
Methven Community Board Meeting – 31/10/22

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022, commencing at 10:30am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown; Members Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Richie Owen, Robin Jenkinson, Allan Lock, Megan Fitzgerald; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan.

In attendance

Leanne Macdonald (Group Manager Business Support), Clare Harden (Community Liaison Officer), Janice McKay (Communications Manager) and Mary Wilson (EA to CE, minutes).

1 Apologies

Cr Rodger Letham

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business and taken as item 6:

- Speed limit submission (to meet the Waka Kotahi deadline of 12 December)

Holmes/McMillan

Carried

3 Declaration of Interest

Item 6.1.4 - Cr McMillan declared a conflict of interest, as a member of the Methven and Foothills Walking Festival organising committee and will withdraw from debate and decision.

PUBLIC FORUM

Te Araroa Trail

Danny Simmons: spoke of his experience tramping around the world. He described Te Araroa as world class, with an expectation that 4,000 people will walk it crossing the Mid Canterbury landscape. He advised that an interest group has been established which includes representatives from NZ Police, Search and Rescue, Ashburton District Council and various community stakeholders. Methven will be a set-off point for walkers using the trail.

Matt Claridge: the trail has been in place in its current form for 11 years, with notes on the trail's brief history contained in the brochure presented.

Matt advised that the Trust does not own any of the land and does not pay Department of Conservation a concession. The popularity of the trail has been growing each year with an estimated 250,000 people having walked the trail and an estimated 4,000 on the trail at one time. Matt considers that Methven is in a perfect location, strategically located as a supply town for the trail.

- Three major strategies: first develop and maintain the trail and improve the condition. Secondly is to sustain the trail and thirdly promote the trail as a clear and continuous pathway – however this can only be achieved if its funded.
- A project called Te ted, where New Zealanders are encouraged to walk small sections of the trail.
- Conversations with local interest groups are wide ranging, where the idea is to talk to walkers before they arrive in Methven and encourage them to stay another night.
- Matt has a meeting on 14 December with ADC's Economic Development Manager to discuss benchmarking. The Trust would also like ADC to consider investing in an economic assessment.
- Shorter walks will be launched during the 2023/24 walking season and continue working with the Methven interest group. Promote Methven as a trail town and ensure the trail can accommodate growth in walkers.
- The next step is to get local Methven businesses involved in the interest group, perhaps the MCB could facilitate this meeting?
- Registering to walk the trail is not compulsory and walkers can get on and off the trail as it suits. The philosophy is that by walking the trail it should improve with investment from registration which will support regeneration and maintenance.
- \$125,000 in donations has been received so far this year.

In conclusion the Chair invited Matt and Danny to come back to the Methven Community Board if any assistance in managing or facilitating the process is required. It was further suggested that the MCB members could be invited to future interest group meetings.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

Amendment

The minutes were amended to record that Kelvin Holmes and Allan Lock declared conflicts of interest for the Methven Lions Club funding request, and withdrew from debate and decision. The Deputy took the Chair for this item.

That the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 31 October 2022, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.

Owen/Lock

Carried

Matters arising

- Board members commented on the success of the joint Council / MCB bus trip with site visits made around the Methven township on 6 December.
- Council's Communications Manager, Janice McKay will be running through the Methven Community Board Facebook page with Megan Fitzgerald and Liz McMillan at the conclusion of this meeting.

5 Activity Reports

That the activity reports be received.

Fitzgerald / McMillan

Carried

5.1 Governance and Business Support

5.1.1 Elected Members' Allowances and Remuneration policy

The Mayor referred to the communications allowance payable to Board members. He noted that the allowance contributes towards internet use and reminded members to make use of their Council-issued Tablets for meeting documentation.

Post meeting note: the second instalment of the communications allowance for 2022/23 is due to be paid in January

5.1.2 **NZ Community Boards' Executive Committee**

The MCB are yet to be advised whether an election will be required for the Zone 5 representative on the Community Board Executive Committee. Nominations closed on 6 December 2022.

That, subject to an election being required, the Methven Community Board Chairman be delegated to vote on behalf of the Board for the Zone 5 representative on the NZ Community Boards' Executive Committee.

Owen / Fitzgerald

Carried

The Board agreed that it would be useful if some community board workshops could be organised for Zone 5.

5.1.3 **2023 Meeting Schedule**

The first MCB meeting of 2023 will be held on Monday 30 January 2023, with items for inclusion in the agenda to be submitted to governance@adc.govt.nz by Monday 16 January 2023.

The Chair advised that he may also include a report and there is opportunity for Board members to include items through the Chair's report.

It was noted that Megan Fitzgerald has been approached to join the LGNZ Young Elected Members Forum (YEMF).

5.1.4 **Funding requests**

The following applications for funding were considered:

- **Methven Primary School**

Funding of \$100.00 was requested.

That the Methven Community Board approve a grant of \$100.00 for the Methven Primary School.

Owen / Jenkinson

Carried

- **Methven and Foothills Walking Festival**

Cr McMillan withdrew from the meeting.

Funding of \$2,500.00 was requested.

A breakdown of marketing costs was received with the application, including a quote for signage. In the future this level of detail will be also distributed to the members.

The event is new to the district after the inaugural event festival was cancelled in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The festival consists of 12 different events with all funds raised to go back to the community groups participating.

That the Methven Community Board approves a grant of \$1,500.00 for the Methven and Foothills Walking Festival.

Owen / Locke

Carried

It was noted that the amount approved recognises that some of the events are held outside the Methven township.

- **Our Lady of the Snows School**

An application for funding of \$50 sought to purchase vouchers for the 2022 prizegiving.

That the Methven Community Board approves a grant of \$50 for Our Lady of the Snows School.

Fitzgerald / Lock

Carried

5.1.5 **Customer Request Management**

The Board agreed it will be useful to continue receiving this information.

5.1.6 **Finance Report**

Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support) gave an overview of the finance report. Carry-overs will change the spend but not the targeted rates.

Further explanation of the targeted rates will be provided to the Board's January meeting.

5.2 **Community Services**

5.2.1 **Open Spaces**

- **Reserves**

It is proposed that during the next LTP review process, playgrounds that sit on reserve land will be moved to the Open Spaces team to monitor and maintain. Councillors will need to agree to the funding change. This will remove the Health & Safety risk to reserve boards.

The Board noted that the Methven cemetery is looking good and that there doesn't appear to be any vandalism to the Methven public toilets (nothing has been reported through the CRMs).

5.3 **Strategy and Compliance**

5.3.1 **Building Services**

The report shows that the building services team are still busy issuing building consents in the Methven area.

Officers were asked to check the 2021 March total as the year to date value of work appears to be incorrect.

5.4 **Infrastructure Services**

5.4.1 **Roading**

It was reported that most of the footpath has been completed and it is pleasing to see that it has been moved closer to the fence. The suggestion was made that the trees need to be tidied up.

Mackie footpath, problem solved.

5.4.2 **Drinking water**

- **Reservoir**

Progress on second reservoir – hopefully positive response on fluoridation, for a short period, from the MOH.

Cr McMillan reported that the new reservoir and backup, will reduce likelihood of water restrictions in Methven this year. The water meters are assisting to find water leaks.

The usual comms will be undertaken if conditions require water restrictions to be imposed.

5.4.3 **Wastewater**

- **Pipeline renewals**

Noted work will be undertaken in the grounds of Mt Hutt College and will be completed 2023. Work needs to be done to ensure compliance. The consent runs out in 10 years – some land has been purchased.

5.4.4 **Stormwater**

- **Methven discharge consent**

The Mayor noted that the consent being lodged with ECan is required to continue doing what is already happening. Currently there is no consent.

6 Extraordinary Business

- **Speed limit submission**

The Chair presented the Board's submission which has been lodged with Waka Kotahi's (NZTA) to meet their deadline of 12 December. The Board is requesting the speed limit be reduced to 50km/h at site 77-1 Methven Township North. The Board supports the proposed change to decrease the speed limit to 30km/h outside the three Methven schools.

- **Representation Review**

The Board asked when the next representation review will be carried out. This will be referred to Council officers for response.

The meeting closed at 11:53am.

Confirmed 30 January 2023

Chairman