
WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL, RANGIORA
7.00pm TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2026

1. Opening Karakia

2. **PRESENT:** Zack Lappin, Dylan La Valley (Co-Chair), Tessa Sturley (WDC Community Team), Cherry Burgess (WDC Community Team, WDC), Cr Niki Mealings (Waimakariri District Council), Oscar Bai, Matilda Parish, Esha-May McHugh, Hannah Wells, Rebecca Taiaroa (WDC Minute Taker).

Visitors: Sophia Burgess, Caitlin Sands, Jennie Son, Nicole Villanuera, Risha Prasad (Wai Youth) and Dean Eades (WDC Civil Defence Emergency Management Advisor)

Attended via Microsoft Teams: None.

APOLOGIES: Simoné Bisschoff (Co-Chair), Mayor Dan Gordon, Cr Jason Goldsworthy

3. Whakatauki *[Read by Tessa Sturley]*

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 27TH JANUARY 2026** – *[Corrections made to the previous meeting's minutes on the spot by Tessa Sturley. Noted unable to approve the minutes as there is not a quorum.]*

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- None

6. Presentation – Dean Eades WDC Civil Defence Emergency Management

- **Dean's Background:** Dean started his work in Emergency Management in the Hurunui District. He covered for Kaikoura up until 2023. From 2023 onwards, Dean commenced in his current role with the WDC Civil Defence Emergency Management team.
- **Emergency management & Civil Defence:** What is it? At Youth Council level, this is about knowing your community. The Emergency Management package provided by Dean, is designed to formulate a plan, much of which is about knowing what yourself and neighbours can provide in an emergency situation. Key points:

- i. Calling 111 is not a plan in a natural disaster (that's why we have to have a plan). Link to 'Get Ready' website: [Home — Get Ready \(NZ Civil Defence\) — Emergency preparedness in New Zealand](#)
 - ii. **Emergency Hubs (response centres in emergencies):** most of these are at schools throughout the district. Used to be called sector posts. A place for the community to come together (i.e long term power outage, or needing accommodation). The Emergency Hubs provide a mechanism for looking after people in emergency events. [Quiz in the pack] – what role would you play in an emergency?
 - iii. Where to find all the Emergency Hubs and Civil Defence Centres – QR Code or – Waimakariri District Public Information Map [Waimakariri District Public Information Map](#) [you can enter in your address and find your nearest hub/sector post].
 - iv. Some of the education initiatives undertaken nationally, such as 'What's the Plan Stan?' campaign.
 - v. If interested in participating in Civil Defence, the office (Portacom Office near the library) is open for questions and queries. There are three in the team. Interested? Always open for questions and queries (right beside the library, the CD portacom). Three in the team.
- **Q&A session with Dean Eades:**
 - **Question:** What about homelessness in an emergency? **Answer:** *[Answered by Tessa Sturley]:* WDC Community team works with many and all of the community organisations in the area – in the faith-based sector, MSD, HOPE Trust, complex situations. Over a period of time, help homeless to create those relationships that gives them a community, and housing.
 - **Question:** Which is the best place to go to in an emergency? The Civil Defence Centre or an Emergency Hub? **Answer:** It depends on the situation. Example to illustrate: A flooding situation - If you're just needing help to get the sheep out of mud, then an Emergency Hub is ideal, but if your home is wiped out by flooding, then a Civil Defence Centre is best.
 - Civil Defence Officers for each district is based on the size of the district. WDC has three, Hurunui might only have .50. Doesn't matter where in NZ, CD will provide the help.
 - **Question:** Do councils work together? **Answer:** Yes. 'The C10' is a group of councils and the Waimakariri District Council is a part of the C10. Within each of each councils in Canterbury, there are surge staff and they do all work together.
 - **Question:** Do you have to have a background in Emergency Management to work in the C10/Civil Defence. Are the trades useful? **Answer:** Many diverse backgrounds and experiences are essential in emergency management. Dean Eade's own background in the Financial Services Sector and the Army in particular have been very useful in Civil Defence. Other examples is having a background in Social Services, the trades are all exceptionally valuable in Civil Defence.

- **Question:** Where does the funding come from to repair the damage after a natural disaster/emergency? **Answer:** *[Answered by Tessa Sturley and Dean Eades]* Usually via Insurance. But in instances where there is no insurance, the community and philanthropic organisations may rally behind a person (or people) to help with repair or replacement costs. An example is the repair of the land in Loburn after the fire.

PROJECT GROUP REPORTS

7. Dudley Park – Zack

- Skate Park project – goal is to finish this year and then work on other projects at Dudley.

8. Enviro – Dylan La Valley and Esha-May

- Last year – River Clean-ups, planting days and the Buddies Project (soft-toy recycling)

9. WaiYouth

- Last year we held a movie night and ran cooking classes. **Question:** Are events free? **Answer:** Usually.
- As a team, we listen to what the community want and tailor events to the community's feedback.

10. Question and Answers about the Waimakariri Youth Council with the visitors:

- Noted six spots available on the Youth Council
- **Question:** What is the main focus for the Youth Council this year? **Answer:** Meeting held earlier today, to decide on what they are looking to do for the year.
- **Question:** What was the main projects last year? **Answer:** Inclusive Sports Festival, flow-on to getting the first ever dedicated Boccia courts installed (with the help of Cr Niki Mealings). The goals are set by what the Youth Council is passionate or interested in.
- **Question:** If wanting to reach out to youth in the further outskirts of the council's area, can we do something? **Answer:** Yes. The goal is to have as many different people from around the district as possible represented at the Youth Council.
- **Question:** What is Cherry's role? **Answer:** Youth Development Facilitator.
- **Question:** Who approves the ideas? Who do you promote them to? **Answer:** Youth Council decides which ideas to put forward to Council (or relevant team within the council). Sometimes it depends on Budgets, and a consultative approach is best, to allow the relevant team to provide feedback or suggestions so the idea can be implemented. An example of this is the concrete table tennis tables at Dudley Park: the ideas was taken to the Greenspace team, who then worked out the logistics of that.

- **Question:** Is the only limit the budget? Can you be as bold as possible? **Answer:** Absolutely be bold. The Playground idea for older youth: This might take another route such as a submission made to the Waimakariri District Council.
- **Question:** Is there a limit to how many big ideas? **Answer:** No limit.
- **Question:** Is it possible to use outside funders or grants to implement our ideas? **Answer:** Yes. An example is Dudley Park project. *[Zack explained how different funders/supporters/sponsors helped with the project at Dudley Park].*

[Concluding the visitor portion of the meeting, Dylan La Valley handed out The draft Youth Action Plan, with Hannah Wells explaining how much detail is in the plan and the importance of informing community groups and organisations of the plan.]

8:00pm *[Official Information Act disclaimer read – visitors thanked for attending and now to leave the meeting]*

11. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION - COUNCILLORS

a) Niki Mealings – Councillor

- Waitangi Celebrations – Mayor Dan Gordon was attending celebrations at Waitangi, and Niki spoke at the Kaiapoi Waitangi Day Celebration (it was an honour).
- Community and Recreation Committee this month:
 - Draft Youth Action Plan:** Approval for the draft Youth Action Plan to go out for consultation (very recent).
 - Libraries report:** used the mobile community van and went to Swannanoa school, and it was exceptionally popular with items being borrowed. Due to the success of the trip, the Libraries are planning other trips with the community van, to the more rural parts of the district.
 - Pegasus Youth Space:** The skate park idea is not where it is at with the youth in Pegasus. After the Woodend Community Board workshopped recreation needs taking into account the feedback, the community board recommended to the Council a distributed youth recreation space – smaller pockets of spaces and many of those spaces to be placed in and around Pegasus rather than just one big recreation space with a skate park that is not used.
- Today has been a strategic planning day. Long-term plan covers 10 years, but budget is for 3 years (planning for next year already). *[Niki shows cards with Community Plans and Strategy Plan and explained how the strategic planning feeds into these]* The council does a ‘backward pass’ from the goals set – breaking down the steps required to reach the goal. They also work out which work streams are tied into the goal. Additionally, council establishes what the priorities

of the Long-Term Plan (LTP) ought to be. The Annual Plan is out for consultation in mid-March.

1. **Question:** *[Zack]* Does the Youth Council need to make a submission on the LTP? **Answer:** If no deviation from the plan, they don't have to – according to the law - to go out and consult, but in WDC, the council still does consult the community regardless because the LTP can have considerable implications and it also gives a chance for the community to present their ideas, even if they are unrelated to the LTP.
2. Related topic – the national government has put out numerous items of proposed legislation including local government reform. The WDC makes submissions on proposed legislation that impacts either the Council or the community. Opinion is sought from the national-level government even when it is not readily understood as to why submissions are sought.

12. CONSULTATIONS OPEN

- **ECAN and transportation:** *[Cherry Burgess spoke to this]* ECAN have reached out, they they want to talk about transportation needs in rural areas. It is worth discussing with ECAN, even if previously nothing much happened. Zack spoke about the experiment Youth Council Canterbury undertook: A vehicle was driven from Oxford to University, the trip took 35 minutes, whereas a bus taken from Rangiora Townhall took 1 hour 35 minutes. Concerns about previous routes and their removal (such as Oxford) but the cost of transportation often outweighs those who need to use the service.
- **Submission on the Youth Action Plan:** After discussion and advice from Cr Niki Mealings, it was determined that the Youth Council does not have a conflict of interest in making a submission. This is because the Youth Council is not the Waimakariri District Council and also the Youth Council is not funding the Plan. Zack has been brought on as the Disability Rep. Text and formatting colours and design not user-friendly on the document (particularly for those with learning challenges, or low--vision or vision-impaired). YC will put together a submission write-up on the draft Youth Action Plan at next afternoon session. With making the document accessible: follow up through feedback already provided by Zack, and informal follow up with the team who look after the publication of the document (i.e having a plain, accessible version available online).

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Workshop planning day:** Scheduled for Term 1 School holidays, for the second week of the school holidays. Youth Council members to check with family about their availability in the Easter Break, and to let Cherry know.
- **Update on recruitment:** Applications close on 1st March. Interviews with Cherry Burgess and Co-Chairs to occur after the 1st March.
- **Social media:** Hannah is keen to look after social media for the Youth Council and Zack happy to help with this. Brief discussion held about the concern that there will be a social media ban for under 16s. There is the option the Youth Council can take any concerns about the proposed ban to the Commissioner. Key Points from that discussion:
 - Looking to see how this plays out in Australia. There is some evidence suggesting it is difficult for Social Media Companies to keep under 16s off social media, even though the law prohibits under 16s.
 - Does the focus need to shift on better management on harmful pop-ups etc?
 - Prohibition: People found ways around accessing alcohol during the prohibition. Window dressing?

Nevertheless, for now, Hannah with Zack's help will look after the Youth Council's social media.

- **National Election:** Keen to look at ways to engage youth in the election, specifically encouraging youth voting. Working with the Governance team to work out what their abilities are around that. Possible to work with the Electoral Commission, noted the Youth Council has engaged with the Electoral Commission in previous years. It might be possible to also engage with Election NZ.
- **Youth Week:** This year is 18th May – 24th May 2026. Theme: 'Our Voices Matter. We Deserve to be Heard.' Zack's idea: Could have a 2-hour segment (run by Youth) on Compass FM. It would fit well with the theme. Join the early planning stages for that. What was the best day of youth week last year? Lots of things cancelled b/c of bad weather. But music event Mcd by Aidan was great. May need to pivot to hosting events inside. Keep thinking about that. [YOUTH WEEK | Ara Taiohi](#)
- **Work plan for this year:** – 3 year work plan that Zack has started developing, then work on a 1 year plan. Would be great to involve the new recruits.

- **Fortnightly meetings:** Every fortnight in the afternoon Youth Council meet at the Silverstream room to work out the details of their ideas. This will have a positive impact on the formal monthly Youth Council meeting, as the detail of the ideas is sorted out before the monthly meetings.

Meeting closed at 8:51pm with Karakia

Next meeting Tuesday 31st March 7pm, Council Chambers

ACTIONS:

- **All Youth Council Members** – Advise Cherry of availability during the second week of the school holidays for workshop planning meeting.