

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE AT 1PM

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), W Doody, B McLaren, N Mealings, S Powell (via audio/visual link), Deputy Mayor Redmond and Mayor Gordon.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager) (via audio/visual link), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), D Roxborough (Strategic and Special Projects Manager), O Stewart (Airfield Manager and Safety Officer), E Belton (Youth Development Facilitator), L Mealings (Policy Analyst) and K Rabe (Governance Adviser).

There were two members of the public present.

1 APOLOGIES

Nil.

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 21 April 2026

Moved: Councillor McLaren Seconded: Deputy Mayor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 21 April 2026, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

3.3 Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 21 April 2026

Moved: Councillor McLaren Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 21 April 2026.

CARRIED

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Installation and Operation of Community-Focused Padel Courts at Main Power Stadium, Rangiora – Riki Bennet

R Bennett addressed the Committee via an audio/visual link from London to discuss the potential installation and operation of a community-focused padel club on land adjacent to MainPower Stadium.

Councillor Cairns inquired about padel, and R Bennett explained that it combined elements of tennis and squash. He noted that the game was typically played in doubles format, although singles play was also possible. Matches were played on a court enclosed by glass walls, allowing players to use the walls during play, similar to squash, as well as to lob the ball over the net to score points. Councillor Cairns further asked whether the court would be used exclusively for padel. R Bennett advised that the courts could also support Pilates and other fitness activities, which could be incorporated into padel sessions to enhance fitness levels. He also noted that a soccer variant of padel could be played on the same courts. In response to a question regarding demand, R Bennett stated that padel was an emerging sport in Australia and New Zealand, with approximately 27 courts currently established in New Zealand, and that it was experiencing significant global growth.

Deputy Mayor Redmond asked whether the courts were typically indoor facilities. R Bennett responded that courts could be constructed both indoors and outdoors. In response to further questions, Mr Bennett confirmed that he was seeking a suitable location rather than funding, with investment to be sourced elsewhere. He advised that the cost of play was generally between \$60 and \$70 per hour per court, equating to approximately \$15 per person when shared among four players. He also confirmed that, while the venture would be commercial in nature, it would maintain a strong community focus.

Councillor Doody requested clarification on court dimensions, and R Bennett advised that a doubles court measured 20 metres by 12 metres, while a singles court measured 20 metres by 6 metres.

In response to Councillor Mealings' query, Mr Bennett stated that padel was suitable for a wide age range, from approximately five to 65 years, and was accessible to all sectors of the community, including people with disabilities.

Councillor Powell asked whether existing tennis courts could be converted for padel use. R Bennett confirmed that this was possible, particularly where groundwork was already in place, and explained how mobile courts could be installed on existing tennis facilities.

Mr Bennett advised that his proposed timeline for establishing the club was 2027.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Bennett for his presentation and the information he had provided

5 REPORTS

5.1 Adoption of the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 – E Belton (Youth Development Facilitator) and L Mealings (Policy Analyst)

E Belton spoke to the report, noting that the draft Waimakariri Youth Action Plan (the Plan) was released for consultation from 18 February to 18 March 2026. The consultation process received eight formal submissions, alongside informal feedback from the health sector and additional input from internal staff. The overall sentiment expressed through submissions was positive, supportive, and encouraging. The constructive feedback received enabled staff to refine further the plan presented for adoption, including

amendments to the written content, the addition of images featuring local young people in local spaces, and improvements to design elements and overall presentation.

Appreciation was extended to various stakeholders and the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group, which worked voluntarily alongside Council staff throughout the development process. The group's contribution highlighted the importance of collaboration. Their involvement and direction, particularly during the early engagement survey phase, were instrumental in the success of the consultation process, which received more than 1,100 responses.

Councillor Fulton noted that Rangiora High School did not have a representative listed on the Youth Action Plan Advisory. E Belton advised that, when invited to nominate a representative, the school did not have anyone available; however, several of the other representatives were students at the school and were therefore able to share information and obtain feedback as required.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Doody

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260309071759.
- (b) **Receives** the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 (Trim 260528126247).
- (c) **Receives** the Draft Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 Consultation Responses document (Trim 260429105490).
- (d) **Receives** the staff recommendations in response to submissions received on the Draft Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 document (Trim 260430105805).

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee recommends:

THAT the Council:

- (e) **Adopts** the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 (Trim 260528126247).
- (f) **Nominates** the General Manager of Community and Recreation to approve any minor edits to the Plan over the 2026 to 2029 period, should any circumstances change, in acknowledgement of the need for flexibility in the delivery of youth development.
- (g) **Notes** that no further funding is being sought in relation to the Youth Action Plan project at this time, and that the Community Team will continue to actively seek external funding to support the implementation of community-related strategies.
- (h) **Notes** that the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 (Trim 260528126247) is the direct result of a thorough early engagement process, co-designed with the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group. This engagement directly captured the voices of over 1,100 local 12- to 24-year-olds.
- (i) **Notes** that the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 (Trim 260528126247) has received endorsement from the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group, as well as Sport Canterbury.
- (j) **Circulates** this report and attachments to Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the significant effort that had gone into developing the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan over many years. It was noted that extensive collaboration had occurred with local schools throughout the process. He also highlighted the considerable work undertaken in Oxford, noting that the community had been instrumental in the original development of a youth-focused approach within the Waimakariri District. Mayor Gordon further noted that the original work had led to the establishment of a Youth Council and had helped identify initiatives specifically relevant to the needs of young people in the district. The plan was recognised as reflecting the issues and priorities identified by local young people. The next stage would involve implementing the actions outlined in the plan and managing expectations for their delivery. Mayor Gordon expressed appreciation to all staff who had contributed to the process and supported the plan's development.

Councillor Doody commented that the plan presented an exciting opportunity to incorporate youth perspectives, thereby enhancing communities and contributing positively to the district's culture.

Councillor Powell thanked staff and acknowledged Lauren Tilly for her work on the Plan. She noted the importance of fostering a sense of belonging and suggested this could encourage young people who had moved away to return to the district to raise their families.

Councillor Mealings congratulated the team and Advisory Group, noting that this consultation had achieved the largest number of responses of any Council consultation to date.

Councillor Mealings congratulated staff on bringing the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan to its current stage and presenting it for adoption. She noted that the plan was the result of an extensive consultation process that had generated one of the largest response volumes ever received by Council. Councillor Mealings commented that, in keeping with the principle of "*nothing about us without us*," the plan successfully reflected the views, aspirations, and priorities expressed by young people throughout the consultation process.

Councillor Cairns expressed his appreciation for the enthusiasm and breadth of feedback received. It was noted that the level of participation and the number of young people who had contributed ideas were extremely impressive. Councillor Cairns further observed that the plan provided a clear, step-by-step guide for implementing actions and initiatives. Appreciation was expressed for the inclusion of a strong environmental focus, and enthusiasm was noted for the planting of fruit trees throughout the Waimakariri District as part of the environmental outcomes identified in the plan. He also referred to the common themes evident throughout this plan and other recently developed strategies, including the Welcoming Communities Programme. It was noted that these recurring themes demonstrated a consistent and aligned approach across Council's planning documents.

5.2 **Adoption of the Suite of Manuals for the Safety Management and Operation of Rangiora Airfield** – C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), D Roxborough (Strategic and Special Projects Manager) and O Stewart (Airfield Manager and Safety Officer)

O Stewart spoke to the report, which introduced the suite of manuals developed for the safe management and operation of the Rangiora Airfield and sought approval from the Community and Recreation Committee for their use. He explained that the Safe Management Manual and associated documents had been developed to provide policies and procedures for the safe and effective management of the airfield for users, neighbouring properties, and the wider community.

O Stewart advised that the three documents also supported the qualifying aerodrome certification process and would assist the Council in continuing its progress towards airfield certification. He noted that the Operations Manual provided the information, systems, and processes required for the Council to maintain the airfield in a safe condition while meeting its responsibilities and obligations under the Civil Aviation Rules and the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. The Memorandum of Understanding and Airfield User Guidance Document were described as voluntary best-practice guides for pilots and aircraft operators using Rangiora Airfield. The documents provided procedures to support the safe, orderly, and efficient movement of air traffic. They also sought to protect the amenity of neighbouring properties by addressing aircraft noise management and reducing the risk of stock disturbance, while recognising that pilots undertook training activities that benefited the wider region.

Councillor Cairns asked whether there was a requirement for individuals to use the manuals. O Stewart responded that there was currently no requirement for the Council to provide manuals, processes, or procedures; however, it was considered best practice to have these in place for training and educational purposes. He added that this would position the airfield well should it proceed through certification to become a qualified airfield.

In response to Councillor Ward's query regarding bird management at the airfield, O Stewart advised that ducks could be trained through deterrence measures. He noted that when he drove a vehicle onto the aerodrome, the ducks would now take flight immediately.

Councillor McLaren queried the use of the term "best practice." O Stewart replied that any party could recommend improvements to the manuals and would be considered to ensure the documents remained up to date and appropriate, thereby continuing to align with best practice

Moved: Councillor McLaren Seconded: Deputy Mayor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260604130478.
- (b) **Approves** the adoption of the updated 2026 version of the Rangiora Airfield Safety Management Manual and embedded Safety Policy Statement, noting that this will be published on the Council's Airfield web page to replace the existing Safety Manual.
- (c) **Approves** the adoption of the Rangiora Airfield Operations Manual, noting that this will be an internal Council document for management of airfield operations.
- (d) **Approves** the adoption of the Rangiora Airfield Memorandum of Understanding and 'Fly Neighbourly' guideline document, noting that this will be issued to users in July 2026.
- (e) **Notes** the purpose and function of the Safety Management Manual, Airfield Operations Manual, Memorandum of Understanding, Fly Neighbourly Guidelines, and the Rangiora Airfield Safety Statement (Final Draft) as the core documents.
- (f) **Notes** the requirement for the continued use and periodic review of these documents to ensure alignment with Council requirements, Civil Aviation Authority expectations and community needs.

- (g) **Receives** the attached correspondence from Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) NZ with regard to their contributions to improving safety in the air at Rangiora Airfield and endorses the planned actions within that correspondence from CAA.

CARRIED

Councillor McLaren acknowledged the work undertaken to develop the manuals; however, he preferred the term “good practice” to “best practice,” noting that the latter implied the documents could not be further improved in the future.

Deputy Mayor Redmond also acknowledged the work completed. He stated that there should always be an ongoing aspiration to achieve best practice and, on that basis, did not take issue with the term's use. He further observed that the manuals represented a step towards the airfield achieving qualified status. He noted that members of the current advisory group had appeared reluctant to pursue certification, although he was uncertain of the reasons.

Councillor Cairns expressed support for the motion, stating that it would help embed a strong culture of safety and safe practices at the airfield, thereby reducing risk. He added that he had gained valuable insight into aviation and airfield operations from the report. However, he suggested that future reports include an appendix with an index of acronyms to improve accessibility and understanding.

5.3 **Aquatics June Update** – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

M Greenwood spoke to the report, which summarised the aquatic facilities' year-to-date performance against the unit's most significant key performance indicators, noting that a 97% satisfaction rating had been achieved in the recent customer survey.

Councillor Cairns sought clarity on the challenges being experienced with the Aquatics Facilities telephone system. M Greenwood noted that concerns had been raised on several occasions about call handling and response times. He explained that the issue involved several complex technical and information technology processes relating to how calls connected and were routed through the system before ringing on staff devices. The Aquatics Team was working with the Information Technology Team to simplify the process. This included adopting a system similar to the one implemented by the Libraries, in which incoming calls were redirected to multiple phones across sites, increasing the likelihood that the next available staff member could answer promptly.

In response to a further question from Councillor Cairns, regarding bookings for the Learn to Swim Programme, M Greenwood advised that bookings were accepted both by telephone and in person. Online bookings were not available, and there were no alternative booking methods. It was noted that introducing online booking functionality was being considered for the future; however, given current workloads, implementation had not yet been prioritised.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor McLaren

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260603129612.
- (b) **Notes** a total customer year-to-date attendance of 229,329 as at 31 May 2026. This is down 17,937 (8%) compared with the same period last year, with 247,266 visits as at 31 May 2025.
- (c) **Notes that** these results include a programmed maintenance closure at Dudley in January 2026, with no significant disruptions in the 2025/26 period.

- (d) **Notes** a better than forecast year to date income result of \$1,376,208 attributed to strong interest in Learn to Swim programming.
- (e) **Notes** an overall customer satisfaction survey result of 97% on a target of 90%.
- (f) **Notes** that the survey saw 337 responses over the two-week period, which equates to 24% of the 1400 customers who were emailed the survey.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings commended the aquatics team for their culture of continuous improvement and enthusiasm. She also acknowledged that the 97% satisfaction rating was particularly impressive given the large number of survey respondents.

Councillor McLaren congratulated the team and thanked staff for a well-received report.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the recent incident at Dudley Pool and the manner in which staff had handled the situation. He noted that the woman's husband had praised staff for their professionalism and swift response and had asked that his thanks be conveyed to the team.

Councillor Cairns noted that he had enjoyed his aquarobics classes, which had been conducted with enthusiasm and cheerfulness, leaving participants smiling.

Councillor Mealings concurred with the Mayor's comments and extended her condolences to the family.

5.4 **Libraries Update to June 2026** – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)

L Sole spoke to the report, which provided an update on notable services, programmes, and experiences offered to the community from April to June 2026. This included an overview of the April school holidays, attendance levels, popular New Zealand Music Month events, and book lending volumes.

In response to Councillor Doody's query regarding the deaf community, L Sole advised that the libraries had delivered a children's "give it a go" sign language learning experience. The event had been light-hearted and low-key in nature and had been well received by participants.

Councillor Fulton queried whether the library provided resources to support learning and the attainment of educational credits. L Sole confirmed that the library offered LinkedIn Learning modules, among other resources, to support educational advancement.

Councillor Cairns commended the library for the variety and scope of its services and sought clarification on how offerings were determined. L Sole explained that many programmes were developed in response to community requests, while the library was also required to deliver services aligned with its contractual and funding obligations.

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260604130208.
- (b) **Notes** record visitation at Waimakariri Libraries during April School Holidays and increased book lending, with particular reference to children and young people.

- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Doody noted that it was positive to observe an increase in reading, particularly among young people.

Councillor Mealings stated that she always looked forward to reviewing the report. She expressed her appreciation for the feedback and anecdotes, acknowledged the team's broad range of skills and talents, and particularly commended the musicians who had led the New Zealand Music Month event.

Councillor Ward concurred with Councillor Mealings, noting that it was not surprising that library usage was increasing.

Councillor Cairns agreed that the staff's enthusiasm in supporting programmes and events was commendable. He also observed that the calibre of authors and speakers engaged was impressive and that these events were consistently popular and well received.

6 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

6.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor B Cairns

- Councillor Cairns reported that the North Canterbury Foundation (NCF) playground project in Kaiapoi was nearing completion. However, concerns had been raised about incorporating an older seat into the playground area. Following discussions with the Greenspace Team, it was confirmed that the seat would be cleaned and refurbished as part of the playground installation works. Following consideration by the Kaiapoi-Tuahivi Community Board, support was also expressed for installing an interpretive sign recognising the NCF. Staff had commenced work on this proposal and would present further information, including an estimated budget, to the Community Board during the new financial year. Subject to Community Board support, a Working Group would be established to progress the project.
- The Greenspace Team continued to monitor any potential impacts arising from fuel supply and cost pressures. The Garden Maintenance Teams had been trialling smaller work crews to improve operational efficiency.
- Renovation works were underway within the perennial gardens at Victoria Park.
- Autumn sports field renovation and maintenance works had been completed across several sites, including Woodend Domain, Gladstone Park, Loburn Domain, Maria Andrews Park, and Sefton Domain.
- Council facilities had experienced an increase in vandalism incidents, particularly at public toilet facilities.
- It was noted that leaf fall had remained consistent throughout the winter period, with street and park clean-up programmes continuing across the district.
- At Pearson Park Playground, surface replacement works had been undertaken, and trials involving robotic mowing technology were currently being evaluated.
- Members were advised that Dylan Pederson had recently joined Council as the new Tree Asset Officer. He brought considerable arboriculture expertise, practical experience, and a strong customer-focused approach to the role. D Pederson's ability to undertake tree assessments would provide a valuable and timely service for the district.
- The construction of the Pegasus Community Centre was progressing well and remained on schedule for opening in November.
- Staff had developed concept options for the Pegasus Youth Space following workshops conducted with the Woodend-Sefton Community Board.

- An update was provided on the Mandeville Concept Design project. The club was consulting with its affiliated organisations on several design options. This feedback would assist the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board when considering a draft proposal for public consultation.
- A draft framework for the Parks and Recreation Strategy (PARS) had been presented to the Project Steering Group for feedback. A Greenspace intern had completed the mapping of neighbourhood reserves and play spaces across the district. This information would provide valuable data for the play and recreation components of the strategy and would remain on track for inclusion in the draft 2027–2037 Long Term Plan.
- It was noted that a deputation had been presented to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board regarding the establishment of a Parkrun event within the district.
- Members were advised that following a deputation regarding natural burials, staff would prepare a report for the Community and Recreation Committee identifying potentially suitable locations throughout the district.
- It was further reported that the Greenspace Team was working collaboratively with the Roding Team to identify the most effective and efficient means of improving signage and visitor awareness of the location of Loburn Reserve.
- The Kaiapoi RSA had approached Council regarding the possibility of installing lighting at the Woodend Cenotaph.
- Construction of the St Margaret’s Rowing Club building at Murphy Park was reported to be progressing. The new facility would provide boat storage, changing facilities, and associated amenities for club members. Once completed, the existing shipping containers would be removed from the site, addressing concerns regarding their vulnerability during flood events.
- The Northern Bulldogs Rugby League Club had recently held its season-opening day, which had attracted a large attendance. The club continued to maintain strong participation numbers across its teams.
- An update on Waimak United Football Club highlighted continued growth in membership. It was reported that winter-season participation exceeded 1,000 registered members, with an estimated additional 2,900 users participating outside the winter season. Due to high usage, the Kendal Park car park regularly reached full capacity on Saturdays, leading to additional vehicles parking on adjacent grass berms.
- Community Events
 - Kaiapoi Lights 2026 would be held from 8 July to 11 July 2026 at Cochrane Park and along the Kaiapoi River. The event would feature a Matariki-themed light trail, projections, performances, and educational displays highlighting the significance of Matariki and the history of Kaiapoi. Activities would operate from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm each evening, with extended hours on Friday until 8.00 pm. Visitors would also be able to walk to the Matariki Kaiapoi celebrations at Norman Kirk Park and view the fireworks display.
 - Matariki Kaiapoi 2026 would take place from 10 July to 11 July 2026 and would feature kapa haka performances, live music, market stalls, food vendors, family activities, and educational experiences celebrating Māori traditions and the significance of Matariki.
 - Although not held within a reserve, it was noted that Kaiapoi Promotions would also host a Matariki community event at the Kaiapoi Club, utilising both the club facilities and the surrounding car park area.
 - An update was provided on the Experience Oxford Winter Festival, which was running from 27 June to 12 July 2026 and centred on the Matariki theme “Matariki Herenga Waka – The Mooring Place of Canoes.” Members noted a programme that included roller skating, Māori storytelling sessions, Matariki stargazing, community- and whānau-focused activities, and a proposed hāngī and kapa haka performance. The festival was expected to provide a significant winter attraction for residents and visitors alike.

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

- In relation to the Libraries service, Councillor McLaren remarked that the reported 400,000 in-person visits and 500,000 books issued were exceptional achievements. Reference was also made to an Events Workshop held on 5 June 2026, during which it was noted that the Waimakariri District's libraries delivered more community events than any other organisation, professional or otherwise.
- The North Canterbury Museums Liaison Group meeting on 2 May 2026, which included representatives from museums across Hurunui, Waimakariri, and Kaikōura Districts.
 - Then presentations from the various museums highlighted their unique collections, perspectives, and activities.
 - Several common challenges faced by museums were discussed, including the digitisation of collections, the significant time and resources required to complete this work, and the need to appropriately archive original materials to prevent deterioration while enabling greater reliance on digital collections.
 - Ongoing difficulties in recruiting younger volunteers. It was noted that many long-serving volunteers possessed valuable knowledge of local history and artefacts, and concerns were raised about how to retain and pass this knowledge on to future generations.
 - Some museums reported a decline in school visits. This was attributed in part to increasing expectations from schools that the host organisation would provide educational programmes and learning resources.
- Attended an excellent presentation from a representative of the Wolff's Bridge Restoration Group. The presentation highlighted a relatively unknown aspect of local history and outlined plans for the restoration of the bridge, which attendees had very well received.
- The Ohoka Museum had recently held its Annual General Meeting, where John Brant-Eason had been appointed as the new Chairperson and a new Secretary had also been elected. Councillor McLaren acknowledged the significant contribution of the previous Chair, John Vick, and paid tribute to Kay Worsfold, who had served as Secretary for more than 30 years.
- Turning to town halls, Councillor McLaren acknowledged the upcoming centenary of the Rangiora Town Hall, which would celebrate 100 years of service to the community.
 - It was noted that a committee had been established to organise commemorative events and celebrations.
 - The Rangiora Town Hall centenary celebrations would be held on both 5 and 6 September 2026.
 - Two performances would be held on 5 September 2026, comprising a showcase of excerpts and performances from a range of user groups, including choirs, musical productions, and other performers. One matinee performance and one evening performance were planned.
 - On 6 September, guided tours of the Town Hall would be conducted, followed by a cocktail function to conclude the centenary celebrations.
- Members were advised that the North Canterbury Musical Society traditionally staged two productions each year, in May and October, and that *Little Shop of Horrors* was scheduled for October 2026.
- In relation to MainPower Stadium, Councillor McLaren advised that there continued to be issues with roof leaks that had affected the building since its opening. However, it was reported that the contractors involved had been responsive and were continuing to work towards identifying and implementing a permanent solution.

In response to a question from J Millward regarding the ongoing roof leak at MainPower Stadium, C Brown advised that, to the best of his understanding, the issue appeared to be related to workmanship rather than design. An independent assessor had been engaged, alongside the original contractor, to investigate the source of the leaks. The findings indicated that the issue was more likely to be associated with the installation of the components than with the building's design. As a result, it was hoped that the problem could be addressed with a relatively straightforward remedy. C Brown observed that the issue had persisted since the facility was constructed. Hence, the Council continued to hold retention monies relating to the contract and that these funds would not be released until the defect had been satisfactorily rectified and a permanent solution implemented.

6.3 **Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor S Powell**

- **Community Development:**
 - Youth Action Plan – The Community and Recreation Subcommittee adopted the Plan as the strategic document guiding youth development over the following three years.
 - Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) – The contract had been met for the year and had been renewed for the following year.
 - Homelessness – The recently established Homelessness Advisory Group was scheduled to meet that week, with the establishment of its Terms of Reference identified as a key agenda item.
 - Creative NZ – Regional partnerships had been established to enable regions to make decisions regarding their arts development needs. From 2027, Creative NZ would partner with organisations across the country to distribute resources.
 - Planning had continued for the annual Youth Futures Employment Expo, with the key priority being to secure exhibitors. The previous year's event had included 75 exhibitors.
 - A local mini conference for not-for-profit workers and volunteers was scheduled to be held on 18 June. Seventy-five registrations had been received to date, and staff hoped to reach 100. The previous year's event had attracted strong support, and evaluations had confirmed its value.
 - A neurodiversity education workshop in Kaiapoi had sold out, with approximately 130 attendees. This was the fourth in a series of popular seminars coordinated by the Resilient Communities Facilitator.
 - The annual Violence Free North Canterbury fundraiser and awareness-raising event had attracted 95 entrants and raised just under \$3,500 for family violence projects. The event had become an iconic local initiative.
 - The launch of the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026–2029 and the signing of the Statement of Commitment had been held the previous week.
- **Accessibility:**
 - The first Core Board in the district, located at Victoria Park, was scheduled to be unveiled on 25 June 2026 at 1pm. The Greenspace Team was acknowledged for its input into this initiative for the disability community.
 - Boccia balls had been made available for people with disabilities or limited mobility to use on the marked courts at MainPower Stadium. Boccia New Zealand had donated the balls.
- **Community Wellbeing North Canterbury:**
 - The Winter Care Drive had commenced, providing support through the colder months, with several local businesses serving as collection sites.

- Funding had been secured from the Mental Health Foundation, with Community Wellbeing North Canterbury being one of 18 organisations selected nationwide from 455 applications. The funding would support a North Canterbury Rural Suicide Prevention Project.
- Recruitment had commenced for a new Chief Executive and a new Board member.
- What was coming up:
 - The Celebration of Cultures Potluck Dinner was scheduled to be held on 25 June at 6pm at the John Knox Centre, in partnership with GLOW and the Community Team. Tickets were available through Humanitix.
 - The Big Splash event for Rachel's House Trust was scheduled to be held at the Rangiora RSA on 26 June, from 5pm to 8.30pm.
 - National Volunteer Week was scheduled to run from 14 to 20 June 2026.

Councillor Fulton raised an accessibility-related service request based on a recent observation at local sports facilities. It was explained that a family member who primarily used a wheelchair had recently attended events at both the hockey turf in Kaiapoi and MainPower Stadium. During those visits, it became apparent that wheelchair users experienced significant difficulties obtaining a clear view of the playing surface. As a result, wheelchair users could be unable to view games and events adequately. He suggested that the provision of raised viewing areas, platforms, or other accessibility improvements could be considered at sports grounds and recreational facilities to improve sightlines for wheelchair users and others with accessibility needs.

6.4 **Arts and Culture – Councillor B Cairns**

Councillor Cairns highlighted the following:

- Waimakariri Public Arts Trust
 - Applications from prospective trustees for the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust had been received, and interviews had been undertaken as part of the appointment process. Murray Pashby, a descendant of Thomas Pashby, an early Kaiapoi settler, sawyer, farmer, and community committee member, had been proposed as a trustee. The Pashby family had offered funding towards the creation of a sculpture commemorating Thomas Pashby's life and contribution to the district.
 - Councillor Cairns explained that the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust was responsible for overseeing larger public art projects within the Waimakariri District. The former Waimakariri Art Collection Trust, which had owned the artworks displayed in Council facilities, had now been dissolved, with all assets transferred to Council ownership.
 - The Waimakariri District Art Collection Subcommittee had been established to oversee the management and care of the Council-owned art collection. Discussions had already been held with staff regarding the future management, storage, and care of the collection, and it was anticipated that a report would be presented to Council in due course addressing these matters.
 - Reference was made to initiatives being progressed by the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust, including the installation of a sculpture at MainPower Stadium. Members were advised that artist Victoria Bell, a Kaiapoi-based artist, had been selected to create the Kippenberger sculpture. It was noted that the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board had already viewed the proposed designs. Members were invited to request additional information if required.

- The Kaiapoi Art Expo would hold its 20th exhibition in July. The event was expected to attract approximately 5,000 visitors to the district and was regarded as a highly popular and significant arts event.
- The FOLD Studio in Rangiora had recently closed. Despite strong visitor numbers and foot traffic, sales had not been sufficient to cover the gallery's operating costs.
- A new creative space established on High Street, Rangiora, known as *Clay and Cotton*, which was offering workshops in pottery and sewing.
- It was further noted that a new art gallery space had opened in Kaiapoi, located on the upper level of Hansen's Lane.
- A Pegasus resident had offered a painting for installation within the new Pegasus Community Centre. Members were advised that the proposed donation would be reviewed by the Waimakariri District Art Collection Subcommittee, which would provide recommendations regarding its acceptance and placement.
- Two workshops had been held with local arts practitioners to discuss the implementation of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy and to gather feedback on future priorities and initiatives.
- An update was also provided regarding Creative New Zealand. Members were informed that the organisation was considering reducing paid staff positions and proposing to delegate responsibility for funding allocation decisions to regional committees.
- The Great Kiwi Bookstore was acknowledged for successfully hosting its inaugural community event, *The Book (Fight) Club*. It was noted that the event had been extremely well attended and, due to its popularity, additional events were planned.
- Finally, members *noted* that *Seven Sharp* had recently featured the Sparks family, their museum, and the work being undertaken to preserve historic buildings. The feature also highlighted the family's vision for establishing an arts and crafts centre within the Waimakariri District.

6.5 **Property – Deputy Mayor P Redmond**

- The Deputy Mayor Redmond provided an update on the activities of the Property Working Group, which had met the previous week:
 - Progress had been made regarding the disposal of a property in Rangiora following subdivision, with titles now having been issued. Members were also advised that progress had been made on the documentation for the Abbeyfield project.
 - An update was provided on Council housing occupancy levels. It was noted that occupancy rates had improved and, as at 28 June 2025, occupancy across the Elderly Persons' Housing portfolio, excluding Courtenay, had reached 87.5%. It was further noted that occupancy levels were expected to continue improving as recently upgraded units were filled and tenant transfers between units were finalised.
- The current Property Work Programme was outlined, which included 23 acquisition matters, encompassing activities such as land acquisitions associated with road intersections and infrastructure projects, five property disposals, seven easement matters, and five roading-related property matters.
- Members were advised that the Property Team continued to manage a substantial and diverse workload across the Waimakariri district. Further information was available through Council records, including agendas and minutes of previous Property Working Group meetings.

6.6 **Housing – Councillor W Doody**

Councillor Doody noted the positive impact of recently upgraded units. It was reported that the new developments had been well received and that occupancy levels had continued to improve. Vacant units were regularly filled, and in some cases, tenants were transferred from other housing locations to ensure occupancy. It was further noted that the occupancy figures would continue to improve as vacancies created through those transfers were backfilled as quickly as possible.

A question was raised regarding whether priority was given to local residents when allocating units. C Brown advised that applicants were allocated from the housing waiting list and that residency within the district was not a specific requirement. However, it was noted that many tenants either resided locally or had family connections within the district.

Councillor Fulton referred to the upcoming public consultation regarding the proposed pump track at Pearson Park in Oxford, which was located in close proximity to Council housing for older persons. He noted that the Pearson Park Advisory Group had previously found it challenging to engage directly with neighbouring residents and expressed the view that the perspectives of nearby housing tenants would be valuable during the consultation process. It was suggested that efforts be made to ensure that residents, or representatives of the housing community, were aware of the public meeting and allowed to participate.

7 **QUESTIONS**

Nil

8 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

9 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee was scheduled for Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 1pm in the Council Chamber at the Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

Briefing

- *Impediment of the Bowls Club and South Community Hub Decisions – G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager) and J Borland (Strategy and Partnerships Team Leader)*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2.35PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date

Unconfirmed