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**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

10 May 2024

Record No: 24123970
File Ref: D050-001-02
Ask For: Mike Porter

Notice of Council Meeting – Thursday, 16 May 2024

Notice of the Council Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on Thursday, 16 May 2024 to commence at 9.00 am.

BUSINESS

As per Order Paper attached.

**MARK WHEELER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**Order Paper for the
COUNCIL MEETING
to be held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 16 MAY 2024 commencing at 9.00 am**

Open Meeting

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Marlborough District Council

**Order Paper for the
COUNCIL MEETING**
to be held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 16 MAY 2024 commencing at 9.00 am

1. Karakia

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa
E te Atua tō mātou Kai-hanga,
ka tiāho te maramatanga me te ora, i āu kupu kōrero,
ka tīmata āu mahi, ka mau te tika me te aroha;
meatia kia ū tonu ki a mātou
tōu aroha i roto i tēnei huihuinga.
Whakakī a matou whakaaro ā mātou mahi katoa,
e tōu Wairua Tapu.
Āmine.

God our Creator,
when you speak there is light and life,
when you act there is justice and love;
grant that your love may be present in our meeting.
So that what we say and what we do may be filled with your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

2. Apologies

3. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 April 2024
(Minute Nos. Cncl-0424-354 to Cncl-0424-365)



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Marlborough District Council
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2024 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

The Mayor N P Taylor (in the Chair), Cllrs S R W Adams, S J Arbuckle, A R Burgess, J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, B G Dawson, B A Faulls, G A Hope, B J Minehan, J C Rosene and T P Sowman.

In Attendance

Mr D G Heiford (Acting Chief Executive), Ms G M Ferguson (Consents & Compliance Group Manager), Mr M F Fletcher (Manager Strategic Finance) and M J Porter (Democratic Services Manager).

Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia.

Cncl-0424-354 Iwi Committee Representatives -

The new Iwi Committee Representatives (Dawn McConnell – Assets & Services Committee; Ruihana Smith – Environment & Planning Committee; and RaNae Niven – Economic, Finance & Community Committee) were welcomed to Council by the Mayor and Councillors.

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 9.35 am and reconvened at 10.00 am.

Apologies

Cllrs Faulls/Minehan:

That the apologies for absence from Cllrs J A Arbuckle, M R K Flight and R J Innes be received and sustained and the apology for non-attendance from Mr M S Wheeler be noted.

Carried

Cncl-0424-355 Declaration of Interests -

Members were reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

A number of declarations were noted in the agenda:

- The various interests as declared under Minute Nos. Cncl-0224-258;
- The interest as declared under Minute No. EFC-0324-336 (Minute No. EFC-0324-338).

Cncl-0424-356 Confirmation of Minutes -

The Mayor/Cllr Croad:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 February 2024 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0224-258 to Cncl-0224-312) be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

Cncl-0424-357 Confirmation of Minutes -

The Mayor/Clr Sowman:

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 21 March 2024 (Minute Nos. Cncl-0324-349 to Cncl-0324-350) be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

Committee Reports

Cncl-0424-358 Environment & Planning Committee -

Clrs Hope/Fauls:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. E&P-0324-317 to E&P-0324-335 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0424-359 Economic, Finance & Community Committee -

Clrs Croad/S Arbuckle:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. EFC-0324-336 to EFC-0324-348 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0424-360 Regional Transport Committee -

Clrs Adams/Dawson:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. RTC-0324-313 to RTC-0324-316 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0424-361 Regional Transport Committee -

Clrs Adams/Dawson:

That the Committee report contained within Minute Nos. RTC-0324-351 to RTC-0324-353 be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

Cncl-0424-362 Fast-Track Approvals Bill L150-019-R01

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to approve a Council submission on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill. The proposed submission was circulated separately to the agenda (filed in CM – Record No. 2495296).

Ms Ferguson reported that the Fast-Track Approvals Bill was introduced to Parliament on 14 March 2024. The purpose of the proposed Act is to provide a fast-track decision-making process that facilitates the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. The closing date for submissions on the bill is 19 April 2024. No changes to the submission were made at the meeting.

Clrs Croad/Dalliessi:

That Council approve the proposed submission on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill.

Carried

Cncl-0424-363 2024-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document

F230-L24-03

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to adopt Council's 2024-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document. The Consultation Document was circulated separately to the agenda (filed in CM – Record No. 2495540).

Members commended those involved in a clear concise and professional document. It was noted that some minor edits may need to be made to the Document prior to publishing.

Clrs Croad/Minehan:

That Council adopt its 2024-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document, noting that minor edits may be made.

Carried

Cncl-0424-364 2024-34 Long Term Plan Supporting Information

F230-L24-03

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to agree that the documents listed (in the resolution below) form the supporting documentation for Council's 2024-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document. Some the documents were circulated separately to the agenda (filed in CM – Record No. 2493121).

The Mayor/Clr Croad:

That Council agree that the following form the supporting documentation for Council's 2024-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document.

- **Council's 26 February Budget Meeting Agenda including attachments;**
- **The minutes of Council's 26 February Budget Meeting;**
- **Draft Statement of Contributions to Decision Making Processes by Māori;**
- **Draft Assumptions;**
- **The Draft 2024-2054 Infrastructure Strategy (when all graphs included);**
- **The Draft Financial Strategy;**
- **Draft unaudited Financial Statements for the 2024-34 period; and**
- **Draft Financial Impact Statements for Council as a whole and for each Activity Group.**

Carried

Cncl-0424-365 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

The Mayor/Clr Adams:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- **Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes**
- **Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections)**
- **Property Purchase**
- **Land Purchase**

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:

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
Property Purchase Land Purchase	To enable the Council, as holder of the information, to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) provided for under Section 7(2)(i)	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Carried

The meeting closed with a karakia at 11.10 am.

Confirmed this 16th day of May 2024

N P TAYLOR
MAYOR

Record No. 24111802

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Assets & Services Committee

Assets & Services Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2024
(Minute Nos. A&S-0424-366 to A&S-0424-374)

**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
ASSETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cirs J C Rosene (in the Chair), B G Dawson, S R W Adams, J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, M R L Flight, Mayor N P Taylor and Dawn McConnell (Iwi Representative)

Also Present

Cirs J A Arbuckle, S J Arbuckle, G A Hope, B J Minehan and T P Sowman

In Attendance

Mr Richard Coningham (Manager – Assets & Services Department) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

Cirs Rosene/Dawson:

That the apology for non-attendance from Cirs R J Innes and B A Fallis be noted.

Carried

A&S-0424-366 Declaration of Interests -

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: David Craig, Finance & Information Supervisor, was present for the following item.

**A&S-0424-367 Financial Report for the year to 29 February 2024
F275-001-02**

The Financial Report for the Assets and Services and Property and Community Facilities (including parking) Departments for the year to 29 February 2024 was presented to members.

Members were advised that through the combined activities of the two departments there is an actual operating surplus of \$5.6M which is unfavourable to budget by \$9.0M. This was through total revenues of \$89.9M which were unfavourable to budget by \$21.1M due to roading subsidies for operational costs of \$7.7M and roading subsidy on capex of \$14.23M. This was largely due to the reduced emergency reinstatement renewals and also some of the renewal programme within the general roading activities. There is also favourable government grants of \$1.61M.

Operating expenditure was \$84.3M favourable to budget by \$12.1M and that was through roading emergency reinstatement of works \$9.55M flood damage repairs predominantly within the rivers and drainage activity of \$2.61M and favourable seal pavement maintenance \$1.37M.

Capital expenditure of \$32.5M is 33% of the total funded programme for 2023-24 of \$98.6M. This is slightly ahead of last year's total capital expenditure for the same period.

The capex spend was in water supply \$8.2M, the predominant programme within that is the Renwick Water Treatment, Roads and footpaths renewals programme of \$7.4M, community facilities \$7.4M predominant projects are the hockey turf and the new pavilion. Sewerage activity is \$8.4M and is largely the relining of the earthenware sewer pipes in both Picton and Blenheim.

Members were advised that much of the required information has been obtained through the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process, which is currently underway. The year end operating surplus is forecast to increase by \$18.3M to \$42.2M through a combination of reduced revenue of \$14.9M (roading subsidies) and reduced expenditure of \$33.2M (emergency reinstatement works and flood damage).

It was noted that the operating surplus is not a cash surplus as it includes non-cash items, such as vested assets, and other revenues which are specifically dedicated to funding capital expenditure (development contributions, reserve fund contributions etc). The capital portion (or principal repayments) of loans are also funded from the operating surplus.

Forecast capital expenditure is \$96.4M, which is \$2.2M below the 2023-24 Annual Plan budget and includes \$32.2M of capitalised emergency reinstatement renewals.

A significant change has been made to forecasting for emergency reinstatement expenditure. The total budgeted amount for 2023-24 is \$54.45M of which \$34.45M is for operating expenditure and \$20M for renewal expenditure. The total emergency works expenditure for the current year is now forecast to be \$35.84M. The remaining works will be re-budgeted over the next two years.

Mr Craig noted that at the present time Council's emergency reinstatement costs are largely included in the operating expenditures and in order to meet the changes that have been made in the Long Term Plan a large proportion of those costs are going to be moved into the renewals activities which will reflect the renewal of assets that have been impaired or written down in previous revaluations. The changes will be made in time for the next financial report.

Cirs Dawson/Dalliessi:
That the financial report for the period 29 February 2024 be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Jane Tito, Council's Manager, Parks & Open Spaces, was present for the following two items.

A&S-0424-368 Responsible Camping – End of Season Report R510-005-05

Ms Tito noted that the purpose of the report was to provide members with an update on information obtained from the 2023-24 responsible camping season in Marlborough.

It was noted that since December 2019, Council has engaged a contractor to manage the monitoring and enforcement of responsible camping in Marlborough during the peak freedom camping period of 1 December to 31 March.

Members were advised that the total vehicle numbers recorded for the 2023-24 reporting period was 11,123. This is an increase of approximately 35% when compared to the 2022-23 reporting period. It was noted that the vehicle numbers recorded in 2019-20 were 22,127 (pre-covid) and were administered under a different Bylaw with 13 approved freedom camping sites. The current bylaw provides for 11 sites.

Ms Tito advised there were very few complaints this reporting period and no infringements were issued. The area where the most complaints came from was the Wairau Diversion, this was mainly due to campers parking outside of the freedom camping site and at times parking along private roads. It was noted that the Marlborough District Council's Responsible Camping and Control Bylaw 2022 focuses on compliance and education for all freedom campers.

It was raised whether there was any value metric data available on the spend over this period. Ms Tito will confirm with Council's Manager, Strategic Planning & Economic Development whether that information is available.

Cirs Rosene/Croad:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Linda Craighead, Council's Parks & Open Spaces Planner, was present for the following item.

**A&S-0424-369 Hearing of Submissions on Tree Policy
R510-014-019-05**

Ms Craighead noted that the purpose of the report was to decide on the establishment of a hearing panel to consider and make recommendations on the submissions on the Council's Tree Policy.

It was reported that the Draft Tree Policy was reviewed in late 2023 and notified for submissions in January/February 2024. Six submissions were received and several submitters wish to speak to their submission.

To hear those submissions the following Councillors were nominated for the Hearing panel – Cirs Jonathan Rosene, David Croad and Sally Arbuckle.

Cirs Adams/Dawson:

1. **That Council appoint Councillors Jonathon Rosene, David Croad and Sally Arbuckle to a hearings panel to hear and make recommendations on submissions received on the Tree Policy.**
2. **That Councillor Jonathan Rosene be appointed as the Chairperson of the panel.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Charlotte Campbell-Lamerton, Multi Modal Advisor to MDC, was present for the following item.

**A&S-0424-370 Trial Extension of Picton Bus Service to include
a Saturday Service R800-003-003-01**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to seek approval of a proposed trial extension to the Picton Bus Service to include a Saturday.

It was reported that from June 2023 the trial Picton Bus Service has been occurring on weekdays with a steady increase in the number of passengers using the service. Following the opening of the new Blenheim library – Te Kahu o Waipuna, requests have been fielded by Councillors, Marlborough District Council Staff, and at Marlborough Roads, for the Picton bus service to be extended to include a weekend day, with the bus stopping directly outside Te Kahu o Waipuna.

Members were advised that the estimated cost for the additional trial service is \$13,504.40 and can be funded from existing budgets.

An analysis of the service, similar to what has been undertaken in the past, will be conducted and results reported back after the 12-month period.

In response to a query on whether there were likely to be any budget implications given that Waka Kotahi hasn't determined its budget settings. Mr Coningham noted that it is a trial service and the amount required is relatively small in terms of the roading budget. Council is still seeking clarification from Waka Kotahi on their budget settings but there is sufficient budget to cover the costs for the full trial.

It was reported that there will be a media release which will highlight that it is a 'trial'.

Cirs Dawson/Adams:

That the Council approves the implementation of a trial Saturday Picton bus service for a period of 12 months to be funded from existing budgets.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mark Lucas, Council's Solid Waste Manager, was present for the following three items.

A&S-0424-371 Increase to Kerbside Collections Area C315-21-077-0

Mr Lucas noted that the purpose of the report was to present the recommendation of the Hearing Sub-Committee in relation to the increase in the kerbside collection to include the Marlborough Ridge, Fairbourne Drive, Fairhall, Old Renwick Road from Waipuna Street to Hammerichs Road, Hammerichs Road to Rapaura Road, 88 Dillons Point Road and 211, 215 and Middle Renwick Road.

It was reported that during the original consultation process for the kerbside collection some residential areas were not included as they were not part of the current kerbside collection. Council agreed to consult with residents in these areas regarding increasing the kerbside collection area. Consultation has been completed and the sub-committee has recommended that the additional areas be included.

In response to a query on whether there would be scope in the future to include additional areas/communities. Mr Lucas advised there would be scope to add additional areas, however, there may be an increase in costs due to an increase in waste volumes.

Cllrs Croad/Dalliessi:

That Council approve the sub-committee's recommendations to expand the kerbside collection area to include Marlborough Ridge, Fairbourne Drive, Fairhall, Old Renwick Road from Waipuna Street to Hammerichs Road, Hammerichs Road to Rapaura Road, 88 Dillons Point Road and 211, 215 and Middle Renwick Road.

Carried

A&S-0424-372 Waste Fees and Charges W300-006-008-14

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to seek approval to implement the proposed waste fees and charges from 1 July 2024. Details of waste fees and charges were attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Mr Lucas advised that the annual review of waste fees and charges has been completed. The outcome of the review is that an increase in landfill gate fees is proposed. The reason for the proposed increase is due to the changes in the waste disposal levy and aftercare/reserve provisions at the regional landfill site. Contract cost escalations for the transfer stations and the kerbside collections are also contributing factors. Cost recovery for these increases is via increased gate fees, and amendment to the kerbside refuse collection targeted rate.

Mr Lucas noted that if we are to reduce waste to landfill, increase the life span of the landfill and reduce our greenhouse gas liability, we need to look at further initiatives and assess their viability. It was noted that there are several waste diversion initiatives currently being worked on, namely a feasibility study to divert all organics from the landfill, polystyrene compactor, upgrades to the Resource Recovery Centre to increase sorting line capacity and reselling construction waste.

It was noted that if we can divert all the organic waste and construction and demolition waste from the landfill we can reduce the total volume by an estimated 50% of the current 66,000 tonnes. This would double the life of the landfill and reduce the ETS liability to almost zero.

Members were advised that with the removal of the current Council rubbish bag system, it is proposed that a new charge is introduced for the deposit of non-council plastic rubbish bags. This rate would only be used for bags up to 60 litres and weighing up to 15kg and is only available for the disposal of domestic waste. This rate would be set at \$3.00 per bag and would be consistent at every transfer station in Marlborough. It was noted that disposal of Council bags will remain free.

Mr Lucas noted that Waste Acceptance Evaluations (WAE) currently incur no charge for the service with Council covering all costs. It is proposed that if these evaluations are completed in house and no consultant is used there would continue to be no charge to the applicant. If consultants are used the applicant would be charged the actual costs incurred by Council, as invoiced by the consultant. The actual cost is totally dependent on the complexity and time spent to complete the application.

Clr Dalliessi/The Mayor:

1. **That Council implements the updated waste fees and charges with effect from 1 July 2024.**
2. **That Council recovers all costs associated with an increase in the waste disposal levy, landfill aftercare/reserve provisions, and contract escalations from user pays (gate fee) contributions and an amendment to the kerbside refuse collection targeted rate.**

Carried

A&S-0424-373 Use of Closed Landfill Sites for Commercial Use W300-005-011-10

Mr Lucas noted that the purpose of the report was to seek approval in principle to conduct further discussions in relation to leasing closed landfill sites to private companies to use for the purpose of storing and recycling of waste.

Members were advised that Marlborough has been identified as a region that is desirable for a number of recycling industries to move to and deal with the waste streams that we currently have. As with everything in our region, land is at a premium and this is a continued problem for these industries. Making our closed landfill sites available for these industries could help divert waste from the landfill.

Members were advised that Council would not be bound at this stage into an agreement without further investigation. Also noted was that as these sites are considered contaminated, all consent conditions would need to be considered in conjunction with the RMA and NES requirements before any proposal was approved. The use of the sites would require management around the greenhouse gas emissions, but this would be considered as part of any proposal. The Council owned Resource Recovery Centre is an example of a building design that can mitigate/eliminate the risk of gas build up from these sites. The lease agreement and subsequent income, for the sites, would be used to offset the current cost to monitor and maintain the sites.

Mr Lucas noted that this proposal has no risk or cost to the Council at this point, it is just a request to allow discussions to commence.

Clr Croad moved the recommendation but prior to being seconded The Mayor proposed that point two be amended to better manage the process and provide an end point. The Mayor then proposed that *'and to bring any proposals back to Council for a decision'* be added.

In response to a query on whether the amendment would not create unnecessary delays for any prospective businesses, the Mayor assured members that it wouldn't as Council could call an Extraordinary meeting if required. Members were supportive of the amendment and the substantive motion was put.

The Mayor/Clr Adams

1. **That Council give an agreement in principle to engage with companies that wish to lease closed landfill sites for the purpose of operating their company.**
2. **That Council delegate authority to the Chair Assets and Services, Chief Financial Officer, and Assets & Services Manager to manage the process moving forward and to bring any proposals back to Council for a decision.**

Carried

A&S-0424-374 Information Package -

Clr J Arbuckle requested that information be provided to the Committee on any increase in tree numbers that need to be re-established as a consequence of the drought.

Clrs Croad/Rosene:

That the Assets and Services Information Package dated be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 10.08 am.

Record No. 24112900

5. Committee Reports

5.2 Environment & Planning Committee

Environment & Planning Committee Meeting held on 18 April 2024
(Minute Nos. E&P-0424-375 to E&P-0424-386)

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE**
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2024 commencing at 9.00 am

Present

Clrs G A Hope (in the Chair), B A Fauls (Deputy), S A Arbuckle, R J Innes, B J Minehan, T P Sowman, Mr S Harvey (Rural Representative), Mr R Smith (Iwi representative)

Present via Teams

Clrs A R Burgess

Also Present

Clrs S R W Adams, J A Arbuckle and J D N Croad

In Attendance

Mr H R Versteegh (Environmental Science and Policy Group Manager) and Ms G Ferguson (Consents and Compliance Group Manager), and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

Clrs Hope/Minehan:

That the apology for absence from The Mayor be received and sustained.

Carried

E&P-0424-375 Declaration of Interests -

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: Katie Littlewood, Council's Principal Coastal Scientist, was present for the following two items and Robyn Dunmore, SLR Consulting was present via Teams for the following item.

**E&P-0424-376 Changes to Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sound Subtidal
Reefs after Marine Heatwaves and Storm Events**
E325-000-002

Ms Littlewood noted that the purpose of the report was to present information to the Committee on changes to subtidal reef habitats in outer Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sounds. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24113792)

Ms Littlewood noted that the reef monitoring occurs in outer Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sound as part of marine farming resource consent requirements. The reefs are located in high-flow environments, and are characterised by notable biological communities (e.g., sponges, macroalgae, tube worm mounds).

Members were advised that the reef monitoring has occurred annually since 2015. The recent monitoring has shown that reef communities have undergone distinct changes, some of which are likely due to intense marine heatwaves and storm events that have occurred in recent years. The changes have included declines in habitat-forming macroalgae and tubeworm mounds, filamentous algal growth on sponges and increases in echinoderm numbers (kina, sea stars).

It was reported that the Marlborough Sounds has experienced significant water temperature increases in recent years, in a large part due to the persistent marine heatwaves documented in the Cook Strait. In 2022 the average temperature in Te Hoiere was 15.7C and peaked at 20.4C, highlighting an average temperature increase of 0.7C over 8 years.

Members were advised that these findings highlight the negative effects of climate change (in particular, the increased frequency and intensity of marine heatwaves and storm events) on our coastal biodiversity and aquaculture industry.

Cirs Innes/Sowman:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Jorgia McMillan, Council's Coastal Scientist, was present for the following item.

E&P-0424-377 The Importance of Seagrass on Estuary and Intertidal Health E325-000-002

Ms McMillan noted the purpose of the report was to inform the Committee on the importance of seagrass on estuary and intertidal health in the Marlborough Sounds. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24113791).

It was reported that seagrass (*Zostera muelleri*) carries out a number of important ecosystem functions including providing habitat for fish, shellfish and other marine species by way of trapping sediment and stabilizing the ocean floor, as well as carrying out nutrient recycling which in turn improves coastal water quality. Seagrass also acts as a buffer between land and sea and can help minimise the effects of land based activities on intertidal health.

It was reported that Council's estuary monitoring programme, created by Salt Ecology in 2022, has shown there are areas in the Marlborough Sounds that have healthy and productive intertidal areas, with mass abundance of seagrass such as Umungata Bay, Fence Bay and Mistletoe Bay. While there are some areas with lower seagrass extent including Kaiuma Bay, Mahakipawa Arm and Ohinetaha.

Over the 2023/2024 summer months, the Coastal Science team have mapped over 20 of Marlborough's estuaries. The team are now analysing the data and compiling a report for the committee on the state of these estuaries, which will be presented to the committee later this year.

In response to a query from Mr Smith in regard to the rimurehia (seagrass) and whether signage could be installed to raise community awareness as a taonga. Ms McMillan advised that Council currently isn't but that signs are on the plan for the next financial year. It was also noted that the recent funding increase toward coastal restoration will enable the team to better educate landowners and community groups and create awareness around the benefits of seagrass and the importance of utilizing nature-based solutions to combat climate change.

Members were advised that Council and Salt Ecology will continue to monitor seagrass in Te Hoiere/Pelorus and Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound as part of Council's estuary monitoring programme.

Cirs Innes/Fauls:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Ms Nic Dann, Council's Regional Catchment Facilitator, was present for the following item.

E&P-0424-378 Catchment Facilitation

E355-021-005

Ms Dann noted the purpose of the report was to present information to the Committee on the workflows around implementation of the Essential Freshwater fund following Government's recommended 'light touch' request. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24113789).

Members were advised that the Regional Catchment Facilitator position, along with a policy position has been funded by the Ministry of Environment for the past 18 months, with funding expiring 1 July 2025. The education aspect of these deliverables has included the coordination of website resources contained within Marlborough Rural Hub, as well as specific Freshwater Farm Plan (FWFP) pages and general media communications. There are also links to fact sheets which are able to be updated if any regulations change in the near future. Other sources of education and information sharing have included a series of FWFP public meetings for targeted catchments, rural support organisations as well as NZWine industry professionals.

It was reported there are some constraints and one is that the order in Council for the Marlborough Freshwater Farm Plan sequence has currently been placed on hold until ministers decide what formal direction the system will take. This means that Council's first catchment that was to roll out on 1 July will be pushed back to a later date.

It was noted that as a result of the Council being directed to take a light touch on implementation until formal ministerial direction is received the FWFP meetings have been rescheduled to spring this year. Certifier training has also been postponed for a later date.

Ms Dann noted that Council is in a very good position to pivot and respond to any central government changes in the near future.

Cirs Hope/Faults:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Andrew McAlister, Trustee, and John Hellstrom, Chair, Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust were present for the following item.

E&P-0424-379 Wild Ungulate Management in the Marlborough Sounds

E315-005-027-01

Mr McAlister provided members with an update on the recent community-led initiative being delivered by and through the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust (MSRT) targeting the high number of wild ungulates [deer, pigs, goats] in the Marlborough Sounds. (Presentation filed in CM Record No. 24113788).

To date, MSRT have facilitated and delivered seven operations spanning Whatamango Bay, Inner Queen Charlotte Sound, Outer Queen Charlotte Sound, Mt Cawte, Maud Island, Blumine Island and Arapaoa Island Scenic Reserve. The latter operations were predominantly working with the Department of Conservation. In total, these operations covered 13,000ha and removed 2,830 feral animals.

The Trust has received DOC funding through the Wild Animal Control framework to write an Ungulate Management Strategy for the Sounds. The strategy would involve having wider conversations with Iwi, recreational hunters, landowners and crown agencies to discuss what needs to be done to reduce the ungulate population and their detrimental effect on the Sounds environment. A detailed evaluation programme would be built into the strategy which would be Sounds wide. The Trust has a year to complete the strategy.

Cirs Faults/Hope:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr J Arbuckle withdrew from the meeting at 10.30 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Charlotte Tomlinson, Council's Environmental Scientist – Hydrology, and Mr Peter Davidson, Council's Senior Environmental Scientist – Groundwater were present for the following item.

E&P-0424-380 Marlborough Drought Update - Autumn 2024
E345-007-001

Ms Tomlinson provided members with an update on drought conditions and the current state of water resources. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24113786).

It was noted that on 14 March the government had classified drought conditions in the Top of the South as a medium-scale adverse event and the Top of the South Drought Committee has met for a second time.

Ms Tomlinson advised that the recent rainfall event was widespread throughout the region and soil moistures have risen, however, rivers for an annual total are low. Aquifers have somewhat recovered but will need more rainfall events for a full recovery.

Members were advised that the outlook ahead is that the El Nino conditions are returning to neutral conditions by June and there is not really a clear outlook beyond that but neutral conditions are a good sign in terms of dry weather. The 35 day outlook is still for below average rainfall and this will continue through to late autumn.

Ms Tomlinson noted that it is hard to say if the drought has been broken but the soil moisture has been replenished for now. River flows are replenished and water restrictions have been lifted, but crucially, the Wairau aquifer has not refilled from one single event like this.

Cllrs Minehan/Sowman:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Sowman withdrew from the meeting at 10.49 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Matt Oliver, Council's Senior Environmental Scientist – Land Resources, was present for the following item.

E&P-0424-381 Soil Mapping Update – April 2024 **E355-004-008**

Mr Oliver noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the joint Council and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research (MWLR) S-Map soil mapping project. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24113783.)

Mr Oliver advised that the soil mapping work in Marlborough proceeds on schedule and within budget and mapping work for Wairau is nearing completion. A review for the Awatere Valley mapping is complete and work is ongoing in Blind River and Flaxbourne. A feasibility study of a digital soil mapping solution for the Marlborough Sounds is underway.

Members were advised that it is important to provide information and improvements on mapping to ensure soil data is adequate for modern land use such as irrigation allocation and nutrient management.

Members asked a number of questions at the meeting.

Mr Harvey/Cllr Faulls:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Meeting adjourned at 11.00 am and resumed at 11.15 am

ATTENDANCE: Ms Clementine Rankin, Council's Strategic Planner - Freshwater, was present for the following item.

E&P-0424-382 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 – Report on Second Round of Community Engagement **M100-14-03-02**

Ms Rankin noted that the purpose of the report was to provide members with an update on the feedback received for the second round of community engagement (the engagement) regarding the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM). The report on NPSFM Engagement 2 Proposed Long-Term Visions Values and Environmental Outcomes was attached the agenda item for members' information.

Members were advised that the second round of community engagement took place from 3 November to 15 December 2023. This round of community engagement focused on the proposed values, visions, and environmental outcomes for freshwater in each of the six proposed Freshwater Management Units (FMU) in the region.

A robust engagement package was created which included an update to the Freshwater Management section of the Council website, a questionnaire in dual formats, and a range of in person and online events. 46 individual relevant responses were received.

It was noted that the feedback received demonstrated the strong and often contrasting viewpoints regarding freshwater.

It was reported that the themes noted in the feedback included private property rights (particularly regarding access over private land), contrasting views on Ecosystem Health with differing emphasis on enhancing and protecting or providing a more balanced approach, forestry land use, irrigation water storage, and other irrigation activities.

Members were advised that Council staff will create a separate report comprising Council's responses to the feedback and the report be presented to the Committee in mid-2024.

Ms Rankin advised that the Government proposes to review and replace the NPSFM 2020 within the next 18-24 months and has extended the notification deadline by three years from December 2024 to December 2027. In light of the government direction no variation will be made to the PMEP for the NPSFM 2020 in 2024. Community consultation will also halt for now. The Council's NPSFM work programme will continue, focusing on working with iwi to understand Māori freshwater values, long-term visions, and assessing freshwater management against new regional and science information.

Members were advised that staff will continue to closely monitor Government information on the NPSFM review, liaise with the Ministry of Environment as needed, and report to this Committee when changes occur.

Cirs Innes/Minehan:
That the report be received.

Carried

E&P-0424-383 Appeals on PMEP Variation 1: Marine Farming **M100-11-002-07**

The following was noted in regard to the progress with resolving appeals on PMEP Variation 1: Marine farming appeals. A table of appellants was attached to the agenda for members' information.

32 notices of appeal on Variation 1 were lodged with the Environment Court and formal mediation on Variation 1 appeals commenced on 12 March 2024.

Progress is being made to resolve appeals through informal mediation. Consent orders have been issued by the Court to resolve, in full or in part, five appeals with respect to aquaculture management areas (AMA). Another two proposals to settle appeals on AMA are with the Court and await consent orders. Council has proposed a resolution with the appellants in two more appeals and discussions continue with two further appellants.

Cirs Fauls/Innes:
That the report be received.

Carried

E&P-0424-384 Appeals on the PMEP

M100-09-01

The following was noted in regard to the progress with resolving appeals made to the Environment Court on the PMEP. A table of appellants and a table of appeals status were included with the agenda item for members' information.

51 notices of appeal on the PMEP were lodged with the Environment Court. The scheduled Environment Court mediation on all topics has now been completed, although requests for further Court assisted mediation are being made when the parties consider that progress can be made.

One consent memorandum currently being considered by the Court and a further consent memorandum is in circulation.

Aquaculture Interests have withdrawn a significant number of appeal points subsequent to the public notice of the Variation 1 decision. Work is ongoing to consider the relationship between outstanding PMEP appeals, and the Variation 1 decision and appeals.

NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity has been gazetted and parties are now considering how the NPS direction may influence appeals placed on hold pending that gazettal.

Cirs Hope/S Arbuckle:
That the report be received.

Carried

E&P-0424-385 Information Package

-

Clr Innes/Mr Smith:
That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated be received and noted.

Carried

E&P-0424-386 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

-

Clr Hope/Mr Smith:
That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- **Confirmation of Sub-Committee Public Excluded Minutes**

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Carried

The meeting closed at 11.48 pm.

Record No: 24115559

5. Committee Reports

5.3 Economic, Finance & Community Committee

Economic, Finance & Community Committee Meeting held on 30 April 2024
(Minute Nos. EFC-0424-387 to EFC-0424-401)



**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
ECONOMIC, FINANCE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2024 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cirs J D N Croad (Chairperson), S R W Adams (Deputy), S J Arbuckle, A R Burgess, D A Dalliessi, B G Dawson (from 9.24am), B A Faulls, M R K Flight, G A Hope, J C Rosene, T P Sowman, Mayor Nadine Taylor and Ms R Niven (Iwi representative)

Present via Teams

Cirs J A Arbuckle and B J Minehan

In Attendance

Messrs G K Blake (Chief Financial Officer), D G Heiford (Manager, Economic, Community & Support Services), and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

Cirs Croad/Rosene:

That the apology for absence from Clr R J Innes and from Clr B G Dawson for lateness be received and sustained.

Carried

EFC-0424-387 Declaration of Interests -

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: Clr Dawson joined the meeting at 9.24 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Pete Coldwell, CEO of the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce, and Alistair Schorn, Development Advisor at the Chamber, were present for the following item.

EFC-0424-388 Marlborough Business Confidence Survey

E100-010-01

Mr Coldwell noted that the purpose of the report was to provide details of the recent Marlborough Business Confidence survey undertaken in conjunction with Marlborough Chamber of Commerce. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 24117125). A copy of the presentation was circulated to members at the meeting and also emailed to Councillors following the meeting.

Members were advised that the economic confidence survey of local businesses provides a picture of recent past and future thinking and is an indicator of the economic health of the region. The survey is undertaken twice yearly and this is the third survey undertaken and was conducted in February-March 2024.

Members were advised the Survey captured the feedback of more than 200 local business owners and senior managers, on a range of topics related to business activity in the region. The feedback has provided valuable insights on factors such as business confidence, recruitment and investment intentions, and the types of support that might be required by business from the Marlborough District Council, the Chamber of Commerce and Business Trust Marlborough, amongst others.

For the first time, the Survey also included a section on the topics of climate and water disclosure, ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) issues, and the assistance that Marlborough business owners are seeking in these areas.

In response to a query on whether information on ethnicity and age groups formed part of the survey it was reported that information is collected but hadn't been presented today. Mr Shorn to circulate the additional information to Councillors. It was also noted that the Chamber has been building relationships with iwi and this will continue and be further strengthened with the establishment of the Tech Hub.

Cirs Croad/Flight:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Samantha Young, Council's Regional Events Advisor was present for the following item.

EFC-0424-389 Regional Events Update E100-002-011

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the activities of Council's Regional Events Advisor (REA) and Marlborough's events sector.

Ms Young reported that the Omaka Airshow has recently secured Marlborough Lines as their new naming sponsor and Pure Events Marlborough, who are contracted to provide the New Year's Eve event, have recently signed a three-year agreement with Ray White as a supporting sponsor. In today's economic climate this is good news for Marlborough and event organisers.

Members were advised that although sponsorship has been received for the New Year's Eve event it is Council/community owned and will continue to be identified and publicised as that.

Members were advised that a review of the Regional Events Strategy will commence shortly, the initial strategy was launched at the beginning of the very first Covid lockdown. The industry is getting back onto its feet and it is an exciting time to review the Strategy.

Ms Young discussed the recent Marlborough Lines Energised event at Pollard Park. It was reported that the event attracted between 25-30,000 people, the organisers had estimated between 10-15,000. To accommodate the significant increase in numbers attending the event organisers adapted to ensure attendees had a good experience. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive noting the biggest positive was the no entry fee.

A debrief has occurred and organisers were thrilled with how everything went and in particular thanked Council for the support provided. The event company have indicated their interest in discussing with Council possible future events.

In response to a query that if Marlborough Lines were to run a similar event that consideration could be given to taking the event out to the rural communities. Ms Young noted that Marlborough Lines haven't indicated they will do the event again as it was held in recognition of their 100 years in operation. Council does have the Community Events Fund that rural communities could apply to if events met its criteria.

Ms Young advised there is a new fund available from MBIE – Regional Events Promotion Fund. It is a \$5M fund that is available over the next two years and can only be used to promote events. The aim of the fund is to encourage visitors to the regions with an additional focus on events outside of the peak summer season.

The fund is contestable and is available through Regional Tourism Operators and for Marlborough that will be Destination Marlborough. Council's REA will be a point of contact. Ms Young advised that she will be attending a meeting with her counterparts to discuss the fund and will provide feedback to MBIE via NZ Events Association.

In response to a query regarding the Te Tauihu Regional Events fund and whether small Māori events could be scaled up, Ms Young advised that the fund aims to support commercial events that drive visitation from out of the region and that Māori events that meet this criteria would be considered.

Ms Young also responded to a query regarding an upcoming suicide awareness walk, noting that discussions have been had with the organiser and they have been advised of possible avenues for funding and promotion.

Cirs Croad/Sowman:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Maighan Watson, Council's Project & Contract Manager, Property & Community Facilities, was present for the following item.

EFC-0424-390 Development of Former Millennium Art Gallery
PN256722#07

Ms Watson noted that the purpose of the report was to seek approval for funding to convert the former Millennium Art Gallery site on the corner of Seymour and Alfred Street, Blenheim into public green space.

Members were advised that a report has been prepared for the 2024-34 Long Term Plan requesting funding to investigate the long-term requirements of the Council DAB and staffing needs. In the meantime, until this review is complete, it is proposed to retain the site as a low-maintenance public green space that complements the adjacent Council buildings.

Ms Watson noted that the conversion to green space has been quoted at a total cost of approximately \$53,500. A total budget of \$23,500 remains following the two demolitions and it is proposed that this remaining budget is reallocated to undertake this conversion, with additional funding of \$30,000 being sourced from the Forestry and Land Development Reserve to cover the shortfall.

Members were advised that following the demolition, a site survey and a traffic safety assessment were undertaken on the Alfred and Seymour Street intersection. The assessment concluded that there had been significant improvements to pedestrian and vehicle sight lines with the removal of the building from road reserve. A preliminary vehicle tracking analysis determined that any physical changes to the road carriageway layout could result in increased speeds of west-bound traveling vehicles. Minor safety improvements have been proposed for the intersection, which will be completed separately using existing budgets.

The Mayor/Clr Dawson:

That Council approve the reallocation of the remaining demolition budget of \$23,500, and additional funding of \$30,000 is sourced from the Forestry and Land Development Reserve to develop the former Millennium Art Gallery site on the corner of Seymour and Alfred Street, Blenheim.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Jamie Lyall, Council's Manager Property and Community Facilities, was present for the following two items.

EFC-0424-391 College Park Lease
R800-002-01

Mr Lyall noted that the purpose of the report was to seek approval to enter into a new lease with the Marlborough Boys College Board of Trustees for the lease of College Park and to advise the roller-skating club that they could remain on site while the Council is the lessee.

Members were advised that the Ministry of Education (MOE) (on behalf of the Marlborough Boys College Board of Trustees) has offered Council a new lease of College Park with similar terms as per the original lease. The major points of difference are that there is no compensation clause for early lease surrender and both parties have 12-month termination rights.

It was noted that the lease is based on a joint usage model that allows for college/education use of the facility during school hours and community use for the remainder of the time. The existing lighting & turf also aligns with actions included in Council's sports facility management plan 2021.

Mr Lyall advised that Council has existing budgets to maintain College Park to the current level of service and will enter into user agreements to manage operational matters with sports organisations wanting to use College Park.

It was noted that there is no budget for building maintenance for the facilities as previously this has been carried out by the sporting groups. There were budgets in place for the turf and the intention was that those budgets would be transferred to the new turf in Nelson Street. An assessment has been done on the current turf and the advice received is that the current turf will last approximately 10 years before turf replacement budget would be required.

Members were advised that as part of the Combined Colleges project Council had allocated funding to relocate the Blenheim Roller Skating Club to Rewi Murray Recreation Reserve. It is suggested that Roller Skating could remain and continue to operate from College Park if a new lease is agreed to with the Marlborough Boys College Board.

In response to a query regarding land ownership and consultation with Rangitāne, Mr Lyall advised that the Ministry of Education have the head lease with Rangitāne. Council's lease is directly with the Ministry therefore all consultation processes are between the Ministry and Rangitāne.

Members were advised that MOUs would be developed to manage all operation matters between Council and sporting bodies at College Park.

The Mayor/Clr Dawson:

- 1. That Council enter into a new agreement with the Marlborough Boys College Board of Trustees for the lease of College Park.**
- 2. That the Blenheim Roller Skating Club be advised that they are able to remain and continue their sports operation at the College Park site.**

Carried

NB: RaNae Niven (Iwi Representative) voted against the motion.

EFC-0424-392 Review of Council's Senior Housing Activity **C600-004-002-01**

Mr Lyall advised that the purpose of the report was to seek Council approval to carry out a review of Council's Senior Housing Activity.

Mr Lyall advised that the purpose of the review is to understand if the current provision, and operation of Council's Senior Housing activity meets the needs of the community into the future and to identify opportunities to better support older persons through the delivery of housing.

It was noted that there are financial challenges as the majority of Council's housing stock is in excess of 50 years old so there are high R&M costs.

It was noted that the first stage of the review would be at a high level and would explore all options for Council to consider. Funding for the review will be sourced from monies reallocated from Council's "Better-off Funding" financial pool. It is estimated that the review would cost \$10,000, be completed within six months and reported back to Council later this year.

Members were advised that Council's housing portfolio is ineligible for income related rent subsidy (IRRS) assistance as councils are restricted from obtaining Community Housing Provider (CHP's) status. A number of councils across New Zealand have explored or are currently exploring different delivery options because of this restriction.

Members were advised that Council policy currently provides assistance to tenants by setting rent levels at up to 80% of market rates. The tenant entry criteria is low value asset ownership and superannuation eligibility.

It was noted that the current housing policy settings are under review by the coalition government with an announcement on any proposed changes due next month prior to the May budget meeting. Any changes proposed by the government will be incorporated into the review document/report.

As part of the discussion Clr Dawson noted that the review was to be of Council's Senior Housing portfolio and suggested that 'Council' be added to the resolution for clarity which members agreed to.

Clrs Adams/Hope:

That Council agrees to carry out a review of Council's Senior Housing Activity funded from a reallocation of better-off funding.

Carried

EFC-0424-393 Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee

D050-001-H01, C600-004-002-01

The Minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 March 2024 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

Cllrs Croad/Dawson:

That the Minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 March 2024 be ratified.

Carried

EFC-0424-394 Grants Sub-Committee

D050-001-G02

The Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 15 April 2024 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

The criteria and application process for Council grants to be circulated to Ms Niven for information.

Cllrs Sowman/Burgess:

That the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee meetings held on 15 April 2024 be ratified.

Carried

EFC-0424-395 Road Naming Sub-Committee

R800-007-06-07

The Minutes of the Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 April 2024 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

Cllrs Dalliessi/Flight:

That the minutes of the Road Naming Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 April 2024 be ratified.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 10.27 am and resumed at 10.39 am.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Porter, Council's Democratic Services Manager, was present for the following item.

EFC-0424-396 Temporary Alcohol Ban - Renwick

L150-019-15

Members considered and were supportive of the report to resolve that a Temporary Alcohol Ban on High Street, Renwick and associated side streets of Inkerman, Uxbridge and Alma Streets as depicted in the plan be in place for the 24 hours from 6.00 am on Sunday 2 June 2024 to 6.00 am on Monday 3 June 2024 for the Annual Woody Pig and Deer Hunt at the Woodbourne Tavern.

Cllrs Adams/S Arbuckle:

That Council resolve and publicly notify that a Temporary Alcohol Ban will be in place for the 24 hours from 6.00 am on Sunday 2 June 2024 to 6.00 am on Monday 3 June 2024 for the public areas of High Street, Renwick (from the intersection of Anglesea Street in the west to the eastern side of the intersection of Alma Street in the east), Inkerman Street (from the High Street intersection in the south to the driveway of 31 Inkerman Street in the north), Uxbridge Street (from the High Street intersection in the south to the Renwick Fire Station and extending around the skatepark and tennis courts in the north) and Alma Street (from the High Street intersection in the south to the southern boundary of 4 Alma Street in the north as depicted in the plan, refer Attachment 1).

Carried

Attachment 1



ATTENDANCE: Tessa Dever, Council's Financial Reporting and Funding Manager, was present for the following item.

EFC-0424-397 Financial Report for Council – Period Ended 29 February 2024 F275-002-16

Ms Dever presented the Financial Report for Council for the period ending 29 February 2024 to members.

Members were advised that the major variances between actual and budget are lower than anticipated draw down of better off funding with delays in expenditure in a number of approved projects. Some of the undrawn funds have been re-allocated to projects identified as part of the Long-Term Plan and an instalment of funding was received in March. Lower than anticipated roading reinstatement expenditure and subsidy for the impacts of the August 2022 flood event. In the 2023/24 year \$14.3M has been spent on the July 2021 and August 2022 events. Forecast has been updated to align with the allocation between capital and operational expenditure and timing of expenditure in the Long Term Plan. This will reverse part of the impairment booked in the prior year. Grants received for the College Park Hockey Turf relocation. Grants received for the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme. Lower than anticipated expenditure on Flood Protection and Control Works flood damage. Interest expenses are lower than anticipated due to the savings, deferrals and delays in past capital expenditure programmes resulting in less external borrowings.

It was noted that the depreciation in the report is the budgeted depreciation amounts. Staff are continuing to work through the three waters valuation with the auditors and once this has been resolved staff will be able to process actual depreciation and that is likely to put through a deficit.

Clr Faulls extended her thanks to all the Council staff and management who had attended the Marlborough Sounds Access meetings it was invaluable and much appreciated by the public that attended.

**Cirs Faulls/Dawson:
That Council receive the Financial Report for the period ending 29 February 2024.**

Carried

EFC-0424-398 Treasury Management Report 31 March 2024

F290-006-23

Mr Blake, Council's Chief Financial Officer, presented the Treasury Management report to 31 March 2024 to members. It was noted that the attachments contained within the report shows details of Council's cash on hand, investments and borrowings for the quarter ended 31 March 2024. Comparative details for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 were also shown in the report.

Members were advised that the MDC Groups' borrowings currently attract an average interest of 4% and the Groups investments achieve an average interest return of 6.03%.

It was reported that Council no longer uses term deposits for cash flow purposes. Instead, the Westpac On Call account is used, as the interest rate available is set at 0.05% above the OCR, so higher than interest rates for short term investments.

Mr Blake noted we are compliant with Council's Hedging Policy for current debt but looking at forecast debt we will be marginally compliant. It was noted that the prior debt levels projection hasn't been adjusted with the iRex project closure. It is intended to have the policy compliant by the end of June and there is a plan in place to achieve that.

Cllrs Croad/Rosene:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0424-399 Debtors Overdue Reports as at 31 March 2024

F220-002-020-23

Mr Blake presented the Debtors Overdue Reports as at 31 March 2024 to members.

Members were advised that the annual resource consent administration fees were charged in July 2023 totalling \$1.3M with 98% having been paid to date.

The 90 Days balance includes several Development Contribution invoices that will be paid once the building project is near completion. It also includes invoices for the annual resource consent administration fees that have not been paid. Invoice copies have been emailed requesting payment.

The Property Leases and Licences Debtors Report as at 31 March 2024 was noted.

Cllrs Croad/Adams:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0424-400 Rates Report as at 31 March 2024

F270-36-23

Mr Blake presented the Rates and Water Billing Debtors reports as at 31 March 2024.

Members were advised that as at 31 October 2023 29.03% rates had been collected which is comparable to last year's collection rate for the same period of 29.09%.

It was noted that following the 2021 and 2022 Weather Events Council had agreed to extend the rates relief to red (100% relief) and yellow (50% relief) stickered properties, details of amounts were contained in the agenda item.

The Water Billing report for 90 Days balance included a number of credit balances and overdue June 2023 invoices, invoices requesting prompt payment have been sent. A number of Renwick and Havelock water invoices are to be reassessed by the water team due to large water leaks.

It was noted that the Rates team continue to work with ratepayers to provide mutually agreeable repayment plans to assist ratepayers to clear their arrears and ongoing rates.

Cllrs Adams/S Arbuckle:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0424-401 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

Cllrs Croad/Dawson:
That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Sub-Committee Public Excluded Minutes
- Marlborough Events Centre
- Powerhouse Reserve

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:

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Sub-Committee Minutes	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
Marlborough Events Centre Powerhouse Reserve	To enable the Council, as holder of the information, to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) as provided for under Section 7(2)(i).	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Carried

The meeting closed at 11.14 am.

Record No: 24119313

Annexure

Public Forum

1. **Sharyn Armon** – Topic – Bus Shelter for Eltham Road, courtesy crossings on Maxwell Road by Mayflower Studio. Bus Timetables require updating on the website.

To the Marlborough District Council,
P.O. Box 443,
Blenheim 7240.

To Whom it may concern.

The Blenheim Bus.

Shelter, road humps, & bus map/timetable

" Dear Sir (or Madam),

I, Sharyn am writing
on behalf of myself & other people who use
the Blenheim Bus.

The main topic is in regards to bus shelters.
A lot of bus stops don't have shelters, but one
place in particuly that could do with one is
on Eltham Rd near the Scouts Hut⁽³⁶⁾, as often
there are quite a few people there and when it
rains, there's no shelter, so the folks are
interested to see if it's possible to have a
shelter placed there.

Another topic that I have been asked to
draw attention to are the courtesy crossing
in the town (that a lot of people walk straight
out onto without looking!). Particuly 2 on
Maxwell Rd near The Yard Bar & Mayflower

2

Cont.

Studio, as the humps on the road are quite steep and if the bus goes over them too fast, it hits the underneath part of the bus. The bus really has to crawl over.

The final request I have asked to put forward to you is in regards to the bus timetables, as one lady was saying how the library is not on the timetable, yet the old clubs are. Not sure which one(s) she is meaning, as I note the one on Ida St near home is the latest one with the library mentioned. ^(Please note) (This is Google Maps)

Thank you for taking the time to take on the peoples views. Very much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,
S. M. Armon.

6. Taylor River Rabbit Control Operation

(Clr Dawson) (Report prepared by Kiri Whiteman & Liam Falconer)

R510-009-T02-03

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Council approval to operate a rabbit control operation using Pindone (an anticoagulant drug), along sections of the Taylor River Reserves and adjacent private properties in July 2024 to reduce rabbit numbers in the target area.

Executive Summary

2. Rabbit populations on sections of the Taylor River are extremely high and a Pindone solution followed up by night shooting is proposed to reduce the numbers to level three on the Modified Maclean Rabbit Infestation Scale.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a rabbit control operation using Pindone along sections of the Taylor River Reserve and adjacent private properties.

Background

3. In 2021, Council undertook a rabbit control operation in the Taylor River area south of the Burleigh Bridge using the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus – K5 Strain (RHDV1-K5) in response to large numbers of rabbits in the area. Current rabbit counts have indicated the operation was largely unsuccessful with only three less rabbits per kilometre in 2023 from the 2021 counts.
4. In 2023 a night shooting operation, using an approved pest removal operator was conducted over a three month period with the total number of rabbits dispatched being 293. Shooting alone will not effectively reduce rabbit numbers to an adequate and acceptable level in the long term.
5. The Modified Maclean Rabbit Infestation Scale Level 3 (a recognised scale used by Councils to determine rabbit population levels and regulates both private and public-land areas) has been determined as the highest allowed in New Zealand for rabbits.
6. Staff sought an alternative more-effective-rabbit-reduction programme to run a controlled Pindone Operation. Pindone is mainly used in New Zealand to manage pest populations of rabbits and possums. Pindone (full chemical name 2-(2,2-Dimethyl-1-oxopropyl)indane-1,3-dione) is an anticoagulant drug for agricultural use.

Comments

7. Council's Rivers Department has advised that there are large areas of stop bank with clear and evident damage caused by rabbit burrows subsequently compromising the integrity of the stop bank.
8. On the western side of the Taylor River there are two areas that have been heavily affected by rabbits. The first one of these areas is from Doctors Creek on the urban boundary through to the boundary of the lifestyle block area on Waters Avenue. This area contains vineyard, river reserve, a plant nursery, office buildings and a beef farm. The total area is approximately 49 hectares.
9. The second area is also on the Western side of the Taylor River from Wither Road extension through to Richardson Avenue. This area contains property that is being prepared for a light commercial subdivision, river reserve and frisbee golf, a silviculture company base with a dwelling, this area is approximately 21 hectares.



Figure 1: Pindone Control Area 1



Figure 2: Pindone Control Area 2

10. Rabbit control in the Taylor River area requires two different control techniques to be used. The first being a Pindone operation and the second a follow up shooting programme. This operation will be supervised by Parks and Open Spaces and Biosecurity teams with assistance from a suitably qualified contractor.
11. Pindone bait is a slow action anticoagulant poison that is widely used in New Zealand for rabbit control and is considered less toxic to humans and other wildlife than other commonly used rabbit pesticides.
12. The bait will be applied in bait stations predominately on private land in the heavily affected areas subject to permission and co-operation from the private landowners throughout the operational area. If coverage is not deemed to be sufficient additional bait stations may need to be placed on Council administered land.
13. Pindone will be applied in bait stations throughout the affected areas, this will limit the risk to the public and wildlife. The bait stations will be placed in areas that are highly populated by rabbits and will be closed down during the day and reopened in the evening to prevent unwanted interactions with bait.
14. During the morning close down period, the surrounding area will be checked for carcasses from the nighttime feeding period. Bait stations will be topped up daily to ensure there is sufficient bait available for rabbits to ensure a lethal dose is received. Bait stations will be fenced where necessary to prevent interactions with stock, dogs and children.
15. It is likely that this process will be repeated for around 10-14 days or until no bait is being consumed. The operation should be undertaken in early July while there is less food for the rabbits making the bait more appealing. Once the Pindone operation is complete, ground-based shooting will need to be conducted at night, to further bring down any residual numbers.



Example of bait station

16. A public awareness campaign will be undertaken leading up to the commencement of the operation in consultation with Council's communications team. It is proposed that public areas where the operation is being undertaken will be heavily signposted and it is suggested that all dogs will be required to be on leash or excluded.
17. Resource consent and approval from DOC will be required prior to commencement.

Costs

18. The costs are estimated as follows:

Description	Cost
Pindone Bait – 250kg	\$2,500
Fencing	\$500
Labour	\$14,000
Consent costs	\$3,000
Follow up shooting	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$23,000

19. Funding for this work will be provided from Taylor River maintenance budgets.

Option One (Recommended Option) – Conduct Pindone Operation

20. Conduct the operation in the manner described above to ensure efficiency and public safety.

Advantages

- 21. Reduce rabbit numbers to protect the integrity of the stop bank as well as flora and fauna in the area.
- 22. Ensure compliance with the Reigonal Pest Management Plan.

Disadvantages

- 23. Public perception around risks to pets or non-target species.

Option Two – Status Quo

24. Continue to periodically conduct night shoot operations as and when budget allows.

Advantages

- 25. None.

Disadvantages

- 26. Expensive and unsustainable with minimal longer-term results.
- 27. Non-compliance with the Reigonal Pest Management Plan.

Next steps

- 28. Consult with neighbouring properties to gain consent to run the operation on their properties.
- 29. Apply for resource consent and request DOC permission.
- 30. Engage suitably qualified contractor to undertake the operation.
- 31. Prepare comms plan and public awareness campaign.

Authors	Kiri Whiteman, Parks and Open Spaces Officer Liam Falconer, Senior Biosecurity Officer Operations Lead
Authorisers	Jane Tito, Parks and Open Spaces Manager Alan Johnson, Environmental Sciences Manager

7. Notification of Draft Wither Hills Management Plan

(also refer to separate attachments 7.1 and 7.2)

(Clr Dawson) (Report prepared by Linda Craighead)

R510-014-024-01

Purpose of report

1. To seek approval to notify for public submissions the draft Wither Hills Management Plan.
2. To establish a Hearings Panel to consider submissions received on the draft Wither Hills Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **That Council approve the draft Wither Hills Management Plan for the purposes of public submission.**
2. **That Council confirm a hearing panel consisting of Councillor Dawson as Chair and Councillors Croad and Adams to hear submissions and recommend to Council decisions on those submissions.**

Context

3. A review of the 2003 Wither Hills Farm Park Management Plan has been undertaken with the assistance of a consultant. The review process commenced in late 2022 with pre consultation of Council staff, iwi and key stakeholders. From March to May 2023 the public were invited to provide their thoughts on future management of the Park and some specific questions were posed. This process attracted 92 responses, with many useful suggestions and insights considered as part of the plan development process.
4. Three Iwi have participated in the review process (Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Rārua and Ngati Toa Rangatira). Staff and specialist consultants from several Council departments, the Wither Hills Farm Park lessee, representatives from the QEII National Trust, Department of Conservation (DOC), Fire and Emergency NZ and Walking Access NZ also provided valuable input. Other key stakeholder groups directly consulted included Rotary Clubs of Marlborough and the Marlborough Mountain Bike Club.

Draft documents

5. From the consultation undertaken a draft management plan has been prepared and it is this document that is to be the subject of public submissions. The draft management plan was the subject of a Councillor workshop in mid-April. Some minor changes have resulted from this process.
6. A background document has also been prepared and this provides information that may assist in providing a greater understanding of the management approaches included in the new management plan. The background document does not form part of the draft management plan and therefore it has not been included in the recommendation above.

Submissions and hearing

7. It is proposed that the submission period will run from 10 June to 9 August. A panel is needed for the purposes of hearing and deciding upon submissions. Councillor Dawson as Chair and Councillors Croad and Adams from the Assets and Services Committee are proposed in the recommendation to be constituted as the hearing panel.

Next steps

8. Notification of the draft management plan will occur on 10 June.

Separate Attachments

Separate Attachment 7.1 – Draft Wither Hills Management Plan

Separate Attachment 7.2 – Draft Wither Hills Management Plan Background Information

Author	Linda Craighead, Parks and Open Spaces Planner
Authoriser	Jane Tito, Parks and Open Spaces Manager

8. Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes
- Committee Reports (Public Excluded Sections)

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Minutes and Committee Reports	As set out in the Minutes and Reports	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.