

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD
AT 9.00AM ON WEDNESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2008 AT
MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE,
KAIKOURA.**

PRESENT: Councillor M McChesney (Chairperson), Mayor Heays, S Frizzell (Disability Sector), J Bolton-Roche (Te Whare Putea), L Craig (Public Health Nurse), Sergeant R Smith (NZ Police).

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Committee Secretary), D Wright (Order of St John), M Kennedy (Road Safety Officer), R Te Ua (Family Violence Officer), A Blunt (SEEK), L Vallance (Mental Health Support Worker), H Manning (Kaikoura High School Student), M Hislop, K Roberts, (members of the public), E Dangerfield (Kaikoura Star).

APOLOGIES: Councillor B Woods, A Carter, M Pfeifer, K McKenzie.

Moved by Mayor Heays, seconded by J Bolton-Roche and resolved that apologies be accepted.

1. MINUTES ACTION LIST UPDATE

Civil Defence Siren

M Kennedy advised the fire siren was used for civil defence as there was no dedicated civil defence siren however in the case of a civil defence emergency the siren was distinctly different to the fire siren in that it would turn off and on for a duration of time.

Request for Accessibility Audit

Councillor McChesney advised a recommendation from the Social Services Committee had gone to the October Council meeting however the Chief Executive Officer had questioned exactly what the committee was seeking in its request for an accessibility audit as it was a rather broad request and went far beyond the requirements of the Building Code. He had also asked that the Committee's request be put in writing to Council stating exactly what was being sought. Councillor McChesney advised she had been absent from the Social Services meeting where this request had been minuted and asked for an update as to what the committee was seeking with such an audit.

Mayor Heays recalled the request for an accessibility audit had come up during the issue of the Library steps being painted which had been bought up by S Brady of the NZ Blind Foundation and as he understood it the Committee wanted to know the process, by whom it should be done, how, and the result.

Councillor McChesney advised she and the Mayor would get together and prepare a request in writing.

L Vallance noted some of the gutters in the West End were very high and proved difficult for disabled or elderly to step down or up from the footpaths. M Hislop concurred, noting it was a very big step down from the footpath in some areas of the West End. It was noted there were areas in the West End that were ideal for crossing the road where the footpath was flush with the roadside. It was suggested bollards may be helpful in the areas where the gutters were deep.

Sergeant R Smith entered the meeting at 9.18am.

2. COMMUNITY NETWORKERS MINUTES

J Bolton-Roche advised Te Whare Putea were currently taking donations of non-perishable goods for Christmas hampers. Te Whare Putea would be closed from 19th December to 5th January however the Heartlands Office would remain open until Christmas Eve.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Community Development Officer's report was taken as read in her absence. K Roberts advised the community garden had not progressed very far due to a lack of people. Anyone interested in participating were encouraged to contact coordinator Carolyn Wright on 319 3366.

A Blunt suggested the garden may work better if it was a little more structured with specific planting times being opportunities for learning. M Hislop suggested it may be more encouraging if participants each had their own little patch of garden to work on.

4. FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFICER'S REPORT

R Te Ua presented the report advising funding had been confirmed for the next year from the Crime Prevention Unit which would be used for "Stopping Violence" workshops for the Kaikoura community.

An end of year morning tea was scheduled to take place on 9 December where the Network's goals and achievements for the year would be acknowledged.

A Community Forum was scheduled to take place on 14 November from 1pm to 5pm at Encounter Kaikoura, with Children's Commissioner, Cindy Kiro, as guest speaker. The forum would be interactive and provide information about the role and work of the Children's Commissioner.

5. SEEK

A Blunt presented the report advising it had been a difficult time finding work over the last few months for the 5 people registered with her although it was hoped this might change with the onset of summer and the tourism season.

Kaikoura was now making use of the Ailsa Litchfield Apprenticeship Grant Scheme available to local apprentices which, although available,

had not previously been tapped into. A Blunt advised she had assisted with three applications, with 1 being successful, 1 waiting to be granted and 1 about to be filed. The Scheme allowed for apprentices to apply for up to \$2,000 each year toward tools, equipment and books.

Youth in Local Government Conference

A Blunt advised she had recently attended the Youth In Local Government Conference which proved to be well worthwhile and provided her with many ideas to benefit both the youth and community of Kaikoura. Of particular importance was a discussion with the Mayor of Otorohanga to discuss the process of setting up a Trades Academy and she hoped to be able to begin to follow the process in the New Year. Otorohanga District Council, a similarly sized Council to Kaikoura, had established a Trades Academy with the assistance of the Hamilton Polytech. Based on Otorohanga's timeline, A Blunt envisaged the entire process of setting up a Trades Academy to take approximately 18 months.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor McChesney advised she and Mayor Heays had recently had discussions with Felicity Woodham, of Canterbury District Health Board, to discuss concerns regarding the proposed new health facility being put on hold and it had transpired that things were not as bad as envisaged and the delay was only minor. Felicity Woodham would be attending the December Social Services meeting to speak and update the committee.

7. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Cruise Ships

Mayor Heays advised the Tourism & Development Committee had recently workshopped ideas on how to welcome passengers on the 8 cruise vessels expected to visit Kaikoura over the 2008/09 summer season. Passengers would be uplifted from the wharf and brought into town and greeted by the Mayor wearing his chains. Organisers of the Schoolyard market had been invited to set up a market in the town centre and retailers were being advised of the dates and encouraged to provide a warm welcome to passengers. It was requested a copy of the cruise ship schedule be emailed to committee representatives.

Wharf Update

Mayor Heays advised while construction of the wharf had experienced serious delays due to the contractor being over committed, he had been informed by the Project Manager that works would commence this week. He noted, as frustrating as the delays were, to change the existing contract and re-tender it could well delay things for up to a further year and the costs would increase substantially. The contractor had agreed, at his own cost, to construct and install a floating pontoon and would position it at the Old Wharf Site for this coming season.

Annual Report

Mayor Heays advised the draft Annual Report 2008 had been adopted by Council on 30th October following it being audited by Audit New Zealand. It was noted the audit had gone extremely smoothly and had received approval from Audit New Zealand in a timely manner.

Vests in Kaikoura

High visibility vests, kindly donated by Fulton Hogan, were expected to be delivered into the districts schools on the 19th & 20 of November.

8. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

An update was provided by Road Safety Officer, M Kennedy. A Road Safety Action Plan meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 10th November with representatives from New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and New Zealand Police and the main focus of the meeting would be the three "E's" being:

1. Engineering
2. Education
3. Enforcement

Road crash statistics for the Kaikoura district were tabled which showed a decline in crashes in the current year compared with 2006/07. It was noted there appeared to be an increased number of motor scooters being used around the town.

Rural Fire Update

M Kennedy advised the Kaikoura flats area was still in the open fire season however fire restrictions were expected to be put in place within the next two weeks. It was further noted that new Environment Canterbury rules meant urban residents were now required to have a resource consent for any outdoor fire, the cost being in excess of \$1,000.

As a result of flooding in July and August there was huge amounts of driftwood on the districts beaches which had led to call outs to unattended beach fires. A controlled burnout of the beach at Peketa was being considered due to the large amount of driftwood lying on the beach.

M Kennedy made a request for extreme caution to be taken if fireworks were planned later in the day.

Civil Defence

M Kennedy advised he had recently attended a Civil Defence conference in the Chatham Island which was extremely useful and highlighted how very isolated the Chatham Islands were, being totally reliant on outside help in the case of a civil defence emergency.

Environment Canterbury were currently preparing earthquake fault mapping which included a major programme for Kaikoura which was expected to result in a document being produced showing the exact location of all fault lines in the Kaikoura district.

Coastguard

Coastguard volunteers had been extremely busy since May 2008 renovating the old Coastguard facility at South Bay which included a penguin enclosure which was intended to be a funding stream for Coastguard. M Kennedy advised \$15,000 had recently been granted to Coastguard and would be used for education programmes such as boat safety for children.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Fire Siren

J Bolton-Roche asked why the fire siren was set off in the middle of the night waking the entire district for the likes of a truck accident and asked if there was any chance of the fire siren converting to a pager system for the likes of accidents, especially when all of the volunteers had pagers. M Kennedy advised J Bolton-Roche that she would need to take this matter up with Fire Chief, Ian Walker.

D Wright of Order of St John advised the fire service operated a completely different system to St John whereby if there was a pager failure, the fire service did not have a roster system in place like St John.

NZ Police

Sergeant R Smith was pleased to advise the Kaikoura Police Station would be operating as a full 5 man station by early December.

New Vicar

It was advised a new Vicar had been appointed to the Anglican Church.

Barnardos

Councillor McChesney advised Barnardos Early Childhood Centre had relocated to its newly built premises in the High School grounds and an open day was being planned for some time in November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.18am.