

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY 18 AUGUST AT 1PM

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), B McLaren, N Mealings, S Powell, Deputy Mayor Redmond and Mayor Gordon (left 2:17pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors T Bartle, T Fulton (left 2:05 pm) and J Ward.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager) G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader), A Huang (Greenspace Landscape Planner) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

Two members of the public were present.

1 APOLOGIES

Nil.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Item 4.1 - Councillor Cairns declared a conflict of interest as he was a part of the Kaiapoi Food Forest Trust

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 16 June 2026

Moved: Councillor McLaren

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 16 June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Kaiapoi Food Forest end of Year Report – Glenn Foley

G Foley reported that the Kaiapoi Food Forest (the forest) had continued to thrive throughout the year, demonstrating significant growth and maturity. The forest now maintained green cover year-round and produced an abundant fruit harvest. Visitors, volunteers, and trustees enjoyed the wide variety of produce available, particularly the

many plum and apple varieties, which encouraged both adults and children to explore the site and engage with the concept of community food growing. Because of the challenging economic environment and reduced funding opportunities, the Trust focused its efforts on maintaining and improving the forest rather than progressing the proposed Food Forest building project.

The Trust expressed appreciation to Natalie Leary for her consistent leadership and support of volunteers undertaking weeding, pruning, and general maintenance activities. As the Food Forest entered its ninth year, a programme of repairs and upgrades had been undertaken to ensure the site remained a safe, functional, and valuable community asset. The Trust thanked C Taylor-Claude, the Council Parks Officer, for her ongoing assistance and liaison with the Council.

It was reported that, as many trees reached a more mature stage, pruning and structural maintenance became increasingly important to support healthy growth, fruit production, and accessibility. The Trust acknowledged the contributions of a wide range of volunteers, including students from the University of Canterbury, who had assisted with weeding and mulching, as well as Corrections Department work crews led by Reuben, whose ongoing support had remained invaluable. The Trust also thanked Satisfy Food Rescue for providing refreshments for volunteers.

To strengthen future financial sustainability, the Trust developed a range of grafted fruit trees for future sale and acknowledged Chris and Mark for providing space to grow these plants. The Food Forest had participated in Food Secure North Canterbury's inaugural Grow and Tell trail event, providing an opportunity to showcase the site to a wider audience and promote community engagement with local food production. The Trust reaffirmed its support for Food Secure North Canterbury and welcomed the ongoing efforts of both the organisation and the Council to establish additional food forests throughout the region.

Looking ahead, priorities included continued repairs and maintenance, strengthening volunteer involvement and educational opportunities, developing a planting plan to increase future food production, improving on-site storage facilities, enhancing community engagement, exploring additional self-funding opportunities, and reviewing health and safety processes. The Trust concluded by thanking all volunteers, trustees, supporters, educators, funders, local businesses, community groups, visitors, and Council staff whose dedication and support had contributed to another successful year for the Kaiapoi Food Forest.

Councillor Ward asked if the building included toilets, and G Foley confirmed that it included a toilet and storage.

Mayor Gordon thanked G. Foley for the update and noted that he had enjoyed visiting the Food Forest and observing the progress made.

Councillor Cairns acknowledged G Foley's leadership as Chairperson of the Trust, particularly during some challenging periods, including the work undertaken in relation to the proposed education facility. He commented that it was wonderful to see the significant contribution of volunteer labour to the Food Forest and the ongoing support provided by the Corrections Department. Councillor Cairns further noted that the success of the Kaiapoi Food Forest had contributed to the establishment of 23 other food forests, highlighting its positive impact and influence across the wider community.

5 **REPORTS**

5.1 **Provision of Natural Burials Through a 24-Month Trial at Cust-West Eyreton Cemetery** – G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader) and A Huang (Greenspace Landscape Planner)

A Huang spoke to the report, noting staff had now completed a further investigation into providing natural burials in the Waimakariri District. Staff were recommending a 24-month trial at the Cust West Eyreton Cemetery as a practical first step. This would allow staff to test demand and work through the practical and management practices before considering any longer term or wider provision across the district.

Councillor Mealings referred to the report's discussion of planting arrangements and plot capacity and asked whether the proposed layout involved circular plots with trees positioned in the centre. G Stephens explained that the concept involved circular planting areas, with the entire circle being planted. He advised that the next stage of the trial would involve staff working with Natural Burials New Zealand to develop a detailed design and determine how to implement the layout.

Councillor Mealings also queried why councils applied a premium for natural burials. A Huang advised that, while the price comparison included in the report indicated natural burials appeared to be more expensive, a standard burial also incurred the additional cost of a headstone, which was paid separately. As a result, the overall cost of a natural burial could potentially be lower than that of a standard burial.

Councillor McLaren queried whether a natural burial could be accommodated within a standard burial plot. G Stephens advised that staff could consider this as part of developing the Cemetery Management Plan.

Councillor McLaren also enquired about the proposed \$1,500 premium and asked whether staff could identify the additional cost above that of a standard burial. G Stephens explained that the natural burial option was not being viewed as a commercial opportunity. He noted that the recommended fee had been based on a review of charges applied by other councils, together with the additional planting and operational costs associated with providing the service. As the initiative was a trial, staff recommended what they considered an appropriate interim fee. Following the trial period and subsequent reporting, staff would be able to assess whether the fee level was appropriate.

Deputy Mayor Redmond questioned whether natural burials complied with the current Cemetery Management Plan. A Huang confirmed that they did.

Deputy Mayor Redmond further noted that natural burials would not include headstones and asked whether graves would be marked in any way for identification purposes. G Stephens explained that natural burial sites were typically identified by the trees planted at the location, with the Council maintaining records within its cemetery system to accurately identify the burial locations.

Councillor Fulton queried what staff expected to learn from the proposed trial. A Huang advised that a key objective of the trial was to better understand community demand for natural burials.

Councillor Fulton noted that people generally preferred to be buried in places that held significance for them and were located within their local area and questioned whether there would be sufficient interest in using the proposed cemetery.

G Stephens agreed that people selected burial plots for a range of reasons, including proximity to places of personal significance. However, he noted that the availability of a natural burial option could also be a determining factor. G Stephens explained that undertaking a trial would enable the Council to better understand community interest in natural burials, as well as the associated design requirements and ongoing maintenance costs.

Councillor Cairns requested further clarification regarding the proposed \$1,500 premium for natural burials. G Stephens advised that the fee could be adjusted in the future, either increasing or decreasing as appropriate. He explained that staff sought to establish a fee during the trial period to cover the costs associated with providing natural burials. This included allowing space for the planting of trees and other vegetation to create and maintain an area of biodiversity.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260720174500.
- (b) **Approves** a 24-month trial of natural burials at Cust-West Eyreton Cemetery.
- (c) **Notes** that if approved, staff will engage with Natural Burials NZ, at an estimated cost of \$2,500, to provide specialist advice and support throughout the planning and establishment of the natural burial area at Cust-West Eyreton Cemetery, including site assessment and certification.
- (d) **Notes** that the Annual Plan includes a budget of \$5,100 for natural burial provision, which would be available for use in the 2026/27 financial year and would support the engagement of Natural Burials NZ, including specialist advice, assessment and certification.
- (e) **Notes** that staff will continue to develop the operational arrangements required to implement and manage the natural burial trial, informed by advice from Natural Burials NZ.
- (f) **Notes** that staff will report back to the C&R Committee at the end of the trial period with results of the trial and recommendations going forward.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards for their information.

AND

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee recommends:

THAT Council:

- (h) **Approves** a fee of \$3,627.70 for a natural burial during the trial period with this fee to be reviewed at the end of the trial period.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon expressed support for the Council undertaking the natural burial trial. He commented that, for a district of its size, it was appropriate to investigate options such as natural burials. Mayor Gordon noted that, provided the process was safe and hygienic, the Council should remain open to new approaches and evolving standards. He also observed that burial and funeral service costs were high and said the Council should seek to accommodate community needs. Mayor Gordon indicated that he would welcome lower fees if feasible, although any review of costs would be best considered after the trial is complete.

Councillor Mealings commented that burial options were currently limited and noted that the community had raised natural burials with the Council as an option worth exploring. She acknowledged the potential benefits that natural burials could provide for individuals and their families. Councillor Mealings noted that the Council would ultimately determine the fee structure and advised costs should be more closely aligned with those of a standard burial. However, she considered it reasonable during the trial period to set fees at a level that ensured the associated costs were covered.

Deputy Mayor Redmond also supported the proposed trial. He noted that the current Cemetery Policy was highly prescriptive and commented that it was interesting that natural burials could be accommodated within the existing policy framework. Deputy Mayor Redmond also advised that a resident had approached him seeking approval for a natural headstone, which is not currently permitted under the policy. He suggested that the Council may need to consider reviewing the policy in the future should there be increasing community demand for a wider range of burial options.

Councillor McLaren expressed support for the motion. He noted his concern regarding the proposed premium fee for natural burials but welcomed the trial and looked forward to reviewing its outcomes.

Councillor Cairns acknowledged Lesley Hurley for initiating the matter and bringing the report before the Committee. He advised that, since the issue had been raised, he had undertaken considerable research and viewed a range of material relating to the different ways people chose to celebrate and commemorate the lives of loved ones. Councillor Cairns commented that it was encouraging to see the Council being open to exploring alternative approaches, such as natural burials, and he looked forward to future reviews of the policy relating to burials and headstones.

In his right of reply, Mayor Gordon reiterated his support for the Council reviewing the provisions relating to headstones within the Cemetery Policy. He noted that such matters could be reviewed over time to ensure the policy remained appropriate and responsive to community needs. He also commented that any opportunity to reduce costs for families would be welcomed.

The meeting adjourned for a briefing on GP Hall, Oxford from 1:41pm to 2:17pm

5.2 **Report for Information – Kaiapoi Isite move from Enterprise North Canterbury to Waimakariri Libraries** – L Sole (District Libraries Manager) and S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development)

L Sole took the report as read and advised that it related to the operational transfer of i-SITE functions, previously delivered by Enterprise North Canterbury, into the Library Service. He noted that there was a strong alignment of values between the two services, as many i-SITE users were digitally disadvantaged, older residents, or people with disabilities. Integrating the service within the library complemented the range of support and community services already provided.

Councillor Cairns noted that i-SITEs had previously sold tickets for a variety of events and enquired whether this service would continue. L Sole confirmed that staff were committed to providing the full suite of i-SITE services, including ticket sales.

Councillor Cairns further noted that businesses had previously been charged to display promotional brochures and flyers within i-SITE facilities and queried whether this practice would continue. L Sole explained that i-SITEs operated under a range of commercial models. Where i-SITE services were provided through libraries, they typically operated on a non-commercial or cost-recovery basis. Accordingly, the Council was not proposing to charge businesses for brochure display within the service.

Deputy Mayor Redmond noted that one reason the Council supported the proposal was the expectation that an enhanced level of service would be rolled out to libraries in Rangiora and Oxford. He observed that this had not yet occurred. L Sole advised that the proposal included a review of service delivery opportunities. He noted that space constraints currently limited the ability to provide a fully-fledged i-SITE service at Rangiora Library, although information centre functions were already available there. L Sole added that opportunities for service provision in Oxford would also be reviewed.

Deputy Mayor Redmond asked about the additional costs of operating the i-SITE service. L Sole advised that the primary additional cost was the software licence. He noted that existing budgets covered staffing costs.

Moved: Councillor Powell

Seconded: Councillor McLaren

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260715169968.
- (b) **Notes** that the Kaiapoi i-SITE has relocated from the Enterprise North Canterbury building in Kaiapoi to the Kaiapoi Ruataniwha Civic Centre following a decision of Council during the 2026/27 Annual Plan deliberations meeting.
- (c) **Notes** that there has been a reduction to the Economic Development Grant (GL10.484.100.2502) Enterprise North Canterbury (ENC) receives from the Council of \$90,000 as a result of moving the i-SITE service from ENC to the Waimakariri Libraries, and that there is no anticipated level of service impact of this change.
- (d) **Notes** that a reduced offering is being provided between 13 July and 31 August, while the i-site service is fully transitioned. Full i-site services will resume at the library from 31 August 2026.
- (e) **Notes** that library staff will be provided training for full i-SITE duties, with support from Tourism New Zealand.
- (f) **Notes** a review would be done in six months and reported back to the Community and Recreation Committee.

CARRIED

Councillor Powell commented that she had seen the i-SITE setup to date and believed it had been implemented well. She noted that the arrangement further reinforced the library's role as a central hub where people could access information and services. Councillor Powell expressed interest in reviewing the service after six months and acknowledged the work staff had done to progress the initiative to a point where it would become fully operational within a relatively short timeframe.

Councillor McLaren commented that integrating the i-SITE service within the library was a natural fit. He noted that visitors to the town would naturally be drawn to the library and could access all the information and assistance they required in one location.

Councillor Cairns observed that the proposal would increase service levels. He noted that, when compared with the number of people who had previously visited the standalone i-SITE, the library setting offered the opportunity to reach a much larger audience. He supported extending the service across all libraries in the district. His only concern was that library staff were already managing significant workloads, and this would add another service responsibility.

Councillor Ward supported extending the service to Rangiora Library. She commented that the atmosphere at Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre was warm, welcoming, and vibrant, making it an ideal location for the service.

Councillor Mealings noted integrating the i-SITE within the library was a natural fit and would enhance service through the library's extended opening hours. She noted that the library was an intuitive location for residents and visitors to seek information and highlighted the quality of the facility and the range of services it offered. Councillor Mealings looked forward to seeing the service become fully established.

In her right of reply, Councillor Powell reiterated her support for the initiative but noted some concerns regarding the available space within Rangiora Library and the extent to which additional services could be accommodated in the future.

6 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

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

- Kaiapoi Community Hub Play Space – The play space was now open for the public to use and enjoy. Staff received a quote to install a kerb cut to improve pedestrian access from the street. Staff would work with the contractor to programme this work in the coming weeks.
- Mandeville Sports Ground – At the 5 August 2026 Oxford-Ohoka Community Board meeting, the Board approved for the two draft concept plans to go out for public consultation, noting these were the club's plans and had been developed by the Club to establish their preferred long-term vision for the reserve. The plans were developed in response to operational challenges and future growth aspirations identified by the Sports Club and member clubs, such as access, parking, traffic circulation, site connectivity, ageing facilities, and the need to accommodate future sporting and recreational demand. The decision was to allow public consultation on the draft plans, not to approve a final plan, nor to fund, deliver, or commit Council resources to any of the projects identified within the concepts.
- Norman Kirk Park – The proposed report to the Committee in August 2026 did not proceed and it was expected that this may go forward in September 2026 subject to a meeting with the Nort Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust (NCSRT) and senior management and some elected members, in regard to NCSRT's proposal for a gym, along with the outcomes for the Events Strategy would help to clarify the park's purpose and therefore any future infrastructure investment.
- Pegasus Youth – consultation on the designs had closed, and staff were currently working through this and writing the report for the Woodend-Sefton Community Boards September meeting. This last engagement raised some concern among residents (mainly around Maungatere Reserve) about the process and generated emails to elected representatives and staff, plus approximately 60 pages of feedback to analyse. The report would present the options to the Board and discuss the feedback results, with the intent of confirming final locations for implementation. If approved, construction would happen over the summer period.
- Southbrook Park – The group had sent out its first (proposed to be regular) community engagement newsletter, updating the community on its progress. The group would have its second workshop with Sport Guidance on 26 August 2026 to put a hub governance and management structure in place. An architect had been engaged to develop a concept plan, and a first meeting had been held to advance this. The concept plan development was dependent on clarity from Rangiora Bowls

on their inclusion (or not), as this impacted the potential size of the proposed gym. The concept would be costed to enable a submission to the Long Term Plan. The working group will make a deputation to the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board on 9 September 2026 and to the Community and Recreation Committee on 15 September 2026 to update on the project's progress.

- Welcome to Woodend sign – This was installed and had received positive feedback from the community. Whitiara also informed the Council that a kaumatua saw it and shared positive feedback, which was great to hear. This design would be saved and could be rolled out once the other three entrances were confirmed and budget was available.
- Welcome to Woodend Beach sign – This was combined into the Woodend Beach Project so that there was a strong link in aesthetic between the sign and the new development. Staff met with the Rūnanga-appointed artist, who was working with the Council on designs for cultural expression through the Woodend Beach project. Staff hoped to provide the Board with a design of the proposed sign for initial feedback and approval at either the September or October meeting.
- Welcome to Woodend Beach – The Council's Project Delivery Unit were working through the tender documentation phase, including a resource consent application which was currently being processed, as well as an archaeological authority (AA). Once the consent was approved, staff should be able to put the tender out for the civil works. Because of the site's complexity and the need for consent and AA, it was unclear how long the process would take; however, staff planned to have tenders out by September 2026. Once consent was approved, staff would be in a better position to lock in timeframes and plan accordingly, as they needed to be mindful of construction periods not negatively impacting people's use of the space through the main summer period. In the meantime, staff were working to complete the required tree work and engaging with the cultural artist to progress the design work. Staff have also engaged with the Pegasus Men's Shed, which was interested in supporting the project by making specific elements such as the whare play area and musical instruments. Staff would also work with the Kaiapoi Menzshed to provide a large picnic table similar to that provided in other reserves, such as by the BMX track.
- Sefton Domain – As staff begin work to increase Council leadership for the Sefton Hall replacement project, a staff site visit to Sefton Domain would look to clarify site considerations, amenity and pavilion need to support project planning.
- Murphy Park – Staff continue to work with the Northern Bulldogs to support them around consenting matters on their existing building. A report would go to the September Community and Recreation Committee meeting and would outline their proposal to develop new amenities on their site and seek the Committee's position, given the site's location relative to the stop banks and the associated risks. Staff had a lease in final review to provide tenure certainty for the club at Murphy Park.
- Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) planning – staff have received the draft PARS strategy and spaces, and places plan for internal review. This was expected to be put to the September 2026 Community and Recreation Committee (or Council) meeting for approval to consult. Implementation planning would continue to deliver on all pillars of the strategy with the Council and PARS sector partners.
- Events and Activations – A was completed with the event manager following the Matariki event. A follow-up call with the complainant resulted in positive discussion, and she was on board with working with us to resolve issues going forward. Planning for the Town Hall Centenary events was progressing. Tickets were due to be released for the variety shows for that weekend and planning for the cocktail event was well underway. Welcome the Birds planning continued; however, they were monitoring the bird flu situation to ensure that delivery of this event remained 'in good taste' should infection rates escalate.

- Sparks Reserve naming – Progress was being made on installing a naming sign in Sparks Reserve following approval of this name at the July Rangiora-Ashley Community Board meeting.
- Play research five to twelve year olds – work had commenced to enable research with five to twelve year olds to understand their local play needs and local barriers to play to inform future play opportunity provision planning and partnerships. This work is aligned with the PARS strategy and funded by Sport New Zealand through the Council's Play Advocacy contract.
- The Design and Planning Team was currently working with developers on 17 subdivision and development consents, each of varied size and stages of the development process. Early engagement often begun at the pre-application stage, where staff work with developers to ensure a clear understanding of the Council's Levels of Service (LOS) and expectations. This included consideration of reserve size, location and function, as well as advocating for strong pedestrian connectivity, walkability, and legibility within new communities. Once applications are formally lodged, staff assess proposals against the relevant Levels of Service, Council policies, and guidelines, including the Play space Guidelines and other reserve development standards. The level of collaboration varies between developers, with some proactively incorporating Council feedback throughout the design process, while others require more detailed guidance and direction.
- Subdivision developments – following approval of development plans, staff continued to work closely with developers through the practical completion and final handover stages. This process ensures all agreed infrastructure and landscape elements are delivered to the required standard before being accepted into Council ownership. As an example, staff recently declined final handover of several planting areas within a local subdivision due to concerns about plant health and establishment. The maintenance period has since been extended by six months, giving the developer the opportunity to replant and ensure successful establishment through the upcoming spring and summer growing seasons before the assets are reconsidered for handover. Ensuring that these outcomes are achieved at the planning stage, before construction commences and residents move into new neighbourhoods, remains a key priority for the team. Taking the time to establish appropriate reserve provision, connectivity, and recreational opportunities upfront delivers lasting benefits for both current and future residents.
- Elm Green – This play space has been approved by the Board, and tender documentation is underway with the Council's Project Delivery unit. In the meantime, tenders have been received from playground providers for the play equipment, which will be reviewed and approved. This project was still on track for completion by December 2026.
- Kaiapoi entrance sign – The revised design for the Kaiapoi Entrance Signs was currently out for pricing, with prices requested from four local signage contractors. Prices will be submitted by the end of August 2026 and then reviewed by staff for approval of the final contractor. Works would begin on site a week after approval, with completion expected by the end of September 2026.
- StoryWalk Kaiapoi – the design of the panels for the new storywalk was complete, and staff were currently reviewing pricing received following a request for pricing from three suppliers. The plan is to install these before 23rd August 2026 to enable an opening event. The new storywalk signs would be installed at Rangiora and the current panels on display there will be relocated as part of this process to the Te Koro Tūaheka Reserve (Honda Forest). Over time, as each new storywalk comes online, these will circulate through the network.

Councillor Powell asked whether, once the issues causing delays to the Woodend Beach Playground Project had been resolved, an update could be provided to the community. C Brown advised that staff were still working through a number of planning matters. He noted that once these issues were resolved, staff would be able to provide the community with an update on the project and its progress.

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

- Rangiora Town Hall 100-year celebration. There would be two concerts held.
- Rangiora Museum was the only museum that had regular public speakers every month. On Sunday 23 August 2026, there was a talk on the history of how Rangiora got its street names. On 24 September 2026 at 7:30 pm, Edward Luisetti would be speaking.
- Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Museum still had concerns about their private storage archive area. Health and safety considerations were still ongoing.
- With Kaiapoi Subway having moved, the old site at the entrance to the library was owned by the Council. It was an opportune time to bring the earthquake-prone building up to code and search for new tenants.
- Pegasus Community Centre had a site visit; it was an impressive asset which would be the jewel in the crown of community facilities in the district. It was on time and under budget, with the official opening in October.
- MainPower Stadium continued to be incredibly popular with a wide range of activities including non-sport events. The roof remained a major issue; responsible parties were still discussing a solution at no extra cost to ratepayers. He noted the addition of disc golf, which had received a lot of attention and was a great addition to the circuit.

Councillor Cairns referred to the deputation received by the Committee regarding padel ball and enquired whether any progress had been made since that presentation. C Brown advised that staff were currently preparing a lease agreement, which would be presented to the Committee for consideration and approval in due course.

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

- Youth:
 - It was reported that, following the adoption of the Youth Action Plan (YAP) at the previous Community and Recreation Committee meeting, promotional videos and social media reels were being developed to support a district-wide campaign to launch the new Youth Action Plan. The launch event was scheduled for 17 September, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, at MainPower Stadium.
 - It was noted that the Ashley River Clean-up had recently been held, with approximately 30 Youth Councillors and WaiYouth members participating in the event, which continued to be a popular and well-supported activity.
 - It was further reported that the Youth Futures Employment Expo had been successfully held, attracting strong attendance and featuring more than 75 exhibitors.
- Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ):
 - It was reported that two young people had secured employment placements in recent weeks.
 - It was noted that the Weekly Job Opportunities Hub continued to attract regular attendance. Support provided through the programme included CV preparation, interview skills coaching, driver licensing assistance, and personal development support for a number of young people.
- Homelessness:
 - It was reported that the Homelessness Response Navigator Lead role had commenced with the Salvation Army, with funding provided through the Department of Internal Affairs. An application was also submitted for funding for a Pastoral Support Navigator role, which was scheduled to be considered at the organisation's September meeting.

- It was further reported that funding had been secured from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) for additional outreach support through a 12-month fixed-term position. The Salvation Army and Methodist Mission had signed a contract to deliver the service. The funding would support a Social Navigator role, working alongside the Homelessness Response Navigator Lead to assist individuals living in unsafe or inadequate housing situations.
- Welcoming Communities:
 - It was reported that work was underway on a Welcoming Week Campaign that would highlight the cultural diversity of Council staff, including those who were multilingual.
 - It was further reported that a cultural competency programme was being developed for people leaders across the District to strengthen cultural awareness, inclusion, and engagement within Council and the wider community.
- Food Resilience:
 - It was reported that, following the Food Secure North Canterbury presentation, staff were working with a range of Council business units to identify the appropriate role for Council in supporting a more food-resilient district and to confirm the initiatives already being undertaken in this area. The intention was to ensure that Council acted as an enabler and facilitator without requiring additional ratepayer-funded resources. Engagement was planned with representatives from Greenspace, Environmental Services, Civil Defence, and Strategy and Business.
 - It was further reported that Food Secure North Canterbury was planning to establish a regional Food Resilience Governance Group.
- Kaiapoi Community Hub
 - It was reported that the Kaiapoi Menz Shed had received the necessary permit for its new building and construction was well underway.
 - Staff advised that interim options for a community space in Kaiapoi were being explored. Preliminary engagement would be undertaken through Social Services Waimakariri and the Kaiapoi Community Networking Forums to better understand community needs and identify opportunities to provide a temporary community space.
- Community Resilience:
 - It was reported that Kaiapoi High School had agreed to deliver the successful “Loves Me Not” programme as part of its curriculum from 2027. The programme focused on promoting safe and healthy relationships.
 - It was further reported that the Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust had recently secured project funding for a one-year rural suicide prevention initiative. Staff were working alongside the Trust, the Rural Support Trust, and the Oxford Community Trust to support the project, which was expected to include mentoring opportunities for young farmers. Alongside this initiative, staff were also exploring the revival of a previous programme focused on nutrition, wellbeing, and life skills for young farmers. Work was additionally underway on the development of a Men’s Wellbeing Series.
 - Staff advised that another aspect of this work involved facilitating a local series of The Yarns Men gatherings. The programme aimed to create opportunities for men to connect, discuss issues affecting their lives, and support one another to improve their mental wellbeing.
 - It was noted that a recent Parenting Workshop focusing on addiction and its various forms had been attended by nearly 60 local parents, with a number of additional apologies received due to illness.

- It was reported that the Waimakariri Bike Project continued to attract strong participation at its regular Wednesday evening sessions, including during the winter months, as well as at outreach events. Plans were being explored to expand the programme and extend its reach across the District.
- Staff advised that evaluations from the recent Mini Social and Community Sector Conference, which attracted 90 registrations, indicated significant value in continuing to offer the event. Staff were currently exploring funding opportunities to support future conferences.
- Accessibility
 - It was reported that two Core Boards had now been installed at Victoria Park and Trousselot Park, providing additional recreational opportunities and supporting active use of these open spaces by the community.
- Upcoming Events
 - It was reported that the North Canterbury Disability Expo would be held on 29 August 2026, from 1pm to 3.30pm at the Rangiora High School Hall. The event would provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about available support services and explore opportunities for people with disabilities within the community.
 - It was noted that Welcome to the Birds would be held on 30 August 2026. Participants would meet at 9 am at the Annie Currie Bird Viewing Platform at the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary for a presentation by the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group, with the main event commencing at 10 am at the Waikuku Beach Hall.
 - It was reported that Welcoming Week would take place from 4 to 13 September 2026. The initiative would celebrate the connections that bring communities together by encouraging people to share their stories, cultures, and experiences. The programme aimed to foster communities where everyone felt valued, included, and at home, and to promote openness, respect, and a sense of belonging.
 - It was further noted that the Youth Action Plan Launch Event would be held on 17 September 2026, from 7 pm to 9 pm at MainPower Stadium. The event would mark the official launch of the newly adopted Youth Action Plan and promote youth engagement across the district.

Councillor Ward acknowledged the recent appointments to homelessness support roles and noted that the initiative grew out of the advisory group established in April following the homelessness forum. She advised that the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) had subsequently approached the group regarding potential support, which had resulted in funding being secured. Through a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD), additional funding had also been arranged for a second position. Councillor Ward noted that these roles would help address the needs of people who may technically have accommodation but were living in housing that was unsafe, unsuitable, or inadequate.

Councillor Ward further noted that the Social Navigator role would complement existing support services. She highlighted the Council's developing "one-stop-shop" referral approach, whereby individuals experiencing homelessness or housing hardship could be identified, referred, and either supported directly or triaged to the appropriate service provider to ensure their needs were addressed effectively.

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

- Regional Representation
 - Mayor and Council staff had a meeting with the Creative New Zealand Chief Executive.
- Art installations
 - Mainpower Stadium sculpture
 - It was reported that work on the artwork installation was progressing, with a visit planned to the artist in Amberley to view progress and capture photographs and video footage for a Facebook update to the community.
 - It was further noted that the engineering report associated with the project had yet to be completed and remained outstanding.
 - Howard Kippenberger Sculpture
 - Panels being signed off by the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust (WPAT) at its August 2026 meeting. Ongoing meetings/discussions with the artist and WPAT. Family communication in progress. Information board to be developed.
- A number of different projects being considered by WPAT including:
 - It was reported that a potential benefactor for a sculpture project in Kaiapoi had been met on site. A report was being prepared for the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board regarding a proposal to replace the existing balustrade at the southern entrance to Kaiapoi on Main North Road with pictorial panels, similar to those installed on the Williams Street bridge balustrade.
 - It was noted that an offer to create a mural for the skatepark had been received. An initial meeting had been delayed and subsequently rescheduled for mid-August.
 - It was further reported that information was being gathered regarding the proposed donation of a large Oamaru stone lizard sculpture for placement at Kaiapoi Lakes. This information would form the basis of a report to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board for consideration.
 - Staff advised that discussions were continuing regarding the painting of transformer boxes, potentially in partnership with MainPower. The project remained a work in progress.
- Public Art Asset Register still needed to be completed – Intention to focus on these once other significant projects and documentation were completed.
- Supporting Arts Organisations
 - Waimakariri Public Arts Trust:
 - It was reported that ongoing governance support continued to be provided to the organisation. Staff advised that a strategic planning session was scheduled for September 2026 to support future planning and governance priorities. It was also noted that the induction process for a new trustee had been completed.
 - Waimakariri Community Arts Council (WCAC)
 - Gallery Operating Guide and Terms of Reference for Art Collection Subcommittee now with WCAC Working Group for review. Next Music Committee Strategy meeting scheduled for 13 August 2026 to review progress to date on new processes/documentation. New Treasurer to commence next week, transfer to Xero to follow.
 - Art Collection Trust
 - Memo to Audit and Risk and Community and Recreation Committees being prepared.

- Staff meeting with the Chair to discuss project/priorities early August 2026 before inaugural meeting of the Art Collection sub-committee. Suitable storage space for artworks not on display has been identified within Rangiora Service Centre.
- Arts Strategy activation plan
 - It was reported that staff were working on a redraft of the document, incorporating feedback received from the community. Staff advised that this work remained in progress, with community input being reviewed and considered as part of the revised draft
- Public Arts framework
 - With Council Communications staff to finalise before going to C Brown for formal approval.
- Workshop pilot
 - Staff meeting with J Watson and Councillor Cairns to discuss a schedule of possible evening/weekend arts-related workshops.
- Proposed Youth Arts Week 2027
 - Staff had initial meeting with Youth Development Facilitators to discuss possibility of an arts week over the school holidays in 2027. Scheduling an initial meeting with Head of PA at Rangiora High School to discuss ideas, then other schools for joint meeting. Wai Youth/Youth Council would also be involved. Libraries to be consulted, programme to be developed.
- Video creation of community groups
 - M Foster meeting with M Cullen and Tracey Kitchingman (new WPAT trustee) to talk about WPAT Facebook reels and potential creation of a new video profiling a sample of community groups. M Cullen reviewing with staff a request to display this and temporary digital artwork displays on the TV screen on High Street.
- Survey/database
 - Survey to be drafted to arts community to reconnect/create database.
- E-newsletter/website
 - Content management plans on list to be created. Work in progress.
- Arts Incorporated Society
 - Further exploration required – what were other regions doing, how to progress.
- Arts Strategy Update report to Council.
 - To present in September/October.

6.5 **Property** – Deputy Mayor P Redmond

- Property Assets Working Group Meeting (Date 12 August 2026)
 - Kaiapoi Club Deputation
 - Kaiapoi Club provided an overview of community services and contributions and an update on the current financial position.
 - 176 Williams Street, Kaiapoi (Former Subway Premises)
 - Subway vacated the site on 24 July 2026 and returned the premises in satisfactory condition.
 - Building was now ready for seismic strengthening works (aim to lift to approx. 880% NBS)
 - Ten tenders were received for the strengthening project, with Holmes Construction recommended
 - Forecast total project cost approximately \$100,000, well below the approved \$350,000 budget.

- Construction expected to commence mid-August 2026 and take two to three months.
- Commercial leasing proposals invited from agencies, due 14 August 2026 with appointment by 21 August 2026
- Marketing campaign expected to begin late August 2026.
- Property remained on reserve land under the Reserves Act so leasing was permitted, but tenants must align with reserve purposes i.e. community-serving uses (for example cafés servicing Council facilities); however, purely commercial retail uses may face additional scrutiny.
- 1683 Cust Road, Cust - Septic Tank Failure
 - Existing shared septic system serving: FENZ building / Plunket / Cust Service Centre (garage)
 - System failing due to age, overload, and soak pit limitations.
 - Potential contamination risk existed given proximity to the Council water infrastructure.
 - No formal easements or agreements covering wastewater arrangements.
 - Access arrangements across neighbouring properties were informal.
 - FENZ had expressed interest in acquiring the building and possibly the Plunket building.
 - Options investigated:
 - ✓ Increase pump-out frequency (Higher ongoing costs but did not solve long-term problem).
 - ✓ Replace soak pit (Consent challenges likely / may trigger review of the whole system).
 - ✓ Convert existing septic tank to sealed holding tank - Recommended Option (Estimated cost: \$4,500-\$5,000 including consent / No discharge consent required / FENZ would cover future pump-out costs)
 - ✓ Install completely new wastewater treatment system (Estimated cost around \$35,000 / resource consent required with uncertain outcome).
 - Recommendation:
 - ✓ Convert existing treatment plant servicing FENZ to a sealed holding tank.
 - ✓ Engage affected parties on future wastewater arrangements.
 - ✓ Viewed as the most practical and cost-effective short to medium-term solution.
- 21 Courtenay Drive, Kaiapoi
 - Owners had approached the Council regarding a possible sale.
 - Property was one of the last privately owned sites within the former residential red zone.
 - Site area: 1,038m² with a Rateable Value of \$465,000.
 - Staff Commentary: It was reported that no current operational need had been identified by the Greenspace Unit, nor had any strategic rationale been identified by the Strategy and Business Unit for the proposed acquisition. Staff advised that removing the house would result in only minimal infrastructure savings for Water Services, while existing reserve and land management plans already accommodated the property.
 - Conclusion: It was concluded that no significant strategic, operational, or service delivery benefit had been identified that would justify proceeding with the acquisition at this time.

- Cornershop Development - 70 High Street, Rangiora
 - Update received from Murray Irvine with the project on track for completion in December 2026. A tenant mix of retail and business services is in place, with some fit-out not completed until early 2027.
- Housing Update
 - Courtenay Drive Development:
 - ✓ 18 of 20 units now occupied.
 - ✓ Heating and solar systems performing well.
 - ✓ Slip hazards caused by winter icing have been addressed.
 - ✓ Defects liability period ongoing with only minor issues identified.
- 54 Durham Street Development
 - Resource consent granted.
 - Building consent lodged.
 - Construction anticipated to commence October 2026.
 - Completion expected during 2027.
- Tyler Court Refurbishment
 - Building Consents issued for first stage (12 Units)
 - Tender process underway.
 - Refurbishment expected to take approximately 12 months.
 - Structural issues identified in some other units due to historic ground conditions.
- Occupancy / Vacancies and Waiting List
 - Current occupancy approximately 88.6% with 15 vacancies across the housing portfolio.
 - 9 vacancies are unavailable for letting due to refurbishment, fire damage or structural issues.
 - Housing waiting list remains around 40 applicants.
- Other Matters
 - Abbeyfield MOU signed with consultant procurement closing out for Reserve Management Plan nearing completion.
 - Additional housing staff appointed.
 - New lease management system expected to go live within 2 to 3 months.
 - Roughly 40 small and modest-sized acquisition and disposal projects are in progress

6.6 **Housing** – Councillor W Doody

Councillor Doody was not present to provide an update.

7 **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

8 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

9. **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act it was moved:

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Powell

That the public is excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

- 9.1 Briefing notes Community and Recreation Committee 16 June 2026
- 9.2 ICE Gym Sports North Canterbury Lease to Own Update

Item No.	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public.
BRIEFING NOTES			
9.1	Briefing notes Community and Recreation Committee 16 June 2026	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	To protect the privacy of natural persons and enable the local authority to carry out negotiations (including commercial and industrial) without prejudice or disadvantage, and maintain legal professional privilege. LGOIMA Section 7 (2)(a), (g) and (i)
REPORTS			
9.2	ICE Gym Sports North Canterbury Lease to Own Update	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	To protect the privacy of natural persons and enable the local authority to carry out negotiations (including commercial and industrial) without prejudice or disadvantage, and maintain legal professional privilege. LGOIMA Section 7 (2)(a), (g) and (i)

CARRIED

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee was scheduled for Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 1 pm in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:09PM.

Briefing

- *Mainpower Cricket Oval Future Options, Key Challenges and Recommendations – C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation)*
- *GP Hall, Oxford – C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation)*

CONFIRMED



Chairperson

15 September 2026

Date