

## Meeting

7 February 2023



### 5 *Biodiversity Advisory Group Minutes*

Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting was held on Wednesday 7 February 2023, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton, commencing at 1:00pm.

#### **Present**

Councillors Leen Braam (Chair) and Richard Wilson; Mayor Neil Brown; Ian Soper (ADC, Open Spaces Manager), Christian Chukwuka (ADC, Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor), Bert Hofmans (ADC, Open Spaces Planner); Val Clemens, Edith Smith, Mary Ralston, Donna Field, Janine Holland, Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra).

MS Teams: Gen de Spa (Staveley Camp, Zone Committee member, Foothills Landcare Group) and Alice Shanks (QEII).

#### **In attendance**

Mary Wilson (ADC, EA to CE - minutes), Margo Tercier (ADC GIS team) and Dave Moore (ECan, Ashburton Zone Committee Facilitator).

#### **Apologies**

1. **That** apologies are received from Cr Lynette Lovett (ADC), Nick Vernon (Synlait), Ian Fraser (DOC) and Angela Cushnie (Ashburton Zone Committee).

Wilson / Ralston

Carried

2. **Extraordinary Business**

Nil

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Nil

4. **Previous Minutes**

Minutes from the 18 August 2022 meeting were presented to the meeting, previously confirmed by Council.

5. **Report from the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor**

Christian Chukwuka (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor) presented his report to the meeting.

It was noted from observations made that the number of visitors to the Lake Camp/Clearwater area over the busy Christmas period would have a possible impact on the biodiversity.

The lake is a recreation reserve with plenty of room for camping. Damage by 4WD's is a priority. Attempts to block off a whole side of the lake have not been completely successful with some work still to be done.

Several species of plants are under pressure from the number of visitors to the area.

**That** the Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor's report be received.

Braam / Smith

Carried

**6. GIS Mapping**

ADC's GIS Team have created a form to be used to record biodiversity projects throughout the Ashburton district, so their details can be included in the GIS mapping project.

A QR code has also been developed.

**7. Pudding Hill**

Pudding Hill is a reasonably important stream in the district and there is concern about wildings, coming from above.

Presentation on weed survey undertaking in late 2022 and recommendations for long-term management of the riverbanks within Mt Hut Forest area made to the group by Christian Chukwuka (ADC Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor) and Donna Field (ECan Biodiversity Advisor).

**Agreed Action:** Christian and Donna to explore further actions to be followed, including funding, to eliminate the weeds.

**8. Focus Group proposal**

Looking for some recommendations and direction from the group with the intention of creating an action plan that would come back to the group with options, and support future funding applications.

Creating focus groups was discussed as a worthwhile consideration where the members can provide knowledge, advice and enthuse people regarding projects being carried out.

**Agreed Action:** Cr Leen Braam (Chair) and Christian Chukwuka (Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor) to work with ADC Communications Team to promote the work being carried out by the Biodiversity Advisory Group.

**Extraordinary business**

***Terms of Reference***

The Terms of Reference are to be updated to include new Councillor representation.

**Agreed Action:** Mary to update TOR and circulate to members.

***Agenda reports***

The Chair encouraged members to bring reports to the meetings through the agenda, providing structure to the meetings.

**Meeting finished at 3:04pm**