

Methven Community Board – 1/05/23

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 1 May 2023, commencing at 10:30am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

Present

Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Megan Fitzgerald, Allan Lock, Richie Owen, Robin Jenkinson, and Cr Liz McMillan.

In attendance

Jane Donaldson (GM Compliance & Development), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager), Rick Catchpole (Environmental Monitoring Manager), Linda Clarke (Communications Advisor) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Officers for the duration of their reports: Katelyn Roddy-Dixon and Michelle Hydes (Property Officers).

One member of the public (Gillian Heald).

1 Apologies

Mayor Neil Brown (absence) and Megan Fitzgerald (early departure) Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

At the Chair's request the Board agreed to receiving an update on the Walking Festival included in the discretionary funding discussion.

3 Declaration of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 13 April 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Fitzgerald/Jenkinson

Carried

Waka Kotahi – 10.25am-11am

James Long (Senior Safety Engineer, Transport Services) was welcomed to the meeting and invited to update the Board on a meeting held in February with local school principals and Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan. The meeting talked about what could be done to improve safety and upgrade pedestrian crossings near the Methven schools.

James advised that the option of using a Kea Crossing is unlikely in Methven. This type of crossing is patrolled by approved members of the school community who use signs to stop traffic and allow pedestrians to cross the road. The local principals have indicated they will struggle to get enough volunteer support to supervise children at the crossing points. Instead, Waka Kotahi are recommending a raised safety platform which controls vehicle speed and has the added benefit of providing a 24/7 safety solution. The raised platform may result in some carparks being removed near the existing crossing and cost efficient solutions are being sought.

The Methven-Chertsey Rd / Main Street intersection was also highlighted as an issue with a suggestion that a small roundabout may be better at this site, and another pedestrian crossing could be constructed

to the south of the intersection. Board members commented on the amount of underground infrastructure and the creek that runs through the Methven-Chertsey Rd which may make roundabout construction difficult.

James advised that the proposal will be kept to the fore when Waka Kotahi are looking at priorities for Mid Canterbury, but there's no immediate funding available and, realistically, these upgrades would be from 2024 onwards.

On other issues relating to Methven, James reported that Waka Kotahi have confirmed a 30km/hr variable speed zone near Our Lady of the Snows School which will operate at certain times in the morning and afternoon.

Feedback from consultation on the Interim Speed Management Plan showed that the community didn't support the 80km/hr speed reduction near Ōpuke pools. Waka Kotahi have since reviewed and are now planning to reduce this further to 60km/hr. Timing for the speed limit changes is uncertain – the Interim Safety Management Plan is to be sent to the Director of Land Transport for sign-off later this month, and a further 5 weeks is anticipated before it's finalised. A timeline for the implementation plan, and where Methven fits into Waka Kotahi's overall timeline, is currently unknown. It could potentially be 12 months out.

The Chair asked whether speed calming measures, such as those on SH1 at Burnham and Rolleston, could be used in Methven, particularly with the anticipated increase of traffic during the ski season. James explained that Methven doesn't meet the strict criteria for this to happen. It's also not an option to look at this under temporary traffic management.

The Chair thanked James for his presentation and asked if the Board can be kept updated.

5 Proposed Time Restricted Parking

The Supermarket owner has asked for the entire carpark to be one hour parking, but this is not the officers' recommendation. Jane Donaldson reported that officers have prepared a short survey that will go to the Methven property owners and tenants to get feedback on whether they support the proposal, prefer the status quo, or have another suggestion. The Board will be updated on the outcome of this in June.

That the Methven Community Board approves consultation with property owners and businesses located in Methven Mall on the proposed introduction of a one hour parking restriction for 10 of the 15 car parks adjacent to the Supervalu supermarket.

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

6 Licence to Occupy – Installation of hardstand and information signage

That the Methven Community Board enters into a Licence to Occupy with Ashburton District Council for the installation of hardstand and installation and ongoing maintenance of historic information signage at 4 Methven-Chertsey Road for a term of 10 years, on the terms attached in Appendix 1.

Fitzgerald/McMillan

Carried

7 Methven Community Board discretionary Grant – Methven Squash Club

The Chair noted the total cost for repair of the courts and recommended that the grant be increased to \$6,000. He acknowledged Board members' concerns that a leaking roof has contributed to the court damage and agreed to raise this with the Squash Club and see what the Club's plans are for roof repairs.

That Methven Community Board allocates \$6,000 from its discretionary grant to the Methven Squash Club for the re-painting of their courts.

Holmes/Jenkinson

Carried

Extraordinary business – Walking Festival

Cr McMillan thanked the Board for the \$1500 discretionary grant which was used for the large signage. The Walking Festival was deemed very successful with approximately 700 people taking part. The Enchanted Forest walk / Family Day was particularly popular (over 450 people) as was the Easter Egg hunt held at Awa Awa Rata reserve.

The event organisers are planning for another event next year, again in conjunction with the Methven Scarecrow Trail. A survey of approximately 100 participants at this year's festival is being undertaken.

8 Activity Reports

That the reports be received.

Lock/Fitzgerald

Carried

Megan Fitzgerald left the meeting at 11.21am.

- **Income and expenditure**

The Board received the income and expenditure reports for February and March 2023.

- **Revenue & Financing Policy – drinking water**

The Board agreed that the Chair will prepare and submit a submission to Council prior to the deadline of 7 May 2023.

- **Transportation Bylaw**

The Board noted the intention for the Bylaw to be updated with minor changes.

Discussion followed on the issue of heavy vehicles parking on residential streets, which is not permitted. Officers advised that reports of illegal parking are followed up with the offending companies by Council's Roothing Team. Board members can review the consultation documents which include Methven streets.

- **CRM report**

The CRM report content will be reviewed. Board members concluded that the information isn't entirely accurate and that there are more completed requests for service than the report suggests.

- **Building services**

It was reported that glazing rules have changed from 1 May 2023 that apply additional insulation requirements to new buildings, including triple glazing.

- **Methven tree lighting**

Simon Worthington outlined the issues that have arisen with attempts to install new festive lighting in Methven, including the re-lighting of two oak trees. To meet the required safety standards, Electricity Ashburton would have to lift pavers and dig up infrastructure to lay cables to the trees and this work is cost prohibitive.

The recommended approach is to undertake a full assessment of the power supply and load capacity and work with a lighting designer to create a lighting solution. This will be in consultation with Waka Kotahi and Council.

As part of this staged approach, Spectrum has been engaged to develop a lighting plan with a consistent theme through Methven – they'll show what's possible and what the cost effective options are.

Simon will seek the Board's support for a business plan he is preparing for Council's LTP 2024-2034. The Plan for Methven's lighting solution would see (in the first year) investment in electrical infrastructure. Some interim work could be undertaken in the meantime including getting businesses on board.

Officers will continue to support the Methven Lighting Committee and the Board will be updated again on 12 June.

- **District promotion**

Simon will be attending the TRENZ event in Christchurch next week where he will be representing the district’s operators. He acknowledged that the Board wants to have greater input into the process to ensure Methven is well promoted.

The Board heard that the first step is to update and refresh the content of the District’s story and utilising the “Neat Places” site.

- **Roading**

The Chair reported that he will be meeting with Council’s Roothing Manager, Wareings and Methven Trucking this Friday to look at the siting of the new kerbing on Line Road. The kerb will need to accommodate large vehicles turning.

- **Watermain renewals**

The Board would like further detail on where the renewal work is being carried out. A map showing locations would be appreciated.

- **Reserves**

It was reported that Methven Lions plan to tidy up the Mt Hutt Station Road walkway on SH77. Work is pending a traffic management plan which is being followed up by Robin.

- **Methven Cemetery**

The Chair advised that Methven Lions have a number of plants to contribute to the cemetery landscaping and will liaise with the Open Spaces Manager to fit in with the planting programme.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 12.15pm

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
9	Methven Community Board 13/03/23	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

The Board resumed in open meeting at 12.33pm.

District promotion

The Board continued discussion on how it can support Council with district promotion.

Simon commented that it would be useful for him to know what MCB wants district promotion to look like, going forward. He spoke about the challenges including trade-readiness of operators and the branding issue. This requires the business community to be consistent (not helped in Methven by the number of cafes closed after 3pm).

The Board agreed that it needs to work closely with Council. Simon advised that if there’s aspiration for Methven to be a visitor destination, there needs to be consistency in how this is promoted. He confirmed that assistance from the Board to liaise with Methven businesses will be helpful.

That the Methven Community Board supports working collaboratively with Council’s Economic Development group for Methven promotion and marketing.

Lock/Owen

Carried

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm.

[Confirmed by the Methven Community Board on 12 June 2023]