, one-third of the residents were against the sealing of the portions of roads. He questioned how that compared to other instances. J McBride commented that the only other road sealing she had been involved in was a slightly different situation where a group of residents approached the Council, and they all wanted it done.

Councillor Fulton enquired whether it would be challenging to apply a targeted rate over a 20-year period for that number of residents. J McBride explained that it was not unusual, and the targeted rate had been applied to fewer properties. As long as the area was ringfenced and the Council followed its Special Consultative Procedure to ensure that the affected residents were informed, there should not be any concerns. If an affected property was sold, the targeted rate would remain as part of the property rates.

Moved: Councillor Ward

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Council

- (a) **Approves** the inclusion of the targeted rate for the sealing of Riverside Road and Inglis Road in the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26, as detailed in the Statement of Proposal (Trim no. 240818138178).
- (b) **Notes** that property owners have the option of paying by lump sum or by a targeted rate.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Ward commented she was part of the Hearing Panel and believed that the Council should urgently undertake this project, as the dust issues were a health hazard in the area.

Councillor Cairns thanked Councillors Ward and Goldsworthy for being part of the Hearings Panel and staff for the amount of work they did. He congratulated J McBride for conducting the review of the data that was collected. In terms of the hearing, it was interesting that only one resident opted to present. However, she provided some real context as to why the road needed to be sealed.

Councillor Williams was concerned that one-third of residents did not want the road sealed. He understood the people's desire for it; however, he did not know if they would be able to afford the targeted rate.

## **9. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING**

### **9.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report October 2024 - J Millward (Chief Executive)**

J Millward took the report as read, noting nine new incidents. He advised that a serious near-miss incident occurred at the Rangiora Airfield, which would be reported in the November 2024 report. However, the incident fell under the jurisdiction of the Civil Aviation Authority and would therefore be investigated by them.

Councillor Blackie asked about the Pegasus Ridge incident if there had been any progress, and why the Te Kohaka Trust were not informed. J Millward noted that it would be included in the learnings to make sure it did not happen again.

Councillor Mealings questioned the Flaxton Road hedge fire. J Millward noted that Fire and Emergency New Zealand was still investigating the incident.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Williams

**THAT** the Council:

- (a) **Receives** Report No 241014177625.

- (b) **Notes** that there were no notifiable incidents this month. The organisation is, so far as is reasonably practicable, compliant with the duties of a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) as required by the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
- (c) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

## 10. **COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

- 10.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee of 17 September 2024  
10.2 Minutes of a meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee of 15 October 2024

Moved: Councillor Williams                      Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** the Council

- (a) **Receives** Items 10.1 and 10.2 for information.

**CARRIED**

## 11. **COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

- 11.1 Minutes of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board meeting of 2 October 2024  
11.2 Minutes of the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board meeting of 9 October 2024  
11.3 Minutes of the Woodend-Sefton Community Board meeting of 14 October 2024

Moved: Councillor Williams                      Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Council

- (a) **Receives** Items 11.1 to 11.3 for information.

**CARRIED**

## 12. **COUNCIL PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

### 12.1 **Climate Change and Sustainability** – Councillor Niki Mealings

- The Waimakariri Youth Council, Council and Environment Canterbury held a river cleanup at the Ashley River and removed just under 300kg of rubbish. It was good to see the groups working together.
- The Enviroschools Celebration would be held on 20 November 2024. The Waimakariri District had four schools participating, West Eyreton, Loburn, North Loburn and Rangiora High School would be receiving awards or certificates.
- Waimakariri Libraries were celebrating spring with sustainability workshops across the libraries.
- Noted that the article in the Inside Government Magazine about the 19 Councils across New Zealand collaborating on an Emissions Reporting Pilot Programme.
- In October 2024, bird counts were carried out in the Waimakariri District's natural reserves, which would be analysed over the next month.
- The Council was hosting a Biodiversity Volunteers Celebration on 10 November 2024 at Trousselot Park.

### 12.2 **International Relationships** – Deputy Mayor Neville Atkinson

Deputy Mayor Atkinson advised there was no update at this point in time.

### 12.3 **Property and Housing** – Deputy Mayor Neville Atkinson

- The next meeting of the Property Portfolio Working Group would be held in November 2024.

13. **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

14. **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

15. **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

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

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:

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Ward

**That** the Council

(a) **Agrees** that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

- 15.1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of Council meeting of 1 October 2024
- 15.2 Oxford Urban/Rural No. 2 Source Capacity Upgrade
- 15.3 Contract 24/30 – Riverside Road Seal Extension Tender Evaluation and Contract Award Report
- 15.4 Local Government Funding Agency Annual General Meeting
- 15.5 Williams Street Bridge Balustrade Replacement Project Status and Approvals

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public was 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 were as follows:

Item No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public-
15.1	Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of Council meeting of 1 October 2024	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To protect the privacy of a natural person, including that of deceased natural persons, and to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). <b>LGOIMA Sections 7(2) (a) and (i).</b>
<b>REPORTS</b>			
15.2	Oxford Urban/Rural No. 2 Source Capacity Upgrade	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities and to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. <b>LGOIMA Sections 7(2) (h) and (j).</b>
15.3	Contract 24/30 – Riverside Road Seal Extension Tender Evaluation and Contract Award Report	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. <b>LGOIMA Section 7(2) (h).</b>
15.4	Local Government Funding Agency Annual General Meeting	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities and to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. <b>LGOIMA Sections 7(2) (h) and (j).</b>
Item No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public-
<b>REPORT REFERRED FROM THE KAIAPOI-TUAHIWI COMMUNITY BOARD</b>			
15.5	Williams Street Bridge Balustrade Replacement Project Status and Approvals	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	To protect the privacy of a natural person, including that of deceased natural persons, maintain legal professional privilege, and to enable the local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) <b>LGOIMA Sections 7(2) (a), (g) and (i).</b>

**CLOSED MEETING**

*The public excluded portion of the meeting commenced at 2.12pm and concluded at 3.19pm.*

**Resolution to resume in Open Meeting**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

Seconded: Councillor Goldsworthy

**That** the Council

- (a) **Approves** that the open meeting resumes and the business discussed with the public excluded remains public excluded or as resolved in individual reports.

**CARRIED**

**OPEN MEETING**

**16. NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting of the Council is scheduled for Tuesday, 3 December 2024, commencing at 1pm to be held in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 3.19PM.

CONFIRMED



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
Deputy Mayor Neville Atkinson

3 December 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date