



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ECONOMIC, FINANCE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2023 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cllrs J A Arbuckle (Chairperson), B G Dawson (Deputy), S R W Adams, S J Arbuckle, A R Burgess (from 9.10am), J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, R J Innes, B A Faulls, G A Hope, B J Minehan, T P Sowman and Mayor Nadine Taylor

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Cllrs Croad/Adams:

That the apology for absence from Cllrs J C Rosene and M R K Flight be received and sustained.

Carried

EFC-0523-360 Declaration of Interests -

Cllr Faulls declared an interest in Item 7 – Destination Marlborough

ATTENDANCE: Ms Laura Skilton, Transport Planner Marlborough Roads, was present for the following item.

EFC -0523-361 Speed Management Plan R800-006-002-02

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to receive the draft Speed Management Plan and to allow public consultation on the document to commence. The Marlborough Regional Speed Management Plan (April 2023) was separately attached to the agenda for members' information.

Ms Skilton advised that as part of the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022, all councils in New Zealand are required to prepare speed management plans to consider how safety infrastructure and speed limits can make our roads safer. The legislation also requires that a territorial authority must consult in accordance with the consultation principles specified in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

It was noted that in preparing the draft Speed Management Plan, the Consultant has engaged with the Council's Small Townships Project Manager, Council's Road Safety Co-Ordinator, Police and Marlborough Roads staff.

Members were advised that a Speed Management Plan is a 10 year plan that will be reviewed every three years. The three year cycle aligns with the Waka Kotahi National Land Transport Plan (NLTP). Projects in the Speed Management Plan will be eligible for funding assistance from Waka Kotahi and will be included in the Regional Land Transport Plan but this does not guarantee that funding assistance from the National Land Transport Fund will be received.

Ms Skilton advised that the draft Speed Management Plan has been sent to schools and the feedback received has been positive and a number of suggestions have been included in the plan.

Ms Skilton has met with the Manager of Māori Partnerships who has discussed the implications with marae, no feedback on the outcome of the discussions has been received.

It was noted that the submission period is scheduled for four weeks and must start no later than 5 October and be submitted to Waka Kotahi in March 2024. Members noted that the document is large and comprehensive

and following discussion on the length of the consultation period supported the four week consultation timeframe. Ms Skilton advised that all groups, schools and organisations contacted during the review will be advised when submissions open.

It was noted there were roads and communities not currently identified for a speed limit change and it was queried whether submissions to that fact would be considered. Ms Skilton advised that draft submission questions have been compiled which includes a question cover any new roads to be included for the next Speed Management Plan review.

Members acknowledged the amount of work that has gone into the Plan and noted having workshops to work through the document was extremely valuable and now look forward to receiving the community's feedback.

Cllrs Dawson/Croad:

- 1. That the draft Speed Management Plan is received.**
- 2. That Council agree to proceed with consultation on the recommendations contained in the report.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Steve Murrin, Marlborough Roads Manager, was present for the following item.

EFC-0523-362 Subdivision Connection Road

R800-006-002-02, R800-007-02

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to seek Council support for the construction of a new link road to connect the new Muller Road Subdivision to the Wai-iti Subdivision and determine how the bridge could be funded. An aerial identifying the connection between the two subdivisions was included in the agenda item for members' information.

By way of background it was reported that the Council had approved two adjoining subdivisions that run either side of the town branch drain. A new connection between the two subdivisions will provide better access and connectivity for the residents in the area. It was noted that the subdivisions were approved without the requirement for this link so the link would need to be funded by Council.

It was noted that it is unlikely a new bridge would receive subsidy from Waka Kotahi as all new bridges need to be supported by a Business Case, or at the least included within an endorsed Transportation Study. Marlborough Roads has received a preliminary cost estimate for this work to be in the region of \$500,000.

Mr Murrin advised that since the paper was put together there has been further discussion on the proposal noting that there may be the possibility of the land to the east of the subdivision being developed. It was noted that it would require a Plan change but if the development did proceed it was considered a more suitable place for a road bridge.

Mr Murrin suggested that further work needed to be undertaken to consider location of the bridge, traffic flows, options for a walking and cycling bridge and costings.

The Mayor noted Mr Murrin's suggestions and raised whether it would be prudent to let the item lie on the table for further work to be carried out.

Members discussed the proposal.

Mr Murrin advised that he would be able to investigate the options relatively quickly. It was noted the further work to determine the impacts can be done within the existing consultancy budgets. Members noted that it would be good to have some connection to the east whether the subdivision proceeds or not.

At the conclusion of the discussion the following motion was put.

Cllrs Hope/Dawson:

That the Committee support in principle the need for a connection between the two subdivisions, either traffic bridge or walking/cycling bridge, and for Marlborough Roads to investigate connection options, design options and funding options and to report back to the Assets & Services Committee when options have been reviewed.

Carried

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

EFC-0523-363 Regional Events Update

E100-002-011

Ms Young advised 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. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2386990).

The presentation provided members with an overview of the last three major events held in Marlborough and Ms Young explained the tools used to evaluate the events and the economic impacts they have. All three events had improved results from previous years. It was noted that data for the Classic Fighters Omaka Airshow wasn't available for this report but will be provided to the next meeting.

Clr Dalliessi thanked Ms Young for the information provided and queried whether information on the average total transactions per day was available. Ms Young agreed to provide the additional information.

Ms Young discussed the report on the Follow-ME Website analytics contained in the Information Package. It was noted that once the Brand Refresh is finalised there will be a campaign to highlight the Follow-ME page.

Cirs Croad/Dalliessi:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0523-364 Commercial Events Fund

E100-002-006-27

The Minutes of the Commercial Events Fund Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 April 2023 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

Cirs J Arbuckle/Innes:
That the Minutes of the Commercial Events Fund Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 April 2023 be ratified.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Bruce Moffat, General Manager Destination Marlborough, was present for the following item.

EFC-0523-365 Destination Marlborough – 2023/24 Draft Business Plan

E100-004-01

Mr Heiford noted that the purpose of the report was for the Destination Marlborough – 2023/24 Draft Business Plan to be presented to the Committee. The draft Destination Marlborough Annual Plan overview was included with the agenda item.

As it was the first report to the Committee by the new General Manager for Destination, Bruce Moffat, Mr Heiford took the opportunity to introduce him to members and Mr Moffat provided a brief work history.

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2387085).

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor thanked Mr Moffat for his report on the Draft Business Plan and requested that a summary / report on the 2022/23 Cruise Ship season and an outline plan for managing the 2023/24 Cruise season be presented at a future Committee meeting.

The Mayor/Clr Croad:
That Destination Marlborough Trust's draft business plan for 2023/24 be received.

Carried

NB: Clr Faulls declared an interest in the above Destination Marlborough – 2023/24 Draft Business Plan.

EFC-0523-366 Housing for Seniors

D050-001-H01

The Minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 March 2023 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

Clrs Croad/Dalliessi:

That the Minutes of the Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 March 2023 be ratified.

Carried

EFC-0523-367 CBD and Parking Sub-Committee

D050-001-P01

The Minutes of the CBD and Parking Sub-Committee meeting held on 31 March 2023 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

It was requested that the Urbanism Plus reports be circulated to members and for members to identify any outstanding projects.

Mr Lyall provided further details on the Armourguard contract noting that the contract is up for renewal and will be reviewed to consider delivery options.

The Mayor/Clr Hope:

That the Minutes of the CBD and Parking Sub-Committee meeting held on 31 March 2023 be ratified.

Carried

Postscript: Mr Neil Henry circulated, via email, the following reports to Councillors – Blenheim Town Centre Report (2009), Blenheim CBD Streetscape Design Brief (2011)

ATTENDANCE: Meeting adjourned at 10.24 am and resumed at 10.40 am

EFC-0523-368 Audit & Risk Sub-Committee

D050-001-A05

The Minutes of the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee meetings held on 21 April 2023 and 28 March 2023 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

Clrs J Arbuckle/Croad:

That the Minutes of the Audit & Risk Sub-committee meetings held on 21 April 2023 and 28 March 2023 be ratified.

Carried

EFC-0523-369 Financial Report for Council – Period Ended 28 February 2023

F275-001-01

Mr Fletcher presented Council's financial report for the period ended 28 February 2023.

Members were advised that the major variances between actual and budget were higher than anticipated development contributions and vested assets as subdivisions have reached the title issue stage requiring contributions to be made; receipt of un-budgeted Affordable Water Reform Council Transition Support Package Funding. Lower than anticipated roading reinstatement expenditure due to the impacts of the August 2022 flood event. In the 2022/23 year \$30.2M was spent on the July 2021 and August 2022 events with the initial \$85.3M approved by Waka Kotahi now being utilised for both events. Accounting entries will be made at year end to move some of these costs to capital. Lower than anticipated grants uplifted by community-based organisations and external and internal interest expenses are lower than anticipated due to the savings, deferrals and delays in past capital expenditure programmes resulting in less external borrowings.

Mr Fletcher noted that Capital Expenditure is currently unfavourable to budget by \$39.5M and advised that a detailed review of the year end forecast will be reported at the next Committee meeting.

Comments were provided in the report on variances greater than \$100,000.

Cirs J Arbuckle/Dawson:

That Council receive the Financial Report for the period ending 28 February 2023.

Carried

EFC-0523-370 Treasury Management Report 31 March 2023

F290-006-21

The Treasury Management Report for the period ending 31 March 2023 was presented to members.

It was noted that the Cash, Investments and Borrowings were included as an attachment to the agenda item. These are details of the market interest rate movements; a summary of the investments Council held, and that these continue to comply with the Investment Policy section of the Treasury Management Policy; and a summary of the Council borrowings as at 31 March 2023. A number of graphs were provided in the item to show policy boundaries.

Cirs J Arbuckle/Croad:

That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0523-371 Debtors Overdue Reports as at 31 March 2023

F220-002-020-22

Mr Fletcher presented the Debtors Overdue Reports as at 31 March 2023 to members.

Members were advised that the current and 30 – 90 Days balance both include large government department invoices.

It was reported that the 90 Days balance includes several Development Contribution invoices that will be paid once the building project is near completion. The list of overdue Building Consents is increasing as building projects are not being started due to the unavailability of materials and builders.

The Property Leases and Licences Debtors Report as of 31 March 2023 was attached to the agenda for Councillors' information.

Cirs J Arbuckle/Dawson:

That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0523-372 Rates Report as at 31 March 2023

F270-36-21

Mr Fletcher noted that the purpose of the report was to advise the Council of the rates position as at 31 March 2023.

Members were advised on the current rating year arrears. It was noted that the fourth instalment of 2022-2023 rates will be invoiced on 1 May 2023 with a due date of 8 June 2023.

The value of the penalty run on 9 March 2023 was \$75,876.65 (1302 properties), with last year for the same period being \$72,861.63 (1242 properties). It was noted that a significant portion have now paid, with only 266 rates accounts requiring further action.

Of the 57 Notices of Demand sent on 22 March 2023, in relation to arrears as at 30 June 2022, 29 remain unpaid at this time.

Members were advised that the Rates Team are continuously following up with these rate payers and working with them to provide suitable repayment options if required. It was noted that the CSOs team actively encourage direct debit options and there is a 'Ways to Pay Rates' page on Council's website.

Members were advised that there are currently 12 properties with postponed rates. During this quarter, no new applications have been processed, nor are there any ending applications. One rate payer re-paid their postponed rates in full due the sale of their property.

Cllrs J Arbuckle/Sowman:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0523-373 Information Package -

Cllrs Croad/Dalliessi:
That the Economic, Finance & Community Information Package dated 2 May 2023 be received and noted.

Carried

EFC-0523-374 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded -

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

- Overdue Debtors
- Trade Show and Expo

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
Overdue Debtors	In order to protect the privacy of natural persons, as provided for under Section 7(2)(a).	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.
Trade Show and Expo	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 11.38 am.

Record No: 2387359

Public Forum

1. **Greg Colquhoun (Renwick Smart + Connected)** – Topic: Update on recent St Patricks Day event. Presentation notes, attached as Appendix 1.
2. **Raymond Madsen (Marlborough Boxing Club)** – Topic: Update following his submission to the LTP 2021-2031

The Chair approved the following speaker who had not booked a time slot for the Public Forum.

3. **Robert Terry** – Topic: Recent compliance issue / court case regarding breaching a trespass notice. The Chair agreed to follow up.

Appendix 1

(FOR THOSE WHO DONT KNOW ME MY NAME IS
GILL COLQUHOUN AND I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT THE
WONDERFUL VILLAGE WE CALL RENWICK.)

- My personal opinion is that community groups such as Renwick Smart and Connected should be more pro-active.

Sitting around a table once a month, bowling along with the status-quo (I call it static-quo) is not enough to get the whole community involved. From the youth thru to the elderly. Especially the youth. Our communities need to be vibrant and inclusive.

As groups we must have much more conversation with Council. How can Council even begin to help and advise until new, inovative ideas are presented to them.

- When I first proposed St. Patricks Day celebrations in Renwick I could sense many of the long term residents around the table thinking " What does this new boy in town think he is proposing. That wont work "

The fact that I had managed hotels and organised St Patricks Day in them for many years did not seem a redeeming factor. After all the new boy in town happens to have experienced a bit in his 72 years.

We have to embrace new ideas that will enhance our communities not put them down.

- A well know member of the Renwick community Mr Blue Blick talked to me on Anzac Day and congratulated me on how St. Patricks Day went.

He said the problem of getting new projects off the ground. is not a new one and the struggle he and others had getting peoples support in a new sports hub in Renwick years ago.

Finally we must also get local businesses more involved. I know many didnt even know our community group existed. or how they could contribute. * At our next meeting

- I intend to propose a youth and retired persons run community garden plus a look and learn scheme within Renwick bussinesses where older Renwick school pepils can buddy up with say butcher/hairdresser landscaper/wine maker to give them a view of working life.

* Concerned at decline in horticulture in our area.