



MINUTES

Safer Communities Committee Meeting Thursday, 7 December 2023

Ref: 1635054

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Safer Communities Committee Meeting
Held in the St John Meeting Room, 9 Jackson Street, Timaru
on Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 12.30pm**

Present: Mayor Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Clr Scott Shannon (Deputy Chairperson), Katy Houstoun - Multicultural Aoraki, Gordon Handy - Chamber of Commerce, Jackie Williams - Neighbourhood Support, Vicki Walker - NZ Police, Margie Goldsmith - Te Aitarakihī Trust, Gavin List - Timaru Community Patrol, Keith Shaw - YMCA South & Mid Canterbury, Robin Peterson – Grey Power, Graham Dellow - Timaru Community Patrol, Andrea Grant - Te Whatu Ora, Tracey Miron - Refugee Settlement Services, Deirdre Dahlberg - Family Works, Mandy Wills - Ministry of Justice, David Duthie – Timaru Christian Minister’s Assn, Sally Jarvie – Hato Hone St John, Donna Lindsay – Fire and Emergency New Zealand

In Attendance: Claire Barlow (Community Experience Manager), Jess Hurst (Community Development Advisor)

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies

Resolution 2023/38

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Deputy Chairperson Scott Shannon

That the following apologies be accepted: Sandi Abel, Rene Templeton, Ruth Swale, Rosie Chambers, Tina Kavanaugh, Craig Chambers, Greg Newton, Merali Taylor and Mandy Wills.

Carried

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

3.1 Minor Nature Items

The Subcommittee agreed to consider the following minor nature items at this meeting:

- Member updates

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Safer Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2023

Resolution 2023/39

Moved: Deputy Chairperson Scott Shannon

Seconded: Member Gordon Handy - Chamber of Commerce

That the Minutes of the Safer Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

6 Reports

6.1 Safer Communities Update - December 2023

The Community Development Advisor spoke to the report to provide the Safer Communities subcommittee with an operational update on activities and progress in the Safer Communities programme.

There was discussion around the new format for the Need Help booklet. The booklet will now be more fulsome in content which will ensure it is a valuable resource for the community. Once the booklet has been distributed, the Committee will look at ways to get more succinct information out for people in need.

There will also be an online version.

Resolution 2023/40

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Member Margie Goldsmith - Te Aitarakihī Trust

That the Safer Communities Update – December 2023 report is received and noted.

Carried

6.2 Establishment of the Aoraki Settling-In Collective

The Community Development Advisor spoke to the report to inform the Safer Communities subcommittee of the establishment of the Aoraki Settling-In Collective working group.

Resolution 2023/41

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Member Katy Houstoun - Multicultural Aoraki

That the Safer Communities Subcommittee receives this report and notes and supports the development of the Aoraki Settling-In Collective working group.

Carried

7 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received

8 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

8.1 Member Updates

Mayor Nigel Bowen

Council is working through the Long Term Plan process with a plan to continue engaging with social agencies. There will be opportunities for engagement during the consultation process. CPlay is now open to the public and is a great example of a successful community-led project.

Action: Invite Bianca Laing from Environment Canterbury to attend Safer Communities meetings

Multicultural Aoraki – Katy

They continue to be busy with lots of people coming in for support. Housing continues to be an issue. Another big issue is families that are going through the court system, and turning down translation supports as they don't want to cause any problems. This creates less understanding of what is being explained to them.

Ministry of Justice – Mandy Herewini-Wills

Mandy raised a similar issue with interpretation services, mentioning that often friends/acquaintances will interpret but this can be a conflict of interest around privacy. In the last month they have had double the 'Without Notice Orders' as usual. Considerable conflict out in the community right now, lots of families are struggling and they are seeing an increase in family harm.

NZ Police - Vicki Walker

November does see a spike in incidences of family harm. 2023 numbers for November are following traditional patterns and trending upwards. Ramping into the busy season. Key message is to be safe on the road. We can all become an offender and a victim on the roads.

Te Aitarakihi – Margie Goldsmith

The busy work continues – the Te Aitarakihi Night Market was a success. Two waka will be arriving soon, youth on the rangitahi programme are going through training. Waiata Fit is a multi-agency waiata group that meets every second Friday at the Council Chambers to learn waiata. The group has been out in the community performing at Diwali celebrations, Bede Carran's farewell, and at the night market.

Deputy Mayor Scott Shannon

This committee is a highlight for him – big thank you to everyone for the work they do in the community.

South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support – Jackie Williams

Jackie is one month into her new role, has been getting out into the community to make connections.

Fire and Emergency NZ – Donna Lindsay

Currently taking part in a promotion with TDC's road safety programme, Neighbourhood Support and others relating to getting to know your neighbours. The incident management team recently completed an exercise for wildfires, so they are semi-prepared for the season ahead. Getting out in the community as much as they can, including the upcoming CPlay opening in a contest vs the Police. Having staffing issues with staff on the trucks – they are putting in big hours.

South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce – Gordon Handy

Seeing a lot of people withdrawing from their Kiwi Saver. A business buddy programme has been set up as a number of business owners are under a lot of stress. The programme enables them to go and have a chat with a mentor.

Hato Hone St John – Sally Jarvie

Sally is the Community Engagement Coordinator across the district. Temuka, Geraldine and Timaru Committees are currently working out how to work together. Most of the committees have done community impact plans, looking to collaborate on healthy communities. Key programme is social café prescriptions which is in the early stages with a meeting being held next week.

Refugee Settlement Services - Tracey Miron

Currently working with 21 families, with another arriving tomorrow. Their service will continue to receive between 17 – 20 families every year. They participated in the Santa parade in the weekend with big plans for next year. One of their biggest issues is behaviours that stem from trauma. Currently trying to find funding for counselling services. The families feel very safe in Timaru, they often can't believe that their children can go out and walk around and be safe.

Community Patrol – Gavin List and Keith Dallow

They will have a presence at a vigil planned for Friday night in support of Palestine. Heading out for their busy summer season, if other services/agencies feel like they would need some form of patrol in an area, let them know.

Timaru Christian Minister's Association – David Duthie

Busy time of year for churches with a variety of different services on. Remember that churches have a lot of services to offer support to those in the community ie book clubs, youth groups, children and youth programmes, relationship support. Several churches also have community meals available.

Grey Power – Robin Peterson

One of their members has been working with Community Patrol on a community mobility scooter issue. Waka Kotahi has indicated that it is a council issue.

Te Whatu Ora – Andrea Grant

Key area of concern is the cost of living. They have been promoting a Te Whatu Ora oral health initiative providing toothbrushes and toothpaste for whānau, targeted to preschool tamariki. Any agency can get access to the programme.

Family Works – Deidre Dahlberg

Dee is settling into her new role, three months in. BAU plus Christmas which adds stress to the community. Have seen an increase in family harm. Emergency food parcel demand has increased. A local foodbank is closing, which could see the opportunity for a coordination of community foodbank services in the Timaru district. Christmas on the Bay is on Saturday, fundraising event.

The Mayor let members know that he does have a small fund available for urgent cases of need. This is administered by the Executive Support Manager.

Resolution 2023/42

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Member Gordon Handy - Chamber of Commerce

That the Safer Communities Subcommittee member updates be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 2.15pm.

Minutes Confirmed 21 March 2024.



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Mayor Nigel Bowen
Chairperson