

**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

Cllrs 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

Cllrs 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

Cllrs Croad/Rosene:

That the apology for absence from Cllr R J Innes and from Cllr 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: Cllr 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 Taihū 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.

Cirs 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.

Cirs 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/timetables

" 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

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.