WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UTILITIES AND ROADING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2019 COMMENCING AT 4.00PM

PRESENT

Councillor P Williams (Chairperson), Mayor D Ayers, Deputy Mayor K Felstead, Councillors R Brine (until 6.17pm), J Meyer and S Stewart.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors D Gordon, N Atkinson, W Doody, A Blackie, K Barnett, J Palmer, (Chief Executive), G Cleary (Manager Utilities and Roading), K Simpson (3 Waters Manager), B Rice (Senior Transport Engineer), J McBride (Roading and Transport Manager), G Hutchison (Wastewater Asset Manager), S Allen (Water Environment Advisor), and A Smith (Governance Coordinator)

1 APOLOGIES

An apology for departure at 6.15pm was received and sustained from Councillor Brine.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest recorded.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee held on Tuesday 19 March 2019

Moved Councillor Brine Seconded Councillor Meyer

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee:

(a) Confirms, as a true and correct record, the minutes of a meeting of the Utilities and Roading Committee held on Tuesday 19 March 2019.

CARRIED

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 DEPUTATION

5.1 Mandeville Residents Association

Present on behalf of the Mandeville Residents Association were James Ensor, Tom McBrearty, Rosina Rouse and other supporters of the Association. T McBrearty and R Rouse spoke on the Flooding and drainage sites in Mandeville, Eyreton and Swannanoa that had been identified with Council drainage staff. The feedback from Council staff had been appreciated by the
Association members T McBrearty spoke on the issues, noting that there needs to be a holistic approach and if there is to be any long term expansion plan of developing their properties or getting more domestic properties in to the area, the flooding issue has to be addressed.

R Rouse noted that about 31 sites had been visited by WDC Staff members, K Simpson, O Davies and several members Mandeville Residents Association (MRA). Information on the issues at these sites has all been documented, and included with this, is possible options, the Associations recommendations and suggested timeframe, the Council’s response to the recommendation, and final recommendation from the MRA Drainage Group. R Rouse and T McBrearty highlighted the drainage issues at these site. T McBrearty suggested that the undercurrent level is rising and suggested that if there is another 2014 rain event, there will be a lot of angry residents. It was noted that there have been discussions with Council staff on some of these matters. T McBrearty said when they brought into this area, they did not expect to have lakes forming around their house, when there is heavy rain during the winter. Residents would like a continuation of the work that Council is doing, and also for funding to be available to bring more of the work forward. D Lines noted that the 2014 rain event was significant, but there were bigger events in the late 1980s. This was prior to the subdivisions, and now the problem has become greater.

Councillor Gordon noted the significant amount of work that the residents had put into preparing the report which has only just been completed. G Cleary confirmed that this is a submission to the Council’s Annual Plan process, a staff report will come to Council in response to this with staff advice.

Councillors Blackie referred to comments that there may be alterations to drains which is impacting on water flow. The Council has a Drainage Bylaw which was reviewed in 2018, though it does not have the staff resources to monitor all drains. The best way for members of the public to advise the Council is through the Service Request system.

Councillor Stewart asked if the members of the Residents Association would be supportive of bringing forward the Council reviewing a district wide drainage rate. This is currently scheduled for 2020/21. Members agreed with this suggestion.

There was discussion on testing of water in private water supplies. G Cleary advised that there has been no previous discussion regarding the Council providing free testing of private water supplies. The Council has an allocation of $10,000 in the draft annual plan to carry out some monitoring of private water supplies. This comes under the ZIPA funding.

J Ensor confirmed the MRA will be submitting and speaking at the annual plan process and thanked the Council staff who have assisted the group.

6 REPORTS

6.1 High Occupancy Vehicle Lane and Shared Use Path Waimakariri River to Tram Road – Bill Rice (Senior Transport Engineer)

J McBride and B Rice presented this report, seeking approval from the committee to construct a High occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane and a Shared User Path (SUP) between the Christchurch Northern Motorway and the Main North Road/Tram Road intersection. NZTA are currently working on a business case and the application for funding will go to their Board on the 1st May. The HOV and SUP will both connect with similar proposals on the Christchurch Northern Arterial.
J McBride spoke to a PowerPoint presentation and provided background information on this NZTA project, with construction underway. The opening of the Christchurch Northern Corridor is due on 20 June 2020 and it is intended to have a High Occupancy Vehicle lane on this corridor feeding into Christchurch. Information on the process to date was provided, including options for a cycleway connecting with the Passchendaele Path. Several options were considered for this and each was assessed and scored considered on road safety, CPTED, directness and coherence, connectivity to other destinations, local business impacts, resident/wider community impact, operational and network impacts, ease of construction and costs and risk to the project. Explanation of the proposed layout at the Main North Road intersection and the Tram Road intersection were provided. B Rice pointed out that with all the plans these are still subject to safety audit and not yet final plans. There has been discussion with the owner of the property that is bound by the Main North Road, Tram Road and the motorway. Staff have also spoken with all the tenants who are likely to be affected. The property owner has advised that they are generally supportive of the proposed works and would like to be involved in the detailed design of the proposed works. The business tenants response has been similar, general support but all wishing to have input into the details of the layout at their accessways. All were supportive of traffic signals at the Tram Road/Main North Road intersection and also for a reduction in the speed limit, which will possibly be 60kmh.

Following a question from Councillor Atkinson, B Rice advised that the discussions had not been held with business owners who operate further down Wrights road from the intersection.

J McBride noted that the detail of the cycleway along the Main North Road and through Kaiapoi is still to be determined. There will be further workshops with the Boards and this committee on how the cycleway will link with existing connections.

Following a question from Councillor Gordon on costings, B Rice noted that there would be significant costs involved in widening the bridge at Tram Road over the Motorway and NZTA would not have considered this. Crs Gordon and Blackie both noted minimal use by pedestrians of the footpath over the bridge and suggested there could be space available for a slip lane. B Rice said this possibility would be suggested to NZTA. Mayor Ayers noted that there are footpaths on both sides of the bridge, and that the path on the south side could be narrowed to allow wider space for vehicles.

Councillor Atkinson also noted the need to accommodate the volume of traffic from Woodford Glen events, and B Rice noted that this is also being taken into account.

Councillor Barnett also noted the need to accommodate cyclists coming from the direction of Oxford on Tram Road and going into Christchurch.
THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee:

(a) Receives report No. 190403049793.

(b) Approves the construction of the proposed shared User path and roading changes within Council’s network, as shown in concept on the attached drawings (Trim 190403049854)

(c) Notes that these layouts are subject to review and safety audit, and therefore details may change

(d) Notes that, NZTA proposes to fully fund the construction of these works, and that there is no funding obligation on Council

(e) Notes that speed limits on Main North Road and Tram Road will be reviewed in conjunction with these works

(f) Notes that staff will update the Committee, all Community Boards and Council on progress of these works.

CARRIED

Councillor Meyer believes this is good progress and noted that there is potential for an increase in cyclists on the roads in this district and nationwide. Councillor Meyer also agrees with the introduction of traffic lights and this will make it safer for all road users. Councillor Meyer noted his concerns with the traffic count on Peraki Street.

Councillor Atkinson has concerns with cycle lanes being located right beside traffic lanes, and noted the potential traffic movements of trucks, and traffic from the service station. The cycleway needs to be away from the road where possible, and Councillor Atkinson suggests the Council should look at using the railway corridor for the shared path and that this would be a safer option. Councillor Atkinson would like this matter to come back to the Council for further discussion.

Councillor Blackie also would strongly advocate for the cycleway to be off the road.

Councillor Barnett supports this report and the progress is a step forward for the district. A positive aspect is this being an NZTA fully funded cycleway with no impact on the ratepayers. Councillor Barnett does have concerns with the traffic lights and the amount of straight through traffic. This is a gateway for the entire district and Councillor Barnett applauds the staff and everyone involved in the project.

Mayor Ayers noted the need for a decent flow of traffic onto the motorway during peak hours.

Councillor Williams also believes the cycle lane needs to be put on the other side of the road and supports the comments of Councillor Atkinson. Commented on the timber yard with traffic entering and exiting there, there needs to be thought given to the safety aspect of this.

Councillor Gordon would like to see a further lane included for safety reasons. This is a positive move for the district and Councillor Gordon thanked the staff for all the work that has gone on behind the scenes and this is a positive move forward.
Councillor Meyer, acknowledged the comments of Councillor Atkinson. He noted some concerns with the shared pathway along the Main North Road, but is confident that the finished product will be safe. The Council has a responsibility for this safety aspect to be accounted for. This cycleway is adding to the existing cycle ways and tracks in the district.

*At this time, the deputation from the Mandeville Residents Association was taken. Refer to Item 5.1 in the minutes, which are taken in order of the agenda.*

6.2 **Kaiapoi River – Implications of Increasing Saline Intrusions – Sophie Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

S Allen (Water Environment Advisory) and K Simpson (3 Waters Manager) presented this report. Referred to the report of Adrian Meredith from Environment Canterbury titled “Assessment of the state of a tidal waterway – the Lower Kaiapoi River (March 2018). This report in response to this, looks at the implications for our Council and our community, or increasing saline incursions. It was noted that implications are wide ranging, including ecological, social and economical.

Although these current increasing saline incursions are not as a result of sea level rises, information on strategies from the Ministry for the Environment was included with the report on possible future impacts of this. MfE guidance has a range of strategies to respond to coastal hazards. It is suggested that there needs to be the start of community discussion.

Councillor Atkinson expressed concern that there was nothing definitive in the report. S Allen noted that there needed to be some monitoring data from ECan and also some modelling of the system, and it is a complex scenario. The report indicates that this is a direction, or a trend and staff don’t have enough information to be sure.

As saline testing of the water in Kaiapoi River has only been undertaken in the last six years, it could be that the incursions were as a result of the earthquakes. Councillor Atkinson noted, possibly liquefaction was the result of the death of willow trees. S Allen said that the reason for the observed changes in the lower Kaiapoi River were most likely due to the increased saline incursions in the Kaiapoi River.

Councillor Stewart asked what things the Council could be doing to improve the situation and the community would want to see the detail on the monitoring being undertaken. How will the Council develop the recommendations into something more succinct? G Cleary noted that there are matters that the Council is already doing, for example any engineering works that the Council is doing is taking into account that it will be in a saline environment and will make an accommodation for that. Also noted that the planting along the river bank as part of the rehabilitation programme, is being done in a staged approach.

S Allen noted that there is other reports being done on this matter, and linking with climate change.

Moved Mayor Ayers seconded Councillor Williams

**THAT** the Utilities and Roading Committee

(a) **Receives** report No. 190115003326.
(b) **Notes** the strategy recommended by 3 Waters staff is for the Council is to work with the community and other management agencies to discuss response strategies, with an increasing saline environment in the lower Kaiapoi River.

(c) **Notes** that there will likely be changes to the ecology, flora and fauna which will affect local community perceptions, recreational amenity, and the visitor experience of the lower Kaiapoi River area.

(d) **Notes** that buildings and infrastructure such as stop banks and pipes will over time face an increasingly changing environment, with saline and/or tidal groundwater in the lower Kaiapoi River area.

(e) **Advocates** for further monitoring to be carried out by Environment Canterbury to assess the frequency and degree of saline intrusions to enable salinity modelling and predictions. In addition, for Environment Canterbury to determine and employ methods to monitor water quality and aquatic ecology health trends of the tidal section of the Kaiapoi River.

(f) **Circulates** this report to Council, Kaiapoi River Rehabilitation Working Party, and the Kaiapoi –Tuahiwi Community Board.

Mayor Ayers noted there are likely to be a number of variables which will contribute to the Kaiapoi River changes, and acknowledged the comment of staff on looking at the wider coastal area. Of these variables that are contributing to this issue, there are some that the Council will have no control over locally (i.e. sea level rises). The Kaiapoi River will continue to be a challenge in the future.

Councillor Blackie noted the report of Adrian Meredith was done in 2016-2017 which were drought years and the river levels were low. Since August 2017 the drought has broken and the river flows are much different. Councillor Blackie would like to see some further testing be undertaken of the current readings and to see what these are in the river now. Referring to river water flows and push back against incoming salt water, Councillor Blackie questions if the data is accurate enough but does support ongoing investigation.

Councillor Stewart proposed an amendment with an additional recommendation, that specifically focuses on mitigation and prevention methods, with the addition of recommendation (g) below:

Moved Councillor Stewart seconded Councillor Meyer

(g) **Request** a report into options, including costs of mitigating and preventing salt water intrusion into the Kaiapoi River system. Three options to include but are not limited to:

- Instigate the process to raise the minimum flows – outlined in ECan’s current state/Tipa cultural report and the ZIPA for the Kaiapoi/Silverstream and its tributaries streams – Ohoka, Cam, Cust Main Drain and Silverstream – as a matter of urgency.
- Investigate and cost the operation of the existing Cam River flood gate as a tide gate to prevent salt water intrusion up the Cam River and provide a flushing effect of fresh water into the Kaiapoi River
- To cost a tidal/flood barrage on the Waimakariri/Kaiapoi Rivers confluence
- And any other mitigation options
Councillor Stewart noted that the mitigation possibilities were discussed at the Kaiapoi River Rehabilitation subcommittee meeting. Noted that what was discussed at this meeting was not reflected in this report. The community does not accept that the Kaiapoi River is going to turn into a saltwater estuary. Councillor Stewart noted that there is significant investment in the Kaiapoi, with a desire that the river is a focus for the town. Believes that the Council needs to focus on some measures that can be investigated and costed and not just sit back and watch what is happening. This is in addition to the recommendations in the report and urges members to support this.

Councillor Meyer said the Council has a responsibility to look after the river and there needs to be something done for the flows in the Kaiapoi River, Ohoka Stream, Cam River and Cust Main Drain. Councillor Meyer would not feel right if something was not done to improve the current situation and it is very important for the district to get this right. Councillor Meyer spoke on the shutting of the flood gate to stop the salt water going up the Cam River. It was pointed out that this flood gate had not been closed for a long time. He suggest that closing this should be tried to see if will work, as it would provide enough pressure of water flow to stir up the water to push the saltwater out.

Councillor Barnett acknowledges the concerns of others around the council table, especially the Kaiapoi members and also acknowledged that the Kaiapoi River is an icon of the district and well loved. She noted that the current recommendations covers the intent of the amendment. Referring to recommendation (e), Councillor Barnett noted concerns that this would send a signal to the Kaiapoi community that this could fix the issue right now and she doesn't believe this is the case. Councillor Barnett also has concerns this would impose extra rating on the community. Though not able to vote, Councillor Barnett would not support this amendment.

Mayor Ayers said this recommendation is beyond the scope of the report before the committee and the matters raised in this amendment are not raised in this report. The Draft Annual Plan process is the time for this to be discussed, on how the Council spends money in support of the ZIPA. There are multiple variables as noted in the staff report and so there could be many options.

Councillor Atkinson supports the recommended amendment which “requests a staff report and options including costs” and believes this should be looked at. This is an addition to give people some focus going forward, and provides clarification. The original motion still stands and there is no harm done by this additional recommendation. Although not part of this committee, Councillor Atkinson urges members to support it.

Councillor Felstead asked if staff had the expertise to answer these questions and if not, what price would it cost for consultants to produce a report. G Cleary said Council does not have the expertise in house to carry out a report of this nature and would need to get some external advice on what is requested in this amendment (g). To get a high level of confidence on the costing and to look at all of the mitigation options, it could be tens of thousands of dollars at the least. This would be fairly substantial work and G Cleary’s recommendation would be that it be done in a staged manner. G Cleary noted that there is a lot of uncertainty on what is causing the saline intrusion. G Cleary advised that there is not funding in the current budget to do the work that is requested today.

The amendment was then put

Moved Councillor Stewart seconded Councillor Meyer
(g) Request a report into options, including costs of mitigating and preventing salt water intrusion into the Kaiapoi River system. Three options to include but are not limited to:

- Instigate the process to raise the minimum flows – outlined in ECan's current state/Tipa cultural report and the ZIPA for the Kaiapoi/Silverstream and its tributaries streams – Ohoka, Cam, Cust Main Drain and Silverstream – as a matter of urgency.
- Investigate and cost the operation of the existing Cam River flood gate as a tide gate to prevent salt water intrusion up the Cam River and provide a flushing effect of fresh water into the Kaiapoi River.
- To cost a tidal/flood barrage on the Waimakariri/Kaiapoi Rivers confluence.
- And any other mitigation options.

LOST

A division was called
For Councillors Stewart and Meyer
Against Mayor Ayers, Councillors Felstead, Brine and Williams

The original motion was then put and subsequently became the substantive motion..

Moved Mayor Ayers seconded Councillor Williams.

THAT the Utilities and Roading Committee

(a) Receives report No. 190115003326.
(b) Notes the strategy recommended by 3 Waters staff is for the Council to work with the community and other management agencies to discuss response strategies, with an increasing saline environment in the lower Kaiapoi River.
(c) Notes that there will likely be changes to the ecology, flora and fauna which will affect local community perceptions, recreational amenity, and the visitor experience of the lower Kaiapoi River area.
(d) Notes that buildings and infrastructure such as stop banks and pipes will over time face an increasingly changing environment, with saline and/or tidal groundwater in the lower Kaiapoi River area.
(e) Advocates for further monitoring to be carried out by Environment Canterbury to assess the frequency and degree of saline intrusions to enable salinity modelling and predictions. In addition, for Environment Canterbury to determine and employ methods to monitor water quality and aquatic ecology health trends of the tidal section of the Kaiapoi River.
(f) Circulates this report to Council, Kaiapoi River Rehabilitation Working Party, and the Kaiapoi –Tuahiwi Community Board.

CARRIED

Councillor Atkinson noted that there is nothing in the report which is definitive. The Council needs to make sure that this river has some attention and
acknowledged comments of Councillor Meyer, that it will be ten years before there are any increasing the minimum flow requirements.

Councillor Stewart supports the recommendation in this report and for staff to focus their attention on identified response strategies. Councillor Stewart said the Council has a responsibility to the Kaiapoi population who have invested millions of dollars to making the river a feature of the community and to encourage people to enjoy the river. The report of Adrian Meredith predicts low flows, algal blooms, sea lettuce and this is not acceptable. The response strategies need to focus on exploring a solution. The three suggested options have come up several times in community discussions and were part of the discussion at the Kaiapoi River Rehabilitation subcommittee meeting. Council needs to focus on response strategies with urgency.

7 MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMUNITY BOARDS

Nil

8 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

8.1 Roading – Councillor John Meyer
8.2 Drainage and Stockwater – Councillor Sandra Stewart
8.3 Utilities (Water Supplies and Sewer) – Cr Paul Williams
8.4 Solid Waste– Cr Robbie Brine

Portfolio updates were held over until the following meeting of the Committee.

9 QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

10 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no urgent general business.

11 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Moved Mayor Ayers seconded Councillor Felstead

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:
This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) 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 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No</th>
<th>Reason for protection of interests</th>
<th>Ref NZS 9202:2003 Appendix A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>Protection of privacy of natural persons</td>
<td>A2(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To carry out commercial activities without prejudice</td>
<td>A2(b)ii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.25pm.

CONFIRMED

__________________________
Chairperson

__________________________________________
Date