



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ECONOMIC, FINANCE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2023 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cllrs J A Arbuckle (Chairperson), B G Dawson (Deputy), S R W Adams, S J Arbuckle, J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, R J Innes, B A Fauls, G A Hope, B J Minehan, J C Rosene, T P Sowman, and Mayor Nadine Taylor

Also Present via Teams

Clr A R Burgess

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 J A Arbuckle/Croad:

That the apology for absence from Cllr M R K Flight be received and sustained.

Carried

EFC-0223-241 Declaration of Interests -

Clr Dalliessi declared an interest in Item 16 – Events.

**EFC-0223-242 Report from the Electoral Officer on the 2022
Triennial Election** **D050-004-022-06**

Electoral Officer, Mr Dean Heiford presented the 2022 Triennial Election to report the Committee.

Members noted whether there is any working being done to increase voter turnout. Mr Heiford said that ways to increase voter turnout is being considered and the Independent Electoral Review Panel is seeking feedback on a number of electoral changes. The Future for Local Government Review also proposes a raft of changes to boost participation in local elections, lowering the voting age for local councils to 16 is one of them.

Members queried whether this had been raised with the Youth Council. It was noted that no meeting has been held but it is something that can be put on the agenda for discussion.

Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Rosene:

That the information be received.

Carried.

EFC-0223-243 Public Forum **D050-001-C01**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to seek approval to implement a trial public forum to be held before the start of each Economic, Finance & Committee meeting for the 2023 year.

Clr J A Arbuckle spoke to the report and noted that a public forum is an opportunity for constituents to express their views on agenda items relating to the Economic, Finance and Community (EFC) Committee agenda and its areas of responsibility. It was noted that the Council's adopted Standing Orders provides guidelines for public forums.

It is proposed that the forum be held before the start of an Economic, Finance & Community Committee meeting and run for a maximum of 30 minutes. The format and process for a public forum was discussed and was further detailed in the agenda item.

Members discussed the proposal and as part of the discussion it was raised whether a public forum would be more appropriate at a Full Council meeting. The Mayor noted that the committees are the work horse of Council and considers they are the right place for the community to come to put their views on papers being presented at that meeting. The Mayor did note that it is a trial, and at the conclusion of the trial period a review would be undertaken.

Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Hope:

- 1. That approval be given to implement a trial Public Forum before Economic, Finance and Committee meetings for the 2023 year.**
- 2. That the implementation and guidelines are adopted.**
- 3. That the topics for the public forum be restricted to those agenda items on the relevant Economic, Finance and Community agenda or within its delegation.**
- 4. That at the conclusion of the trial period a review of the success and scope is undertaken.**

Carried

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

EFC-0223-244 Regional Events Update

E100-002-011-01

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

The following amendment to the agenda was noted: Marina to Marina - 2023 will be the event's 10th year

Ms Young reported that we are in the middle of peak event season with a busy calendar of events taking place around the Marlborough region. It was noted that attendance levels particularly for ticketed events is lower than pre-covid times, although this is not unexpected. However, the premium level tickets both for Marlborough and national events are selling well.

The other difficulty being reported is securing sponsorship, however, this has not affected the Havelock Mussel festival who have secured their existing sponsors along with two new ones.

It was noted that the Wine & Food Festival is happening this weekend after a two year hiatus. Various departments within Council have been working closely with the event organisers more so this year as it is the first being held at the Renwick Domain.

Ms Young noted that the 2021 and 2023 South Island Masters Games were secured by via the Bid Fund and after the success of the 2021 event, an additional bid was made for the 2025 Games which has also been successful. The 2023 event will take place from 13 to 23 October and 23 sports have registered to date. It was noted that Andrea Smith-Scott, General Manager of Marlborough Football has joined the South Island Masters Games Inc Board which is very positive news for Marlborough.

It was reported that Ms Young is working with the organisers on sourcing potential venues for such things as registrations.

Members were advised that the Blenheim Skating Club have recently secured the NZ Speed Skating Nationals. The event will be held in Marlborough from 2 to 7 January 2024. Organisers are predicting 90 skaters coming from 12 clubs across New Zealand with an additional 80 to 90 supporters. People from outside of Marlborough are expected to start arriving on 31 December and will stay until 7 January with many likely to stay a day or two longer.

Ms Young noted that the new kitchen in the Marlborough Event Centre was due to be ordered by the end of January has been delayed slightly.

In response to a query on information related to credit card spend and/or market view data for events Ms Young agreed to circulate the information following the meeting.

In respect of events and a number of large projects eg iReX members noted that accommodation does need to be taken into consideration. Cllr J A Arbuckle noted that this is area that the Events Fund Sub-Committee will be working on and updates will be provided to the Committee.

Mr Heiford provided members with a further update on the Marlborough Event Centre and ASB Theatre.

The information Package was discussed at this point and Ms Young noted that the events guide will continue to be produced quarterly but the number printed has been reduced with the budget moving to radio advertising.

Cllrs Croad/Fauls:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Jodie Griffiths, Council's Community Partnerships Advisor, was present for the following item.

EFC-0223-245 MDC Youth Council Plan 2022 Review

C150-002-027-22

Ms Griffiths advised that the purpose of the report was to advise Council on the outcomes from the Youth Council Plan for 2022 and present the full report of achievements and challenges from 2022 Marlborough Youth Council plan. The *MDC Youth Council Action Plan 2022 – Outcomes* were attached to the agenda for members' information.

Members were advised that the 2022 plan was prepared and approved by the Youth Council and adopted by full Council.

Ms Griffiths noted the following achievements:

- Participation with a number of leadership opportunities such as the Electoral Commission, meeting with Top of the South Youth Councils and two members attending the Festival for the Future conference in Wellington and the Aotearoa Declaration. It was noted a number of these on students were able to attend remotely which means they can take part without having to travel.
- Completing two art activities – carpark building mural and hosting the annual Youth Art Exhibition – Folio in conjunction with the Millennium Art Gallery.
- Support to the Future of Work Conference in 2022 and the new Empower Gaming and Coding Festival.
- Submission to Council's Annual Plan in 2022.

It was noted the Youth Council are excited about acting in an advisory role to Council for any requests relating to services and activities for young people from Annual Plan/Long Term Plan submissions. This will be included in the 2023 Youth Council plan.

Recruitment is underway for potential Youth Council candidates and applications have been received but support from Councillors would be appreciated. Ms Griffiths advised that applications do not need to come through schools can be community groups or an individual. Noted that interest has been shown from Rai Valley and Richmond View Schools. Currently there are eight returning youth councillors and to date 2 applications have been received.

The Mayor/Cllr Rosene:
That Council receive the report for the Youth Council Plan 2022 and outcomes.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Glenn Webster, Council's District Libraries Manager, was present for the following item.

EFC-0223-246 Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – December 2022 **L300-018-001-02**

Mr Webster provided an update to the Committee on the operations of the Library service and highlighted the *Fiero Code Club* which guides participants through learning different coding languages. Mr Webster noted that it is self-paced with staff available to provide assistance along with students helping each other. The programme is proving very popular. Promotion is generally by word of mouth.

Another successful Summer Reading Programme has been completed and the stories and crafts drop in were well attended with 40+ children participating at each session.

In response to a query on whether there has been consideration given to expanding the reading programme to Havelock or Waitaria Bay, Mr Webster advised that new ways of modelling the summer reading programme are being implemented one of them is that summer readers no longer have to come into the library they can email or respond virtually for the required reports.

In response to a further query on why some rest homes were not included in the library services, Mr Webster noted that it is the rest homes that make the decision on whether they wish to participate in the service.

Members were advised on the statistics for the library and Mr Webster noted that the first day after New Year is traditionally the busiest day of the year. Included in the statistical information was Wi-fi usage for the days that the library was closed which indicated strong use of the libraries wi-fi service.

Mr Webster reported that the blessing of the new library facility is scheduled for February as the blessing needs to be done before the collections are moved into the new facility.

Members were advised that the intention is that the district library will close on Sunday 23 April which is the final day of the school holidays. Crown Movers, who are specialist library and archive movers, are coming in on Wednesday 26 April to start moving the collection to the new facility. The new facility will reopen at noon on Friday 12 May. The library will be closed for approximately three weeks to move the collection over.

It was reported that there will be frequent comms around the move and highlighting being closed for the three weeks. People will be encouraged to take extra books to cover the closed period.

It was noted that discussions are underway on an official opening. The Mayor has sent a letter inviting the Prime Minister to come in the week of 26 June to Officially Open the new facility. It will be a dawn blessing and unveiling of the name etc.

Cllrs S J Arbuckle/Sowman:
That the report be received.

Carried

Mr Heiford advised that over the course of the next few meetings members of his team will be providing reports to the committee on their respective areas. It was requested that Heritage be one of the first reports presented.

EFC-0223-247 Marlborough Regional Forestry Joint Operating Committee **S400-003-09**

Mr Fletcher advised that the purpose of the report was to obtain Council's agreement to the Marlborough Regional Forestry (MRF) Agreement.

Mr Fletcher reported that the current agreement has worked well and no issues have been raised by the previous Joint Committee. Kaikōura have indicated their support of the agreement.

A copy of the agreement which included the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee was attached to the agenda for members' information.

Cllrs Hope/Adams:

That Council agrees to extend the current Joint Operating Committee Agreement with Kaikoura District Council for the operation of the Marlborough Regional Forestry Estate.

Carried

EFC-0223-248 Audit & Risk Sub-Committee

D050-001-A05

The Minutes of the Audit & Risk Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 December 2022 were attached for ratification by the Committee.

Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Croad:

That the Minutes of the Audit & Risk Sub-committee meeting held on 21 December 2022 be ratified.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 10.23 am and resumed at 10.45am.

EFC-0223-249 Financial Report for Council – Period Ended 31 December 2022

F275-001-01

Mr Fletcher presented Council's financial report for the period ended 31 December 2022.

Members were advised that the major variances between actual and budget were the higher than anticipated development contributions and vested assets as subdivisions have reached the title issue stage requiring contributions to be made; higher than anticipated roading reinstatement expenditure due to the impacts of the August 2022 flood event. In the 2022/23 year \$23.5M has been 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.

It was noted that \$1.2M has been received from DIA as the final instalment of the 3Waters stimulus package. Accounting entries are still to be completed to allocate the funds.

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

Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Dawson:

That Council receive the Financial Report for the period ending 31 December 2022.

Carried

EFC-0223-250 Treasury Management Report as at 31 December 2022

F290-006-22

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to present the Treasury Management Report for the period ending 31 December 2022.

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, these continue to fit within the compliance of the Investment Policy section of the Treasury Management Policy; and a summary of Council borrowings as at 31 December 2022. There is a minor breach of the Liability Management section of the Treasury Management Policy but will become compliant as Council's borrowing increases. A number of graphs were provided in the item to show the policy boundaries.

Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Dawson:

That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0223-251 Debtors Overdue Reports as at 31 December 2022

F220-002-020-22

Mr Fletcher presented the Debtors Overdue Reports as at 31 December 2022 to members.

Mr Fletcher noted that the Current and 30 – 90 Days balance includes a large government department invoice and the second quarter Tradewaste invoices with the majority having been paid in January 2023.

The 90 Days balance includes several Development Contribution invoices that will be paid once the building project is near completion. It was noted that the list of overdue Building Consents is getting longer as building projects have not been started due to the unavailability of materials and builders. There are a number of invoices relating to the Resource Consent Annual Monitoring fees not paid. Copies of the invoices have been emailed requesting payment.

The Property Leases and Licences Debtors Report was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Cirs J A Arbuckle/Dalliessi:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0223-252 Rates Report as at 31 December 2022

F270-36-22

Mr Fletcher advised that the purpose of the report was to advise Council of the rates position as at 31 December 2022.

Members were advised on the current rating year arrears. It was noted that 1,220, properties have received a penalty and overdue letter. Of these properties, 319 accounts remain unpaid. The collection rate for payments due to date is 51.38%. This is comparable with last year's collection rate of 51.85%.

It was further advised that the 171 properties with mortgages were identified as having arrears. 85 of these properties have since paid and 5 have a payment arrangement in place to clear arrears. 76 still have a Notice of Default with the bank and 5 have yet to be actioned.

There are 36 properties which do not have mortgages and have arrears. Most continue to make no or minimal payments towards their arrears or on-going 2022-2023 rates.

Cirs J A Arbuckle/Croad:
That the information be received.

Carried

EFC-0223-253 Information Package

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Cirs Croad/S J Arbuckle:
That the Economic, Finance & Community Information Package dated 7 February 2023 be received and noted.

Carried

EFC-0223-254 Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

Cllrs J A Arbuckle/Hope:

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

- Events

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
Events	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 at 11.24 am.

Record No: 2334617