

## *Methven Community Board – 29/01/24*

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 29 January 2024, commencing at 9.00 am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

### **Present**

Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Robin Jenkinson, Allan Lock and Richie Owen; Mayor Neil Brown, Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Cr Rob Mackle.

### **In attendance**

Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Linda Clarke (Communications Advisor) and Mary Jenkin (Governance Support).

### **1 Apologies**

Megan Fitzgerald Sustained

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Discretionary grant requests – Methven Lions Club and Methven Bowling Club.  
The Chair accepted two late items for discussion and decision.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

**That** the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 27 November 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/ Lock Carried

### **5 Activity Reports**

**That** the reports be received.

Jenkinson/Lock Carried

### **5.1 Democracy & Engagement**

- **Alcohol policy** – events coming up in March include the Methven Show and Rodeo. Deputy Mayor McMillan asked if officers would assist with comms around this to help support local businesses.

- **Long Term Plan 2024-34 development**

Methven Community Board will resubmit a proposal to Council on how lighting the Methven CBD could be funded. Council will consider this through the LTP consultation process.

The Board noted that submissions open on 20 March and close at the end of April.

- **Representation Review**

The Board has made a submission.

- **Biodiversity Strategy**

The Deputy Mayor advised that the Garden of Harmony is worth [amended 11/03/24] being considered as part of the work being done on reserve management planning.

- **Draft Reserve Management Plans**

The Mayor commented that some reserves put in place 50 years ago may not be relevant today and asked whether it would be possible to swap reserve status. Board members will be provided with the map showing each of the reserves.

## 5.2 Business Support

- **Customer Request Management**

The Board noted a number of water issues in the CRM, mostly relating to aging infrastructure.

Two CRMs entered as received and not completed will be followed up with Customer Services. It was suggested there is some inconsistency with information gathering and completion sign-off.

- CRM1601425/23 – missing/damaged street signage
- CRM500002/24 – sinkhole (Brown Pub) – showing cancelled but still needing repair
- CRM1600021/24 – Status of 60km speed restriction to be followed up (noting Waka Kotahi’s advice that speed limit changes can’t be implemented until the new Plan is certified).

- **Finance Report**

Clarification was sought on whether paving at the Methven pool has been completed. Officers will check and report back.

- **Discretionary grants**

The Board briefly discussed the grants application process noting that accountability may have been a little relaxed and needs to be addressed. Further consideration will be given to this.

## 5.3 Compliance and Development

- **Building Services**

The Board noted that consents are down on the two previous years.

## 5.4 Infrastructure & Open Spaces

- **Reserves**

The Board suggested planting trees in the dog park. Officers will follow this up with the Open Spaces Manager.

Members were disappointed to see that signs at the skate park have been damaged and pushed over.

- **Biodiversity Community Workshop on Pest Control**

The meeting was very well attended in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, tying in with other entities involved with the trapping of pests.

- **Chambers Park community garden**

The Deputy Mayor outlined the background to the community garden – a group set up as the Methven Food Forest Group by Dr Sophie a few years ago as an initiative to plant food (fruit trees and vegetables) in Chambers Park. There is no longer anyone in the community taking responsibility for weeding and planting. The Food Forest Facebook group is now obsolete and the garden has become overgrown with weeds and is in a state of disrepair.

**That** the Chambers Park garden box be removed and the area returned to grass so it can be mown and tidied up.

Lock/Jenkinson

Carried

- **Garden of Harmony**

The Chair spoke about the community meeting held to discuss the future of the Garden of Harmony, an area of approximate two hectares. Discussion on how this land could benefit the community – potentially a submission from the Board for LTP consideration if resources are required by Council.

- **New rules for speed restriction**

The Deputy Mayor suggested that the Board asks the Mayor to write to the Minister of Transport regarding the speed signs that are going to be changed on SH77 (30 kph limit through town and 60 going out of town).

### **Extraordinary Business – discretionary grant requests**

#### **1) Methven Lions Club**

The application seeks approval for funding for the “Birdsong Initiative” – to bring back birdsong to Methven town and the foothills area between Mt Somers and Rakaia Gorge. \$10,000 is required to set up the trap library. The Board supports this initiative and is looking at the option of making unused reserve land available, adjacent to the Garden of Harmony.

The Board’s expectation is that accountability will be achieved with biannual updates from the Methven Lions.

At the request of the Group Manager Democracy & Engagement, proposed expenditure and trap costings will be provided by Robin Jenkinson.

**That** Methven Community Board allocates \$10,000 from its discretionary grant to the Methven Lions Club for the Birdsong Initiative.

Owen/Jenkinson

Carried

#### **2) Methven Bowling Club**

The application seeks approval for \$5,252 to install shade panels at the Methven bowling green.

**That** Methven Community Board allocates \$5,252 from its discretionary grant to the Methven Bowling Club for the installation of shade panels.

McMillan/Mackle

Carried

The meeting concluded at 10.23am.

**[Confirmed by the Board on 11 March 2024]**

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**Chairman**