

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 1PM.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors T Fulton and P Williams.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), M Maxwell (Strategy and Business Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), S Docherty (Policy and Corporate Planning Team Leader), W Howe (Team Leader Vibrant Communities), S Allen (Water Environment Advisor), K Steel (Ecologist - Biodiversity), L Mealings (Graduate Policy Analyst), L Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator), M Pugh (Community Development Facilitator), A Claassens (Community Development Facilitator), C Boswell (Community Development Facilitator), and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives and sustains** an apology for early departure from Councillor Brine who left at 2:08pm.

CARRIED

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 26 November 2024

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 26 November 2024 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters Arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Natural Burials – Lesley Hurley

L Hurley noted her passion for protecting the environment for future generations. She believed it would be advantageous if people's deaths could nourish the restoration of the land to a natural state. She had been researching natural burials, which have been taking place in New Zealand since 2008. In the United Kingdom, natural burials have been allowed for 30 years in natural cemeteries. It was estimated that over half the burials in the United Kingdom were natural burials.

L Hurley was concerned that the toxic chemicals used during embalming leached into the environment. Also, it would be preferable if untreated timber coffins or flax weaving, which would not contaminate the environment, were used during burials. The Natural Burial Organisation would assist councils with information and research. It was a growing movement, and it would be great to have a natural burial choice in the Waimakariri District.

Councillor Blackie enquired why there had only been 400 natural burials in New Zealand to date. L Hurley explained that natural burials were reasonably expensive, which could put people off. Also, people potentially were not aware that a natural burial option was available.

Councillor Redmond noted that the Council's Cemetery Policy made provision for alternative burials. C Brown explained that natural burials were included in the strategy as one of the options the Council may have to consider in the future.

The Committee requested a report on Natural Burials.

5 REPORTS

5.1 Applications in the Biodiversity Contestable Fund 2024 – K Steel (Ecologist – Biodiversity)

K Steel took the report as read.

Councillor Williams asked whether the Council's Drainage staff would be consulted before the planting had happened along the Cust Stream. K Steel confirmed that the Council's Water Environment Advisor, S Allen, had been involved with liaising between the applicant and Drainage staff.

Responding to Councillor Blackie's question, K Steel noted that it was proposed to fence for a new Conservation Covenant at Mount Lawry using a two hot-wire deer fence.

Councillor Cairns questioned the \$3,130 traffic management cost required to control Sycamore in the road reserve along Lees Valley Road. K Steel advised that the costs were based on Environment Canterbury's (ECan) estimate of the traffic management measures that would be required.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250114004561.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of \$60,000 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to the QEII National Trust and Beau Hill towards fencing for a new Conservation Covenant at Mount Lawry.

- (c) **Approves** the allocation of \$4,440 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to R Loughnan for erosion control and riparian planting along Cust Stream.
- (d) **Notes** that staff intend to fund Sycamore control in the road reserve along Lees Valley Road and to contribute to the Waipara Gentian Census through other budgets, and thus, all projects submitted will receive funding.
- (e) **Notes** that a total of \$58,000 will remain available in the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for allocation in a March/April 2025 funding round.
- (f) **Notes** that successful applications will be subject to an accountability agreement between the applicant and Council.

CARRIED

Councillor Redmond commented that it was a detailed report, noting that the applications were worthy of funding. Funding from other sources, such as ECan and the Department of Conservation, meant that there would be Biodiversity Contestable funding available for other projects. He, therefore, supported the motion.

Councillor Cairns also supported the motion and thanked staff for the report.

5.2 Youth Action Plan – L Mealings (Graduate Policy Analyst) and L Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator)

L Tilley advised the 2018 Youth Strategy was a guiding document for the Waimakariri District Council's Youth Action Plan. The current Youth Strategy was based on the following four key goals:

- To ensure young people had the support and opportunity to grow and develop to maximise their potential.
- To ensure young people were connected to their community and invested with a sense of belonging.
- To ensure that the youth had a voice that was valued and they were provided with worthwhile activities and opportunities.
- To ensure youth places, spaces and services were created and maintained for young people to enjoy.

The Youth Strategy 2018 was modelled on 2013 Census data, which indicated that the Waimakariri District's youth population (12-to-24-year-olds) was 7,923. However, between 2013 and 2018, the District's youth population increased by 14.95%, with an additional 4.9% increase between 2018 and 2023. As of 2023 Census data, 9,555 young people were in the District (14.42% of the population), demonstrating a clear need for the Youth Strategy to be updated.

L Mealings noted that when reviewing the Community Development Strategy, it was recognised that the Youth Strategy could be better served as an Action Plan under the Community Development Strategy. Having a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group would be a crucial part of this project.

Councillor Redmond commented in the Terms of Reference indicated that the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group would be comprised of 18 members, which was quite a large number. L Mealings explained that the groups listed in the Terms of Reference were ideally the groups to which staff wanted to invite. However, staff would respect the choices made by those stakeholders not to participate in the Advisory Group.

Councillor Redmond also questioned why elected members were not included in the proposed Youth Action Plan Advisory Group. L Mealings noted that an elected member served on the Project Control Group, which would oversee the Advisory Group.

Councillor Williams asked how the proposed Youth Strategy review would be shared with young people around the Waimakariri District. L Tilley advised that social media would be used. However, they were also planning many school visits, attending community events and hanging out information briefs at bus stops and the like.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250117006774.
- (b) **Approves** staff to proceed with the establishment of a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group.
- (c) **Approves** the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group Terms of Reference (TRIM No. 241031189238).
- (d) **Notes** that work is currently underway to review the Youth Strategy 2018 and develop a Youth Action Plan for the Waimakariri District.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings thought this was the right time to review the Youth Strategy as it was last done in 2018, and the youth population had increased substantially. It was important that the Council acknowledged that the youth had different needs and issues and ensured that its Youth Strategy was fit for purpose.

5.3 **Approval of Draft Community Development Strategy 2025-2035 – for Consultation – T Sturley (Community Team Manager) and S Docherty (Policy and Corporate Planning Team Leader)**

T Sturley spoke to the report, noting that approval was being sought to release the draft Community Development Strategy for consultation. The strategy outlined a comprehensive plan for enhancing community wellbeing in the Waimakariri District. It emphasised the importance of community development as the building blocks of strong, healthy, safe and resilient communities, highlighting the need for collaboration between various stakeholders. Social Services Waimakariri had been the backbone of local service provision in the Waimakariri District for over 15 years. It came into existence because of community discussions about gaps in local service provision and the challenges faced by that sector. It was developed and supported under the wing of the Council's Community Team and now operates more independently. She acknowledged the work of her team in the development of the draft Community Development Strategy.

S Docherty explained that the Community Development Strategy was a key Council strategic document, alongside other Council strategies such as the Natural Environment Strategy, Integrated Transport Strategy and Economic Development Strategy. The refreshed Community Development was based on four strategic directions: safe and healthy, welcome and included, informed and empowered, and engaged and connected. The draft strategy was an all-council approach that recognised the contribution of the Council to community development. Staff would be establishing a Project Control Group for the implementation of the strategy.

Councillor Williams asked what budget was available for implementing the Community Development Strategy. T Sturley advised that the budget was approved as part of the Council's 2024/34 Long Term Plan. The projects identified and developed as part of the Community Development Strategy would be delivered by external funding. Ratepayer commitment was only for the key staffing roles.

Moved: Councillor Redmond

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250203016896.
- (b) **Approves** the draft Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri 2025 – 2035, to be released for public consultation.
- (c) **Notes** the broad evidence base that has informed the development of this strategy.
- (d) **Notes** the extensive engagement across the social, health, education, community and business sectors to ensure the identification of key priorities to be addressed in this strategy and its subsequent implementation.
- (e) **Notes** the many successful community development initiatives developed over the past 20 years that have led to the Waimakariri District being recognised for its effectiveness in developing collaborative responses to community-identified issues and opportunities.

CARRIED

Councillor Redmond commented that the Community Team did essential work throughout the Waimakariri District. The provision of community services was an important part of the Council's current role under its four wellbeings. He was interested to know how the Central Government viewed community development in light of its core direction, as they seemed to only be looking at bricks and mortar, people were just as important.

Councillor Cairns observed that the Community Team looked after neighbourhoods, migrants, welcoming communities, accessibility, and a Community Development Strategy centred directly on the outcomes affecting people. He, therefore, supported the motion.

Councillor Mealings congratulated staff on drafting a comprehensive strategy. All the proposed services, such as Food Secure North Canterbury, the Next Steps website, the Youth Council, the Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group, and Social Services Waimakariri, were centred around people's well-being. She was interested in how the community would react to the proposed Community Development Strategy.

In his right of reply, Councillor Redmond stated that Community Development was a core activity of the Council and one of the reasons why the Waimakariri District Council was a leader in this space. He acknowledged the work of the Community Team.

5.4 **Waimakariri District Accessibility Strategy Review – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

T Sturley spoke to the report, noting it sought approval to release the draft Inclusive Waimakariri Plan for community consultation. She highlighted the value of this plan in framing the Council's commitment towards a district where everyone had equitable access to spaces, services and support. This plan was a review of the Waimakariri District Accessibility Strategy from 2017 to 2021. Despite stalling over the Covid period, extensive engagement had informed the development of the draft Inclusive Waimakariri Plan. T Sturley acknowledged the work done by the Council's Community Development Facilitator, M Pugh.

Councillor Fulton questioned whether the Council has considered retrofitting existing access to Council buildings. M Pugh noted that the Council's Building Unit had advised that new builds would be expected to meet minimum Building Code standards pertaining to accessibility. In terms of retrofitting existing buildings, when Council Departments renovated/upgraded their buildings, they tried to make them more accessible.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Williams

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250204019911.
- (b) **Approves** the Plan (Trim 221128105745) as a document around which Council and its partners can plan, deliver and review activities that will create a more inclusive and accessible Waimakariri District.
- (c) **Notes** the evidence-based process undertaken to review the “Towards an Inclusive Environment” - the Waimakariri District Accessibility Strategy 2017 - 2021.
- (d) **Notes** that sound national and local evidence has informed the priorities detailed in the revised document: *Waimakariri — “Tāngata whaikaha pursue a good life with support - Inclusive Waimakariri. A plan to become a more accessible District 2025-2028”*
- (e) **Notes** that the Inclusive Waimakariri Plan’s updated title highlights a strengths-based approach, with the intent that, through the breaking down of barriers, people can be empowered to participate fully in our communities, with an equal voice in local decision-making and with equitable access to local services, supports, recreation and employment.
- (f) **Notes** that staff have undertaken broad internal engagement with Unit Managers to confirm that the actions detailed in the Plan are relevant and appropriate. The attached draft document has been prepared in line with feedback received as a part of that engagement.

CARRIED

Councillor Cairns acknowledged the work being done by the Chairpersons of the Waimakariri Access Group, S Powell and M Pugh. He commended the Access Group’s work in facilitating the installation of the viewing platforms at Waikuku and Pegasus Beaches

Councillor Redmond supported the motion and also thanked staff for their work. He believed ensuring an inclusive community was a core Council activity.

5.5 Herbicide Update and Usage by Council and Contractors in 2023/24 – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)

S Allen spoke to the report, which summarised herbicide usage by the Council and its contractors in public areas and areas beside waterways during the 2023/24 financial year. This included areas in the Council’s Work Programmes for maintaining rural drainage, stockwater races, public green spaces such as parks, stormwater management areas, and the road reserve. She advised that the Council’s herbicide usage and recommendations for improvements would be reported annually to the Utilities and Roading and the Community and Recreation Committees. This annual report would also review important updates in relevant herbicide research, reassessments, and approvals of herbicides and their additives under the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). S Allen noted that the Utilities and Roading Committee added a recommendation to request that alternative options for weed control, including spraying over water, be investigated.

Councillor Williams enquired whether the Council investigated the effect herbicides had on aquatic life when they were sprayed over water. S Allen noted that there were no regulatory requirements for checking aquatic life downstream from an area that had been sprayed. However, the Council’s Herbicide Spray Management Plan contained some provisions for consent.

Councillor Williams further enquired if staff believed the Council should have a policy for monitoring the effect herbicides had on aquatic downstream from sprayed areas. S Allen commented that a provision could be added to the Council's Herbicide Spray Management Plan.

Councillor Redmond asked why the Council would spray in or over water. S Allen explained that the Council over water in areas such as along Tram Road there were concerns about traffic management and safety with having a digger on the road verge for a extended time. It was narrow areas that a digger could not go along with limited access or safety issues.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241111199427.
- (b) **Notes** that herbicide use is minimised where possible for Council operations and only used where deemed necessary by Council staff and contractors. Other (i.e. mechanical) weed control options are used where they are deemed more appropriate.
- (c) **Notes** the herbicides and their use are as approved by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).
- (d) **Notes** the flowing recommendations:
 - i. Recommendation 1: Prepare annual herbicide usage reports following a standard format and scope as outlined in this report.
 - ii. Recommendation 2: Instruct staff to update the Herbicide Spray Management Plan for consent CRC120402 for best practice and schedule of locations where the consent applies.
 - iii. Recommendation 3: Monitor the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for relevant reassessments, reviews or approval changes of herbicides and additives used. Specifically analyse the proposed EPA review of polyoxyethylene amine (POEA) surfactants used with herbicides when published for recommended actions.
 - iv. Recommendation 4: Note updates to relevant peer-reviewed research on the health and environmental effects of herbicides and common additives that the Council uses.
 - v. Recommendation 5: Detail the option on the Council website to join the 'No Spray' register for properties that do not wish for herbicide spraying on their berms, in order to make this option more accessible to all.
 - vi. Recommendation 6: Create a Council website page of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding herbicide usage.
 - vii. Recommendation 7: Extend the scope of the Council's Roding 'No Spray' Register to possibly include other areas that border private property, such as Council reserves and stormwater management areas, if appropriate alternative management is agreed by the private property owner. Potentially incorporate the 'No Spray' register information maintained by the contractor for the stockwater races.
 - viii. Recommendation 8: Require that the minimum level of qualification for any person (Council staff and contractors) undertaking herbicide application is a Growsafe Basic Certificate.
 - ix. Recommendation 9: Investigate alternative options for weed control, including spraying over water.

- (e) **Notes** that spraying over water by Council and its contractors is very limited, with a preference for mechanical maintenance for rural drains and stockwater races. If spraying is carried out, it is following consent CRC120402 and glyphosate 360 is applied for this. No diquat has been used by the Council in 2023-24, although permitted by CRC120402.
- (f) **Notes** that the budgets in the Long Term Plan 2024-34 have been based on continuing to use herbicides, including glyphosate, for weed control, where deemed necessary by Council staff and contractors.
- (g) **Notes** that the EPA decided not to review the herbicide glyphosate in 2024, as there was insufficient evidence that an update was required from the previous review conducted in 2016.
- (h) **Notes** the planned review of polyoxyethylene amine (POEA) surfactants commonly used with herbicides by the EPA, due to claims that these surfactants should be restricted.
- (i) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards, Drainage Advisory Groups and the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Blackie commented nobody liked using herbicides for weed control, however, there do not seem to be a financially viable alternative as effective as herbicides.

Councillor Redmond acknowledge that there was some aversion to spraying over water because of the potential damage to aquatic life. Hence, he supported the investigation of alternative options for weed control, rather than spraying over water

Councillor Cairns looked forward to seeing the future reports on the Council's usage of herbicides, so that he could understand how much herbicides the Council was using. He concurred that spraying was a necessary evil but suggested that a minimal amount of herbicide should be used in the most cost efficient way.

Councillor Mealings reiterated that the Council did its utmost to avoid spraying herbicides where possible; however, it had a consent to use certain chemicals, and it rarely sprayed over waterways. She thought that was a commendable approach which was valued by residents.

5.6 **Libraries Update from 5 September to 14 November 2024 to 13 February 2025 – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

L Sole spoke provided a brief update on the Rangiora Library's shelving replacement project, noting that the Library would be closed from 16 March to 30 March 2025 for the replacement of the shelving. Staff were looking forward to the space becoming more accessible. The new shelves would be easier for Library volunteers and staff to navigate. As part of the project staff would also be replacing some furniture that was passed its used by date and would be refreshing the children's area. L Sole noted that staff would be utilising the mobile community hub van to deliver a reduced service while the library was closed. Staff would be requesting people hold on to their library books for that time or returned them to a different library.

L Sole further noted the tinker zone had now launched, which offered a variety of experiences including sewing machines and 3D printing. There was a real economic benefit to offering these technologies, it was about capacity building within the community. There was a health and safety induction that people needed to do then they could use the equipment.

Responding to a Councillor Cairns' question, L Sole confirmed that the Volunteer Programme extended to all Waimakariri Libraries.

Councillor Redmond enquired about the use of the Council's mobile community hub. L Sole explained staff would use some of the Library furniture to make that more comfortable to deliver some key library services. They could also issue electronic books using an internet connection.

Councillor Redmond noted that mobile community hub was only going to be operational for up to three hours a day, given that there were staff available he enquired if the hub could be used during normal library hours. L Sole explained that staff would still have their back of house duties that they would need to complete and would be rotating between the other libraries. Some staff would be assisting with the shelving replacement as well.

Councillor Mealings noted that the tinker zone had a soft launch, and the proper launch was planned after the shelving project had been complete. She questioned whether there was a programme to introduce the public to the equipment available in the tinker zone. L Sole noted that people could book and induction via the Council's website or they could attend a tinker zone drop-in session.

Councillor Blackie asked about the disposal of the shelves. L Sole explained that the vendor would be responsible for the disposal of the shelves. It was hoped that they would be removed without damage and could be recycled.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241118203393.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, with reference to Rangiora Libraries' shelving replacement, participation in the Summer Reading Challenge and Rangatahi Retro Summer programmes, the Tinker Zone launch, Waitangi Day and Lunar New Year celebrations.
- (c) **Notes** library staff will endeavour to offer a reduced service on site whilst the library was closed for shelving replacement.
- (d) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Cairns commented that libraries were a core Council service and very valuable to the community. He noted the sewing machines could be used without a foot pedal. It went to show the libraries took accessibility into account.

Councillor Mealings commented that it was a joy to see the evolution of the Council's libraries services over time. Libraries were so much more than books and she could not wait to see uptake of the tinker zone.

5.7 **Aquatics February Update – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

M Greenwood took the report as read. He noted that attendance had been down over the summer period which may be due to the unseasonal cold weather over the January 2025 period. He noted Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lifeguard Systems being used at the Rolleston Pool, Selwyn which staff were monitoring as part of the Council's wider strategy.

Councillor Cairns sought clarity on the total income of \$68,000 better than budget. M Greenwood explained that staff gave individual lessons, which benefited a particular type of student, as part of the Council's Learn to Swim Programme. These one-on-one lessons cost more. However, it was more efficient for staff to run the business with six children in a class which was with the group lessons.

Councillor Cairns enquired about the self service kiosks and staff's view on using an AI Lifeguard Systems. M Greenwood noted that the AI system in Selwyn did not replace the need for staff as it was only a warning device and essentially a backup system. However, the self-serve kiosks could potentially over time eliminate the need for a person on customer services.

Councillor Redmond noted in the report it referred to 15 new lifeguards and queried if the market for employing staff improved. M Greenwood noted since the last Employment Expo there had been 60 applicants for nine positions at the Council's Aquatic Facilities.

Councillor Redmond observed that overall numbers were down slightly. He asked if that was mainly contributed by the Oxford Pool being more weather dependant. M Greenwood explained that the covered pools were stable. However, the weather had been very variable over the summer period.

Councillor Mealings asked how the uptake of the Oxford seasonal passes had been. M Greenwood commented that it had been teed at the wrong point, so he needed to do some more work on that next season.

Councillor Fulton queried if there were specifics in the numbers that suggested that the Oxford Pool had different demands. He asked if there was any opportunity to work with community groups or the gym to drive more usage. M Greenwood noted that one of the options that staff were exploring was for one of the instructors at the gym to give aquarobics classes.

Moved: Councillor Redmond Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250212022798.
- (b) **Notes** that Programmes and Prepaid visits were steady through January however Recreation attendance was down around 1% due to changeable weather affecting attendance at the summer pool.
- (c) **Notes** that we continue to monitor and assess industry trends and new developments to inform options within our own facilities and future Long Term Plans.
- (d) **Notes** a positive year to date financial result with total income \$68,000 better than budget.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Redmond commented that it was a good report. He thought that having an uncovered pool in Oxford was a gem in the district.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

7.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Al Blackie.

- The access platforms at the Waikuku and Pegasus beaches had been completed and were very well received.
- Ashley Gorge Reserve Advisory Group Waitangi Day Gala had doubled in size from 2024.
- Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust– the General Manager had resigned, and two Senior Rangers had taken over joint management until the General Manager could be replaced and were doing a wonderful job.
- Food Forest Pines Beach – The Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust allocated some land for a food forest which was underway.
- Huria Reserve was processing well – they had a planting day on 5 April 2025.
Councillor Cairns asked if there would be funding for the education building and carving centre at the Huria Reserve. Councillor Blackie noted that the plans for the carving centre were never finalised. The funding just covered the entrance way and planting.
- There was a wetland area behind Waikuku that had been leased for many years. Environment Canterbury had decided that was a wetland. The Biodiversity Trust was interested in looking at it.

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

Councillor Brine was not present to provide an update.

7.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Brent Cairns.

- Kaiapoi Museum, new constitution had been completed and signed off.
- Kaiapoi Garden Club conducted a garden competition. Makes Kaiapoi more beautiful
- Volunteer expos happening in libraries in March 2025.
- The Pines Beach food forest was coming together, with community members offering donations, Cardboard to kill the grass, mulch from Environment Canterbury, Corrections department had been doing clean ups.
- Back to Basics was being hosted by Timebank Waimakariri on 22 March 2025.
- NZRT12 held a membership drive, around three to four interested people attended.
- Emergency Hub gatherings were being held at various schools around the district.
- Youth Council application gathering to be held in March 2025.
- Welcoming communities committee was meeting regularly, considering Inclusive Leadership, Welcoming Communications, Next Steps website.
- He asked Community Wellbeing Kaiapoi for feedback as to how things were progressing.
- The foodbank was seeing increasing numbers of individuals and families in need, with complex, multi-layered challenges stemming from the cost of living crisis. Health, emotional distress, and the demand for multiple parcels are key concerns, and there is a growing need for support beyond just food assistance. Addressing the root causes of these issues—such as access to healthcare, financial support, and emotional well-being—should be a priority for continued community and governmental efforts.

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

- Waimakariri Public Arts Trust – meeting to work on their Statement of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding. They were working on their arts facilitator.
- Williams Street Bridge – Waimakariri Public Arts Trust had been handed the project.

8 **MATTER FOR INFORMATION**

8.1 **Pegasus Community Centre – Approval to Consult – I Clarke (Project Manager)**

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Item 8.1.

CARRIED

9 **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

10 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee would be held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 1pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2.57PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date