WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD IN THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 HIGH
STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019.

PRESENT

Councillor K Barnett (Chairperson), Mayor D Ayers, Councillors A Blackie, R Brine and
D Gordon.

ATTENDING

Deputy Mayor Felstead, Councillors S Stewart, J Meyer and P Williams
C Brown (Manager Community and Recreation), M Greenwood (Aquatic Facilities
Manager), M O’Connell (Acting District Libraries Manager), S Kong (Community Facilities
Coordinator), J Clements (Learning Connections Coordinator), K Walker (Kaiapoi Aquatic
Centre & Facilities Asset Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager),
N Paterson (Community Development Facilitator), A E Smith (Governance Coordinator)

1 APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor Barnett seconded Councillor Gordon,

THAT an apology for absence be received and sustained from Councillor W Doody.

CARRIED

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were reported.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held
on Tuesday 18 December 2018

Moved Councillor Blackie Seconded Councillor Gordon

THAT the Community and Recreation committee:

(a) Confirms the circulated minutes of a meeting of the Community and
Recreation Committee, held on Tuesday 18 December 2018, as a true
and accurate record.

CARRIED

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.
6 REPORTS

6.1 Community Facilities – User applications for exemption from fees – Simon Kong (Community Facilities Coordinator)

C Brown spoke to this report which presents the requests for exemptions from fee increases from five different groups who use community facilities. The report also seeks a decision on dealing with future applications. This is the fourth report that has come to the committee with requests for exemptions. This report does include options for the committee to consider and C Brown provided an explanation for each of these options. There has been a suggestion for a Working Group to be established to look at how a Policy could be established for any applications for exemptions going forward.

Councillor Stewart noted that there have been 15 applications for exemptions received previously and with these being approved, has this set a precedent for any future applications? C Brown noted that previous applications have been determined by individual agreement with each of the groups – some have been 50% of the fee and some are a fixed fee for a 12 month period.

Following a question from Councillor Williams on the fixed fee of $500 that the Fernside Indoor Bowling Club pays, it was confirmed the group has been paying this fixed fee for the past four to five years.

Councillor Barnett noted that there was an application from a school, and questioned what the arrangements were for other schools in the district for using community facilities. S Kong advised that Woodend School have a standard no charge to use the Woodend Community Centre. The original approval for Fernside School to use Fernside Hall for a flat annual fee. These schools have standing bookings to use the community facilities for overflow of school activities. Current arrangements could be seen as inconsistent across the district.

Councillor Barnett asked had there been any discussions with these five applicants on their groups ability to pay the fees set in the following year, noting that the recommendation covers the current 12 month period. C Brown noted that when there have been discussions with groups and asked them if they could accommodate an increase in the fees, all have said no. It is difficult for staff to know if these groups actually can afford these increases, and whether they have sought funding to cover operational costs, or canvassed their members to discuss possible increases in fees/subs. C Brown said that it is important to note that fees have not increased for seven years. So over that time, the groups have been paying a fixed fee and the value for operational costs has essentially decreased.

Moved Councillor Barnett Seconded Councillor Gordon

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) Receives report No. 190129009698

(b) Notes the submissions for exemption from fees received from users.

(c) Approve a fixed fee of $500 per annum for Fernside Indoor Bowls. This annual fee is for the 2019 calendar year.

(d) Approve a 50% fee waiver for Pegasus Plus for their regular reoccurring booking. That the waiver applies for twelve months from the approval date.
(e) **Approve** a fixed annual fee of $500 to cover standard annual activities run by the school at the Oxford Town Hall for the 2019 calendar year. Activities include: School Production, School Prize Giving, Community Workshops.

(f) **Approve** a 50% fee waiver for Night Writers for their regular reoccurring booking at the Rangiora Town Hall.

(g) **Approve** the application of the standard fee of $10 per hour for Ballet with Bex bookings at the Pegasus Community Centre That the waiver applies for twelve months from the approval date.

(h) **Notes** that if all approvals for this report are accepted the financial implications are an estimated total of $1826 for the 2018/19 financial year.

(i) **Notes** that the total financial implications of fee exemptions that have already approved is estimated at $9200 for the 2018/19 financial year.

(j) **Notes** that fees increases are split over two years with the final increase occurring on the 1st July 2019.

(k) **Notes** that a working group including staff and elected members be established to discuss process for the waiver of fees for community facilities, with Terms of Reference to be discussed at the March 2019 Community and Recreation Committee meeting.

(l) **Circulates** the report to the Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Barnett noted that this situation has become confusing for the different groups and with the establishment of a Working Group is a way of getting some consistency going forward. This would get groups paying the level that they need to pay for the Council to operate these community facilities at the appropriate rates and that they attach the appropriate subsidy for it. Councillor Barnett would like to see some consistency for any waivers approved in the future.

Councillor Gordon noted the issue of the increase in fees for hiring community facilities has been difficult to put in place and there have been significant impacts on some of the groups in the district. Regarding the Fernside Indoor Bowls group, which is a small group, Councillor Gordon suggested over time having a stepped increase could be negotiated with the group could be a better outcome. Increases in the fees are required, and these need to be considered on a case by case basis. The Working Party with staff and councillors is the right way forward.

Councillor Brine is concerned with the situation and the amount of staff time that is taken up with looking at these applications. There needs to be increases in fees, especially with fees not having been increased for seven years and community groups need to have that communicated to them. Councillor Brine supports the establishment of a Working Group and this recommendation.

Mayor Ayers supports the setting up of the Working Group and what was set up previously has potential for inconsistent decision making. Different groups have different capacities and noted that groups can apply grants for covering
operating costs, but these are not always approved. Mayor Ayers noted the situation with schools that sometimes need to hire bigger facilities than they have, to accommodate large members of their school community for one off events such as school prize giving events. There is no charge for people to attend these events. This is in contrast to other groups who may hire a council community facility and people attending have to pay to attend. This is something that a Working Party will need to consider.

Councillor Barnett replied that this is costing staff time and having a Policy in place this will make the process more streamlined

6.2 Aquatic Facilities Update – Matthew Greenwood (Aquatic Facilities Manager)

M Greenwood presented this report and introduced staff members Keith Walker, the Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre and Facilities Asset Manager. Highlighted the closing days for scheduled maintenance, which will be from Monday 8 April to Thursday 25 April, which coincides with the last week of the Term one WaiSwim programme and the first week and a half of school holidays. Those closure period includes Easter weekend, but this is traditionally a low volume period with customers using the public holidays to travel. The Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre will be closed on Friday 3 May, due to Mainpower undertaking some work which will affect the power supply of the facility and surrounding area.

N Greenwood spoke on the funding for running the Learn to Swim Schools Programme and that due a transition of WDC staff the grant which would have provided approximately $38,000 income in the current financial year was unfortunately not applied for. Some options were investigated to try to secure additional funding and M Greenwood highlighted these. One of these options is that there is existing equity in the aquatic budget which could fund the shortfall for the Learn to Swim Schools programme.

Moved Councillor Brine Seconded Councillor Gordon

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) Receives report No. 190116003969

(b) Notes Aquatic Facilities progress against its key performance indicators for Water Quality and Facility Attendance.

(c) Notes closure dates of 8th to 25th April for programmed maintenance at Dudley Park Aquatic Centre and 3rd May for infrastructure works at Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre.

(d) Notes that staff did not apply as they usually would for a Water Safety New Zealand grant for the Learn to Swim School Programme for the current financial year.

(e) Notes that any shortfall in income as a result of not applying for the Water Safety New Zealand grant is able to be funded from existing equity in the Aquatics account.

(f) Circulates the report to the Boards for their information.

CARRIED
6.3 Library Update to 31 January 2019 – Mark O-Connell (Acting District Libraries Manager)

M O’Connell presented this report, with Jason Clements (Learning Connections Coordinator) was also in attendance. Highlights of recent events in the Libraries including the annual function held prior to Christmas to acknowledge the contribution of the library volunteers and the Summer Reading Challenge, which is aimed at preschool, school-aged children, and youth to keep them reading over the summer holidays. This was very successful and saw a record number of registrations (a total of 611) The Library has also been involved in a “Hell Reading Challenge” which is to encourage reluctant readers to become interested in books with the bonus of free pizza rewards. This is the third year the Waimakariri libraries have offered this reading challenge.

M O’Connell acknowledged the recent appointment of Paula Eskett as the new District Libraries Manager, who commences with the Council on Monday 4 March.

Moved Councillor Gordon Seconded Mayor Ayers

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) Receives report No. 190131011192
(b) Notes the customer service improvements, customer feedback, and activities offered by the Waimakariri Libraries in December 2018 and January 2019.
(c) Notes the appointment of Paula Eskett as the new District Libraries Manager
(d) Circulates the report to the Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Gordon noted how well supported the library is by the keen passionate group of volunteers and what a great resource that our libraries are for the district.

Mayor Ayers offered congratulations to Mark O’Connell on his recent appointment as Libraries Manager at Hurunui District Council and thanked him for his 30 years of service to Waimakariri District Council. Fellow Committee members also conveyed their thanks to Mark for his years of service to the Council’s libraries and wished him well.
6.4 **Family Violence Prevention – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

Natalie Paterson, Community Development Facilitator presented a PowerPoint presentation on Family Violence. This noted that family violence can be abuse towards spouse or partner, former partner, family or household member or other close relationships. The kinds of abuse, harm or violence can be physical, psychological, sexual, financial or neglect. There are many reasons why victims put up with abuse in a relationship and find it hard to talk to someone else about it. Important statistics in the presentation included:

- It is estimated that only 20% of family violence is reported to the Police.
- In 2014 the Police responded to 100,000 family violence incidents.
- On average each year 14 women, seven men and eight children are killed by a family member.
- New Zealand has the highest reported rate of intimate partner violence in the developed world.

Family violence can impact on the workplace with decreased productivity (the victim can be distressed, depressed, distracted or fearful), increased risk to the employer, absenteeism, employee discord (in carrying the workload of victims, covering for colleagues, upsetting behaviour unsettling for others, or being workmates of an abuser) and also violence in the workplace.

The presentation highlighted the benefits of a workplace response and the part that employers can play. This can include an increased understanding of family violence, providing information and training for staff, developing workplace policies and procedures and involvement in community projects.

In concluding the presentation, N Paterson spoke on the colour pyramid – Spectrum of Prevention - which is a representation of internationally recognised best practice in creating social change for the prevention of intentional or unintentional harm. Local initiatives provide this best practice were highlighted, which included providing knowledge through social and printed media, billboards and displays at events; promoting community education through White Ribbon Seminars and Keeping up Appearances; providing local education; Violence Free North Canterbury which fosters coalitions and networks; changing organisational practices with Family Violence Leave and offering peer support; and influencing policy and legislation with a Family Violence Leave Policy.

N Paterson was thanked for her presentation.

T Sturley advised that it is planned to provide a report to this committee for the 2019 year on a specific priority area, including:

- Family violence
- Suicide Prevention
- Age Friendly Communities
- Alcohol and Addiction
- Migrants
- Volunteering
- Social Inclusion

T Sturley spoke on the planned initiatives for 2019 for family violence. The support of the Council for recognising family violence was acknowledged and the collaboration of agencies in the Violence Free North Canterbury.
Councillor Blackie expressed some concern with Council staff being responsible for picking up any matter relating to family violence and these being people who are not experienced in this field and providing the appropriate response. T Sturley responded that if people are aware there is an issue with a fellow staff member, they can suggest the appropriate agencies where people can get help. It is not best practice that staff are expected to offer counselling.

Councillor Barnett asked how is the success the Council’s family violence programme is measured and the impact that it is having. T Sturley said it is important to note the difference between population indicators and performance indicators. Regarding community led prevention, performance indicators are a change in culture or a change in understanding. People are surveyed both before and after an intervention and anecdotal information is gathered from the Police. Increased reporting is a good thing and indicates a good job is being done. A measure in this area is are people speaking to others about it, do people know where to ask for help, and do they have the confidence to ask for someone for help. These are some of the questions asked in the survey. The measurement is based on are people better off?

Regarding representation in the rural sector, Councillor Barnett asked if Federated Farmers were involved at all. T Sturley noted that currently the Rural Support Trust are not represented in this network and it was noted that this group has been significantly pulled into the Hurunui response.

Moved Councillor Blackie Seconded Councillor Gordon

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

a) **Receives** report No. 190131010856

b) **Circulates** report No. 190131010856 to the Community Boards

c) **Notes** Council’s ongoing commitment to facilitating a community-led response to this issue.

d) **Notes** that Family Violence Training for Waimakariri District Council managers and team leaders aligns with this commitment.

e) **Notes** that, in line with item 1.1 above, this report replaces the usual Community Team Update report.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Gordon noted his full support for anything that can be done to reduce the instances of family violence and thanked Natalie for her presentation. Councillor Gordon noted similar reservations as Councillor Blackie in work places and how it is managed and keeping the process safe for people.

Mayor Ayers noted the actual levels of family violence and reported levels are quite different. Changes in culture and understanding and also changes in definition can have an impact on reporting levels as well. From both a workplace point of view and out there in the community this is enabling more recognition of the signs and being more aware.

Councillor Barnett also endorsed the comments above. Noted a generational shift and a change of messaging that is coming through in the current generation – “It’s not ok”. Councillor Barnett applauded the work that is being done to keep people safe.
7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

Greenspace (Parks Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Robbie Brine

Nothing to report.

7.1 Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Halls, Libraries and Museums) – Councillor Wendy Doody

Councillor Doody was not present.

7.2 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Kirstyn Barnett and Councillor Wendy Doody

Councillor Barnett spoke on the COGS funding, with a change in calculation removing the isolation index and being more reliant on deprivation. This means that 22 areas will receive a decrease in COGS funding, including Waimakariri, Selwyn and Hurunui which is grouped together as one area. For Waimakariri this is indicating a 43% decrease of funding available in our area. This formula has also been highlighted to lottery funding. This is a big issue for rural New Zealand. It is proposed that this be phased in over a three year period. Once further information is available this will be brought back to the committee. Following a question from Councillor Brine, Councillor Barnett added that many districts nationwide are unhappy with this proposal and are endeavouring to start a conversation about the impact of that.

8 QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

9 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no urgent general business.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 2.06pm.

CONFIRMED

__________________________________
Chairperson

__________________________________
Date

WORKSHOP – NORTH CANTERBURY MINI BUS TRUST

At the conclusion of the meeting, a workshop was held to discuss the North Canterbury Mini Bus Trust storage of vehicles.