WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UTILITIES AND ROADING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 4.00PM

PRESENT

Councillor P Williams (Chair), Councillors R Brine, J Meyer, S Stewart, Deputy Mayor K Felstead and Mayor Ayers

IN ATTENDANCE

K LaValley (PDU Manager), Colin Roxburgh (Water Asset Manager), K Waghorn (Solid Waste Asset Manager), S Collin (Infrastructure Strategy Manager), K Straw (Civil Projects Team Leader), J McBride (Roading and Transport Manager), D Young (Senior Engineering Advisor), K Graham (Road Safety Co-ordinator/Journey Planner), S Allen (Water Environment Advisor), G Hutchison (Wastewater Asset Manager), J Pascoe (minutes)

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were recorded.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee held on Tuesday 20 August 2019

Moved: Councillor Brine  Seconded: Councillor Meyer

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee:

(a) Confirms, as a true and correct record, the minutes of a meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee held on Tuesday 20 August 2019.

CARRIED

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

5 DEPUTATION

There were no deputations.
6  REPORTS

6.1  Update on Solid Waste Activities in 2018/2019 – K Waghorn (Solid Waste Asset Manager)

S Collin reported on the 2018/19 Solid Waste Activities and noted the focus on recycling that is aimed at removing recyclable items prior to reaching the landfill resulting in less contamination of these recyclables. Education services have continued as for past years and the demand for these remains high.

Moved: Councillor Brine  Seconded: Councillor Felstead

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee:

(a)  Receives report No. 190904124164.

(b)  Notes that the Council has achieved a number of milestones during the 2018/19 financial year, including:

   I.  Adoption of the Waste Management & Minimisation Plan.

   II. Tender and award of solid waste services for kerbside collections and facilities operations.

   III. Completion of the kerbside recycling shed and use of shed for consolidating kerbside recycling prior to the end of June 2019.

   IV.  Delivery of over 19,000 rubbish and organics bins by end June 2019.

   V.  Replacement of the rubbish compactor at Southbrook resource recovery park at the end of June 2019.

(c)  Notes that school and community education and community engagement continues to be a significant focus for staff in order to raise awareness about appropriate waste disposal practices and waste minimisation.

(d)  Circulates report No 190904124164 to the Council.

(e)  Circulates report No 190904124164 to the Community Boards.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine congratulated staff on a busy year.

Councillor Doody noted the presence of inappropriate rubbish in Oxford bins.
6.2 **Update on new Solid Waste Services and Waste Quantities – K Waghorn (Solid Waste Asset Manager)**

S Collin provided an update on Solid Waste Services and the quantities being dealt with over the first two months of the financial year. Currently these quantities are aligning with the estimates used for the 2019/20 budget. Six months information will be needed for greater accuracy. Good amounts of organic waste are being collected from the kerbside but this could represent less on-site composting being done. A Waste Analysis Protocols Audit is due to be done in March/April 2020 and will give information for the provision of better services.

Mayor Ayers commented that there is a possibility of collecting timber from the pit for use by organisations such as the Men’s Shed and asked if there should be a collection area at the pit for this. S Collin agreed to pass this suggestion to the appropriate staff.

Moved: Councillor Brine Seconded: Mayor Ayers

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee

(a) **Receives** report No. 190905124856.

(b) **Notes** that staff will continue to monitor the weight of waste collected at kerbside over the spring and summer periods, and will regularly report back to the Utilities & Roading Committee on these figures.

(c) **Notes** that there are early indications that the new organics collection service is reducing the weight of waste sent to landfill in the 2019/20 year.

(d) **Circulates** report No 190905124856 to the Council.

(e) **Circulates** report No 190905124856 to Community Boards.

CARRIED

6.3 **Rangiora Woodend Road Safety Improvements at Boys Road Intersection – K Straw (Civil Projects Team Leader) and J McBride (Roading and Transport Manager)**

K Straw reported on the need to bring forward funding for the Rangiora Woodend Road Safety improvements and for the scheme plan to be approved.

Mayor Ayers asked if traffic could be slowed at the intersection by making the corner tighter for left hand turns or made easier to be seen from Tuahiwi or Woodend Roads. J McBride replied that tree trimming could be done but that visibility gains from this would be small and that there is more risk of rear-end collisions by making the corner tighter. She noted that there is a need to move to more long-term solutions and that a right-turning bay could be a good interim measure.

J McBride advised that removing the dip on the Rangiora-Woodend Road has not yet been looked at. Community consultation took place two years ago and Council is now relying on technical expertise for the issues at this intersection however public feedback could be asked for.

Councillor Brine noted the difficulty of turning right out of Boys Road and asked if more traffic control was needed. J McBride replied that this would need further discussion as more land would be needed for this and taking land through the Public Works Act is difficult and that all options would be looked at.
Cr Williams asked how many accidents had occurred since the speed limit was reduced to 80km/hr. J McBride replied that accidents were still occurring with 2-3 in the last few months and that the speed reduction had not helped.

Cr Williams asked if the intersection was not lit would the lights of oncoming vehicles be more obvious and how many accidents have been caused by the power poles that are being removed. J McBride noted that lights provide a clear indication of an intersection and make motorists more aware. The power poles are being moved because of the change in the location of traffic lanes.

Councillor Meyer noted the speed of traffic travelling towards Rangiora on the Rangiora-Woodend Road and asked if there is room for a left-hand turn lane noting that the adjoining land has reserve status. J McBride advised that this could cause safety issues because of one car shadowing another.

Moved: Councillor Brine   Seconded: Councillor Meyer

**THAT** the Utilities and Roading Committee:

(a) **Receives** report No. 190909125545;

(b) **Approves** the scheme design that is inclusive of removal of existing overhead services, installation of a new right turn lane, and installation of complying intersection lighting, as per section 4.3 of this report.

**AND**

RECOMMENDS THAT the Council:

(c) **Approves** bringing forward funding of $400,000 from the 2020/2021 and 2021/22 years into the 2019/20 budget (PJ 101034.000.5133), to allow this work to be undertaken;

(d) **Notes** that the current 2019 / 2020 budget is $200,000, meaning the overall project budget for this financial year will increase to $600,000 (based on recommendation c being approved);

(e) **Notes** that if $40,000 savings in other Low Cost/Low Risk projects can be found, then this will be used for engaging a consultant for the purposes of investigating the alternative long term solutions, and that if savings cannot be found by December 2019, that a request for an additional $40,000 will be requested in the draft Annual Plan;

(f) **Notes** that the project has an NZTA subsidy of 51%;

(g) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards for their information

CARRIED

Councillor Brine welcomed the improvements as a positive step and noted that residents in the area would like to see the intersection problems fixed.

Mayor Ayers noted difficulties in taking reserve land for roading works and with public expectations through consultation.

Councillor Barnett did not think that the new design would rectify the intersection and with the volume of traffic on the Rangiora-Woodend Road it is impossible to turn right and people take risks. A wider road was recommended with a separation of traffic flows and conversations with affected communities.
Mayor Ayers did not support bringing the funding forward and stated that the problem needs to sorted properly and that the recommended alterations do not go far enough.

Councillor Stewart supported the bringing forward of funding and said that this is an interim proposal to address serious safety concerns. Doing nothing is not an option.

Councillor Brine also supported earlier funding and noted that the reduction in the speed limit to 80kmh has reduced the severity of crashes and the consequences of these.

### 6.4 Park and Ride Strategy – D Young (Senior Engineering Advisor)

D Young advised that the object of this report is to give staff the mandate to progress the planning of a park and ride area and that most key decisions are yet to be made. The report will give a mandate to find suitable sites and that a proposal will be presented to community board meetings in December.

D Young noted that the location of the park and ride is immaterial as public transport will move to the location. More park and share locations are also being planned.

Moved: Councillor Brine    Seconded: Councillor Felstead

**THAT** the Utilities and Roading Committee:

(a) **Receives** report No. 190820116067.

(b) **Adopts** the Park and Ride general locations, and timed staging as per the Park and Ride – Phased Implementation Plan (Trim 190812112165)

(c) **Notes** that the Community Boards have been briefed on the Park and Ride – Phased Implementation Plan in September 2019.

(d) **Notes** that a further report recommending sites for the phase 1 sites and appropriate levels of Service will be presented to a future U&R Committee meeting, after consultation with the affected Community Boards. This will occur in the new Council term.

(e) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine noted that traffic congestion and providing alternative transport into Christchurch are important topics.

### 6.5 Cycle Skills Education Programme “Cycle Sense” – K Graham (Road Safety Co-ordinator/Journey Planner)

K Graham provided an update on the Cycle Skills Education Programme. Funding for this programme was approved in 2017 and North Canterbury Vehicle Trust are delivering the Grade 1 school based programme in schools. Currently the Trust is undertaking training that will enable them to deliver the Grade 2 programme which is road based. By the end of 2019 400 students will have taken part in the Grade 1 programme and feedback has been very positive.

Councillor Brine asked if the bicycles used are in good condition or is help needed with this. K Graham replied that 10 bicycles were gifted by Christchurch
City Council and updating is a continual process. Bicycles can be gifted however 10 is the maximum number that can be carried on the trailer.

Moved: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Meyer

**THAT** the Utilities and Roading Committee

(a) **Received** report No. 190911127503

(b) **Notes** that Cycle Sense is now an established cycle skills education programme being delivered in schools in the Waimakariri District.

(c) **Circulates** this report to Council and Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Meyer congratulated K Graham on the success of the programme and Councillors Brine and Doody also added their congratulations.

6.6 **Avian botulism occurrence, costs and management of avian botulism during the 2018-19 season – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

S Allen gave the annual update of bird death counts noting 950 to date this year as against 2,500 to date last year, however deaths have increased at the Rangiora Wastewater Treatment Plant. A management document has been put together and a separate report will come to this Committee with options to reduce the wastewater treatment wetland area at Rangiora to address the number of bird deaths. Reducing the water retention time in the wetland area will result in less algal growth.

Cr Stewart asked if the depth of water in the wetland area is a mitigating factor and if aeration of the wetland would be a mitigating factor. S Allen advised that altering the depth is not a management option as there is no way of topping up the water level if it becomes too low and that aeration would be a challenge as the area is large and flat.

Cr Williams noted that the cost of picking up and disposing by cremation of dead birds is around $50,000 per year and asked if there is a better method available. S Allen noted that the work takes place over nine months and an external contractor could be more efficient and there is scope to put this in place for the next season. An offal pit could be used for disposal but there are bio-waste regulations to consider.

Councillor Meyer asked if a study had been done on how many birds are on the pond today as compared to previous years and have the numbers increased. S Allen advised that numbers of birds on the pond depends on the weather and that less birds this year could be due to migration.

Councillor Meyer asked if other species present such as swallows, bitterns, kingfishers etc. are monitored. S Allen replied that this was not done at the wastewater plant but was done in the wider area but that specific monitoring was not done on all of the species.
THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee:

(a) **Receives** report No. 190905124322.

(b) **Notes** the update on bird death numbers and species for 2018-19, as collected by contractors to contain avian botulism.

(c) **Notes** the production of a WDC Avian Botulism Management Plan, which outlines current management practices, and documents communication, collaboration, monitoring, reporting and other requirements.

(d) **Circulates** this report to Council, the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee, and Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

6.7 **Oxford Wastewater Scheme – Request for Information – G Hutchison**

(Wastewater Asset Manager)

G Hutchison provided a summary of work done towards the removal of filtration effluent and information on nitrogen levels at the wastewater scheme plus a strategy for going forward. He advised that a large amount of work has been done to research nitrate loadings caused by discharge from the wastewater scheme in order to obtain an irrigation consent. Graphs provided showed a potential leaching of nitrates into the groundwater of around 23kg/ha/year and this is only 6% of the permitted level. Currently 200kg/ha/year is the allowed limit.

Councillor Stewart commented that these figures are similar to a reasonably performing dairy farm and asked if any allowances are made for the type of soil. G Hutchinson replied that three types of soil are considered in the modelling done by the consultants.

Councillor Stewart asked if inundation and filtration information has been benchmarked. G Hutchinson advised that it work will be done on filtration hotspots in the network and has already been done in Oxford. Infiltration depends on rain events and ground saturation and areas will be benchmarked for iron levels to gain a better understanding of the process going forward. G Hutchinson undertook to provide further information to this committee and noted that iron will always be present in the system.

Councillor Stewart asked what work has been done on the wastewater system in Oxford. G Hutchinson advised that manholes and pipework have been inspected and house to house inspections for illegal connections are carried out. He noted that manhole repairs are costly and that it is difficult to retrospectively address some issues and that Oxford infiltration is above expectations and that around 50% of this infiltration is coming from the private network on properties.

Councillor Felstead enquired why only a small portion of the Racecourse Reserve is used for irrigation of treated effluent. G Hutchinson explained that 16 hectares is available for irrigation but that the consent only allow a coverage of 22mm per day and no ponding is allowed. A holding pond is available for excess effluent. Additional land is also available for population growth.
Moved: Councillor Williams  Seconded: Councillor Felstead

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee

(a) Receives report No. 190906125260.

(b) Notes that Infiltration & Inflow reduction works will focus on investigations over the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.

(c) Notes that the nitrogen loading applied to the soils from irrigation of treated effluent from the Oxford WWTP are at 60% of that allowed under the discharge consent conditions.

(d) Notes that the nitrogen levels discharged from the WWTP have reduced following the recent upgrade of the aeration system.

(e) Circulates this report to the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board.

CARRIED

Councillor Felstead thanked staff for the update.

6.8 Ocean Outfall 2018 to 2019 Compliance review – G Hutchison (Wastewater Asset Manager)

G Hutchison reported that all consent conditions had been achieved in 2018/19 with a reduction in nitrogen levels due to the use of the irrigation basin. More internal auditing is being done.

Councillor Stewart noted some public criticism about the functioning of the plant and the quality of the effluent and asked how the effluent from this plant rated against other plants in New Zealand. G Hutchison advised that the quality of the effluent is good and that the plant operates as well as any plant in New Zealand and Australia. A state of art plant would perform better but there would be an effect on rates.

Councillor Meyer commented that he is looking forward to the upgrades of the Rangiora wastewater plant and suggested that media should be given information on this. G Hutchinson agreed that Council should be proactive with this information.

Councillor Meyer asked about international trends and will new ways of disposal of wastewater need to be found. G Hutchison replied that additional information will be available in the future and that improvements can be done to the existing plants such as the installation of algal membrane. There is a movement overseas to more biological treatment of effluent.

Kalley Simpson advised that wastewater recovery systems are used overseas to recover both energy and nutrients. Both the biological and cultural treatment of wastewater in this country will need to be improved in the future. Overseas the discharge of wastewater to water must be of drinking water standard.

G Hutchison explained that over the next few years there will be a need to look at long-term treatment options and to consult with the Iwi long before consent expiry date of 2039.
THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee

(a) Receives report No. 190827119588.

(b) Notes that the Ocean Outfall discharge consent was compliant with all consent conditions for the year 2018-2019.

(c) Circulates this report to Council for their information.

(d) Circulates this report to all Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Stewart agreed that there is a need to evaluate where to go with sewerage treatment well in advance of the expiry date and commented that the Iwi do not favour disposal into the ocean and that she did not favour disposal on land or into freshwater. A community discussion will be needed in the next five years including capital implications, resource recovery. The public have a negative perception of wastewater disposal and need to be informed on the performance of wastewater plants.

7 MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2019

7.1 Request for Approval to Proceed with Consultation on Poyntzs Road Joining with West Eyreton and Summerhill Water Supplies

C Roxburgh provided information on the Poyntzs Road upgrade to comply with the Drinking Water Standards and joining with the West Eyreton scheme. Staff have worked with the advisory groups and presented information to the two relevant community boards and recommend consultation with the affected communities in the new year.

Moved: Councillor Williams Seconded: Councillor Felstead

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee recommends:

THAT the incoming Council:

(a) Receives report No. 190820116633.

(b) Notes that an upgrade to the Poyntzs Road scheme is required to achieve compliance with the Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand.

(c) Notes that the optimum way to achieve this upgrade is by installation of a pipeline from West Eyreton the Poyntzs Road, and that the optimum pipe route has been determined to be the Main Race Road alignment, following previous consultation with residents on two potential pipe routes.

(d) Notes that three funding options have been identified for consideration by the communities for the upgrade, following consultation with the West Eyreton and Summerhill Water Supply Advisory Groups.
(e) Approves staff to consult with the affected communities on the proposal and funding options identified, based on the draft consultation material attached, noting that the consultation material is currently in draft format and will be refined prior to distribution to residents.

(f) Notes that an identical report is to be presented to the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board prior to progressing with consultation.

CARRIED

Cr Williams thanked staff for a very good report.

8 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

8.1 Roading – Councillor John Meyer
Line marking is underway using reflective paint for better visibility.

8.2 Drainage and Stockwater – Councillor Sandra Stewart
Attending drainage meetings. Noted that both the reporting time to the drainage committee and dealing with problems in a timely manner should improve with an increase in staff.

8.3 Utilities (Water Supplies and Sewer) – Councillor Paul Williams
Poyntz Road issues noted.

8.4 Solid Waste – Councillor Robbie Brine
Noted the retirement of Mr Dick Davison and the appointment of another independent director. Funding of $130,000 available for regional waste minimisation.

9 QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

10 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 5.44PM.

CONFIRMED

_____________________________  _________________________
Chairperson                  Chief Executive

_____________________________  _________________________
Date                          Date