



**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
ECONOMIC, FINANCE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim  
on TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024 commencing at 9.00 am**

**Present**

Cirs J D N Croad (Chairperson), S R W Adams (Deputy), S J Arbuckle, D A Dalliessi, B G Dawson, B A Faulls (from 9.05 am), G A Hope, B J Minehan, T P Sowman and Mayor N P Taylor

**Present via Teams**

Cirs A R Burgess, R J Innes (from 9.05 am) and J A Arbuckle (from 9.21 am)

**In Attendance**

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

**Apologies**

Cirs Croad/Dawson:

That the apology for absence from Cirs M R K Flight and J C Rosene and for lateness from Cirs R J Innes and B A Faulls and be received and sustained.

Carried

**EFC-0324-336 Declaration of Interests** -

Clr Dawson declared an interest in Item 3 – Business Trust Marlborough Mid-Year Report 2023/24.

NB: The order of the agenda was altered at this point and the following Item 4 was heard ahead of Item 3.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Lynette Rayner, Chair of Blenheim Business Association, was present for the following item.

**EFC-0324-337 Blenheim Business Association C230-001-B04**

Ms Rayner noted that the purpose of the report was to provide members with an update on the Blenheim Business Association. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2462331).

Autumn Faulkner (BBA Committee Member) and Maia Plamer (Co-ordinator) seated in the public gallery were introduced to members.

The presentation was well received by members.

Cirs Dawson/Dalliessi:

That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Aaron Marshall (Chair) and Beth Barnes (Deputy Chair) Business Trust Marlborough, were present for the following item.

**EFC-0324-338 Business Trust Marlborough Mid-Year Report  
2023/24 E100-005-007-02**

Ms Barnes and Mr Marshall presented the Mid-Year report to the Committee. To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2462332). The mid-year report was attached to the agenda for members' information.

Members acknowledged and congratulated Beth Barnes' for the BusiMums initiative. It was noted that work is being done to offer BusiMums in Havelock but will be dependent on securing sufficient numbers. Consideration is also being given to running an online course next term, this will provide opportunities to reach people who we may not have previously reached.

**The Mayor/Clr Faults:  
That the report be received.**

**Carried**

NB: Clr Dawson declared a conflict of interest and withdrew for the above item.

ATTENDANCE: Messrs Brad Olsen and Nick Brunsdon, Infometrics were present for the following item.

**EFC-0324-339 Infometrics Marlborough Annual Economic  
Profile E100-007-01**

Messrs Olsen and Brunsdon from Infometrics presented the latest Marlborough economic data, covering the 2023 Economic Profile and the most recent quarterly results.

To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2462330).

A two-page summary of the annual report was attached to the agenda item and links to the annual and the latest quarterly reports were also provided in the agenda item.

**Cirs Croad/S Arbuckle:  
That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Ms Dorien Vermaas, Council's Economic Portfolio Manager, was present for the following item.

**EFC-0324-340 Economic Development Update E100-010-01**

To provide an update on the activities and achievement of Annual KPI's of Council's Economic Development team between Economic, Finance and Community meeting 13 November 2023 and 19 March 2024. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2462330).

The following upcoming events were noted *Food Producers* 5th -7th April, *Tech Week* 20th-26th May, *Startup Weekend* 14th June-16th June; *Future of Work* 12th June and *Winepro* 25-27 June.

Mr Unwin provided members with an update on Winepro and noted that the internal exhibition stands have sold out and it is likely that the external stands will also sellout which is a great response for a first year.

**Cirs Croad/hope:  
That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 11.04 am and resumed at 11.18 am.

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 11.04 am and rejoined the meeting 11.28 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Ms Jodie Griffiths, Council's Community Development Administrator, was present for the following item.

## **EFC-0324-341 MDC Youth Council Plan 2023 Review**

**C150-002-027-23**

Ms Griffiths presented the outcomes from the Youth Council Plan for 2023 to members. The plan was attached to the agenda for members' information.

Ms Griffiths advised recruitment for the Youth Council is now complete and a confirmed list of Youth Council members for 2024 and a schedule meeting dates was circulated to members. It was noted that members are welcome to attend any Youth Council meetings.

It was noted that 12 of the 2023 Youth Councillors are returning this year which will allow for some continuity and mentorship to new members.

Members congratulated Ms Griffiths and her team on the successes of the Youth Council.

**Cirs J Arbuckle/Minehan:**

**That Council receive the report for the Youth Council Plan 2023 and outcomes.**

**Carried**

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

## **EFC-0324-342 Land Subdivision Reserve – Request for Funding Approval**

**R510-021-01**

Ms Craighead noted that the purpose of the report was to seek Council approval for two recreational projects that meet the growth criteria for funding from the Land Subdivision Reserve.

It was noted that funding of \$155,000 is sought for the two projects, a new pump track located at Renwick Domain and the sealing of the Mountain Bike carpark off Taylor Pass Road. Both of these projects.

Members were advised that the timing of the funding request is due to the 12 week lead in time for the Renwick Pump Track as it is sourced from Amercia.

It was noted there is sufficient funds in the Land Subdivision Reserve to cover the funding request.

**The Mayor/Cir S Arbuckle:**

**That Council approve funding of \$155,000 from the Land Subdivision Reserve for the installation of a new Pump track at Renwick Domain and the sealing of the Blenheim Mountain Bike Carpark located off Taylor Pass Road, Blenheim.**

**Carried**

The Assets & Services Information Package, Parks & Open Spaces section was viewed at this time.

**EFC-0324-343      Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee**  
**D050-001-S03**

The Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 February 2024 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

**Cllrs Faulis/S Arbuckle:**

**That the Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held 21 February 2024 be ratified.**

**Carried**

**EFC-0324-344      Long Term Plan Working Group**  
**D050-001-L21**

That the Minutes of the Long Term Plan Working Group meeting held 31 January 2024 be ratified.

**Cllrs Croad/Hope:**

**That the Minutes of the Long Term Plan Working Group meeting held on 31 January 2024 be ratified.**

**Carried**

**EFC-0324-345      Financial Report for Council – Period Ended 31**  
**January 2024**  
**F275-002-16**

Geoff Blake, Chief Financial Officer presented the Financial Report for Council for the period ending 31 January 2024.

Mr Blake advised that for this report the variance threshold for income and expenditure has been amended to \$250,000 from the \$100,000 used in the first half of the year. This amended threshold will be reassessed at the start of the new financial year.

It was noted that the forecast values included in the report are subject to further review and refinement as the year progresses.

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; lower than anticipated roading reinstatement expenditure and subsidy for the impacts of the August 2022 flood event; in the 2023/24 year \$12.3M has been spent on the July 2021 and August 2022 events; 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 and interest expenses are lower than anticipated due to the savings, deferrals and delays in past capital expenditure programmes resulting in less external borrowings.

**Cllrs Croad/Minehan:**

**That the Financial Report for the period ending 31 January 2024 be received.**

**Carried**

**EFC-0324-346      Debtors Overdue Reports as at**  
**29 February 2024**  
**F220-002-020-21**

Mr Blake presented the Debtors Overdue Reports as at 29 February 2024.

Members were advised that the annual resource consent administration fees were charged in July 2023 totalling approx. \$1.3M, the balance owing as at the end of February 2024 is \$43,026. (97% have been paid.)

It was reported that 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.

The Property Leases and Licences Debtors Report as at 29 February 2024 was attached to agenda for members' information.

**Cirs Croad/Adams:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **EFC-0324-347      Rates Report as at 29 February 2024      F270-36-21**

Mr Blake noted that the purpose of the report was to advise members of the rates position as at 29 February 2024.

The Rate Levies Status Report, Rate Arrears Aged Balance Report and the Water Billing Debtors Report as at 29 February 2024 were attached to the agenda for members' information.

Members were advised that as at 29 February we had collected 58.04% of the 2023-2024 rates which is a slight decrease on the same period last year. It was noted that any ratepayer who is having difficulties paying their rates is offered extended repayment plans which see them clear their arrears and pay ongoing rates. At present we have 63 ratepayers with an agreed repayment plan.

It was noted that as of 1 March 2024 Council is no longer offering energy efficiency loans information, on the applications received for this current rating year and an overview of the previous three years was included in the agenda item.

**Cirs Croad/Adams:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **EFC-0324-348      Information Package      -**

**Cirs Croad/Minehan:**

- 1. That the Economic, Finance & Community Information Package dated 19 March 2024 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Assets & Services Information Package originally scheduled for the 12 March 2024 meeting (cancelled) be received and noted.**

**Carried**

The meeting closed at 11.50 am.

Record No: 2463225