

MINUTES

MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 11 December 2024

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: 18 Humphrey Street
Marton

Present

Mrs Carolyn Bates
Mr David Christison
Mrs Jennifer Greener
Ms Sally Moore
Mr John Whittaker
Cr Dave Wilson

In attendance

Ms Melanie Bovey, Manager- Heritage and Culture
Mrs Deb Haworth, Minute Taker
Mr David Yates
Mr Simon Spence

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1 Welcome

Carolyn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Duncan, Mr Farrell, Mrs Harvey-Larsen, HWTM Watson and Cr Maughan (later in the meeting).

3 Public Forum

There was no Public Forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

The order of business was not changed.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/042

That the minutes of Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 9 October 2024 **without amendment** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

Ms S Moore/Mr J Whittaker. Carried

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Marton Community Committee Meetings

Item 1 - Water access on the deck of Tutaenui Hall:

Mrs Bates noted this says it is completed but she hasn't heard anything about it being completed. She asked if anyone had been there and seen it? She is assuming it has been completed since the Report says it is.

ACTION: Mrs Bovey will follow up the water access on the deck of Tutaenui Hall.

Item 2 - Update on Calico Line footpath installation:

Mrs Bates noted the Calico Line path installation action was still in progress and she hasn't seen any changes since the sticks were put in people's gardens.

Cr Wilson said the sticks mark where the actual boundary is so first of all they had to establish that before they can take the steps to go further. There has been an update which would enable a

footpath on Calico Line that would not inconvenience the owners whilst recognising their properties are encroaching on the road boundary. There has been no further decision as to whether or not the Calico Line footpath will even go ahead because it is a project the Council is considering, as to whether or not it should go ahead along with a number of other unsubsidised roading projects. It is still up for discussion.

Mrs Bates said she thought it had been agreed in the Long Term Plan.

Cr Wilson said it has been agreed in the Long Term Plan but at the end of the day Council can do what it likes to a certain extent, saying that a little bit tongue in cheek. But Council has to consider what is unsubsidised funds given the shortfall we have been given from NZTA in our roading and we have to look at some of these things. The other one that has also been considered is whether or not the sealing behind Memorial Hall will continue. This is a direct cost to ratepayer and it needs to be considered when we are being short funded by NZTA for a significant amount of money. The money has to be found from somewhere and it's not saying that any decisions have been made, he is just saying that those sorts of decision are being considered along with some other roading projects just to see if they are still effectively fit for purpose and if they can be delayed to enable other works to be done.

Mrs Bates mentioned the swimming pool.

Cr Wilson said not even the swimming pool. This is the roading space. Quite simply NZTA is not funding us to the tune of, he could be wrong, for the next three years of \$11 million, so we have to go ok, what gives. It is prudent to have a look at all of the projects, particularly the unsubsidised ones and go ok, let's reconsider. That is not to say nothing will happen but decisions have to be thought about.

Mrs Bates said in the cold light of day to her, the space at the back of Memorial Hall may be nice if it was tarmacked but she didn't see that it was a necessity versus potholes in other areas.

Cr Wilson said these are the considerations they have and he is signalling there are a lot of discussions being had about where the works program is and what savings can be made, or what work can be deferred to make sure they can continue on with potholes and the more critical work and it is prudent to do so.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/043

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Marton Community Committee Meetings' be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mrs J Greener. Carried

7 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - December 2024

Mrs Bates she has had various conversations about funding, not just our funding. She received an application on the Small Projects Fund form which actually was to do with a Marae Development Fund. Mrs Bates couldn't find anything on the Council website about that, but equally she hasn't

had a chance to talk to Jo Manuel who she was told is the person who passed on the information. The lady who looked at the website had been told, have a look there will be a form there.

Cr Wilson said it may have been inadvertently filled out incorrectly.

Mrs Bovey said there are lots of forms, she could potentially send her the right form.

Mrs Bates said 'Diane' laughed when she told her she had asked for \$5,000 when they only get \$3,500 and she thinks something is not right especially as the Marae is in Turakina's Ward, not Marton's. So she was desperately trying to get hold of her as that was the same day the Turakina meeting was on and she thought if it has to go through Turakina, she needs to get to the meeting that night. Then we clarified it was Marae Development.

Mrs Bates mentioned Market Day and Xmas Parade. She went to the Local Water Done Well talk in Bulls before the Bulls Community Committee meeting. She has one copy of the hand out from the meeting. She had had discussions with people about the swimming pool, basically people are champing at the bit for it to be open.

Mr Christison was told by a friend, who takes his kids to the pool, they were told by the staff that it will never open again.

Cr Wilson said that is an absolute incorrect statement and it is the farthest from Council's mind. Council is doing everything it possibly can to have it open next season in some form. There has been no discussion about the Council table about that. Having said that, one must realise that when a situation like this arises and you are sitting at a Council table, you must look at both ends of the book shelf, one end could be close it down and don't open it again. The other end could be a multi complex twice the size of what it is. Somewhere in the middle is where you are going to find the sweet spot but we must always, at Council, consider both ends of the book shelf. He can tell them right now and quite strongly that there is no appetite from Council to close the pool, in fact it's the opposite and Council is doing everything they can to get it open as quickly as they can but not in such a way that it may impede any future works that are needed to be done. We have to come up with a plan for the complex in its entirety then we have to pace and place the different stages as we go along. For example, if you have to replace one beam and next year another beam fails, it would have been inappropriate to do that. Or if you then said we lift the roof off and we do something then put the roof on and someone comes up with another idea and goes I wish you had told me before we took the roof off. So we need to plan things a little bit more and get our ducks in a row, but closing the pool is the farthest thing from Council's mind. But we do have to think about what the process is to make the pool fit for purpose for the next 20 or 30 years and a knee jerk reaction to one failed beam would result in a flawed process, he believes.

Mr Christison asked if it was only one beam.

Cr Wilson said it was only one beam that has failed, but one would assume that you are looking at all the other beams at the same time. He would also note there are a number of pools in the immediate area that have exactly the same beams and he is led to believe there are a number of organisations checking their beams. The beam structure is not uncommon and was common at the time and there are a number of other pools that have exactly the same type of beam structure.

Mr Christison asked if it was also true that it was not built to specifications.

Cr Wilson said not that he was aware of that.

Mr Christison said apparently there was supposed to be a piece through the top and it was never in place.

Cr Wilson said he is not aware of that but it would have been built to the standard at the time and that standard now is probably quite different. He said nothing has been brought to his attention that there was anything flawed in its initial construction. That may come out in the investigations into what has happened. At the end of the day investigating what happened 38 years ago is not as important as investigating how we are going to get it opened in effectively what is a year's time. That would be where his focus would want to be.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/044

That the Chair's verbal Report –December 2024 be received.

Mrs C Bates/Ms S Moore. Carried

8 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - October 2024

Cr Wilson couldn't speak to the Mayor's Report as they are his Reports but once again it should be acknowledged just how active HWTM Watson is in the district and for the district. It is an incredible amount of work that HWTM Watson does and a lot of what he does is possibly over and above what his actual job description says he should do. Cr Wilson thinks it should be acknowledged because it is a huge amount of work he does.

Mrs Bates said HWTM Watson was at the RSA Christmas Lunch on 1 December and her husband said to him so is this you finished for the day and he said no he has to go somewhere beyond Taihape.

Mrs Greener said you only have to read in the Mayor's report where he is all over the district in one day.

Cr Wilson thinks it goes somewhat unrecognised for the amount of work he does and it is all for the benefit of our district and for the ratepayers of the district sure but certainly for the benefit of the district.

Cr Wilson noted a large amount of the Order Paper was from LGNZ reports which he thinks is appropriate to share with the Committee. They can be a long read but it shows what is going on in that space as a conduit to central Government. Again there is a lot of work and to understand some of the mechanisms of the system which can be tiresome and complex.

Mrs Bates said she thought some people don't understand the system.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/045

That the Mayor's Report - October 2024 be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mr J Whittaker. Carried

9.2 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/046

That the Mayor's Report – 28 November 2024 be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mr J Whittaker. Carried

9.3 Consultation Tracker

Mrs Bates noted on this that at the end of paragraph 1.2, it talks about Community Committees but not Boards, she is assuming that is an oversight that Boards will be included?

Cr Wilson confirmed it goes to Boards, as did Mrs Bovey.

Cr Wilson also wanted to make the Committee aware, he is sure Mrs Bates is, they get asked to consult on all sorts of legislation but they also are asked to give feedback to all sorts of policies and things put in by Government. They don't respond to all of them, some are just nationwide, but they certainly do respond to the ones with a specific meaning or reference to the district so whilst this is an indication of the Consultation Tracker, there is a huge amount of other stuff Council staff are submitting on through to local Government. It is massive and if you see the Reports he sees, which are often on the Council website, the amount of consultation and submissions they have to do and the time it takes and sometimes the short amount of time that Council is required to either submit to, it is physically not possible for the Council to submit to every submission to the Government.

Mrs Bovey confirmed it was a huge amount of stuff and technical.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/047

That the report 'Consultation Tracker' be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mr D Christison. Carried

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - December 2024

Mrs Bates gave a brief of the amounts available for the various funds.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/048

That the Funding Schemes Update – December 2024 be received.

Mrs C Bates/Ms S Moore. Carried

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - December 2024

Mrs Bates received a letter from Toaiva Launano-Tunai, she has applied to the Committee for funding. She has not given any indication of how much she is approaching us for, for her study to a Batchelor in Social Services Mental Health and Disability. She says she is attaching proper documentation of the offer of acceptance, with copies for anyone who wants to look at it, but that is just confirmation that she has been enrolled in the course. Again there is no indication of how much the cost of the course. Mrs Bates went on line, looking at the Otago website and it is over \$8,000 for one year.

Mr Christison asked how that helped our community by supporting her to do this.

Mrs Bates would say from the conversation that they have had over many months that she is looking at doing some more study to help her become more qualified to then be of greater benefit to the community. She lives in Marton and is presently employed by the Runanga, two days a week at the Stewart St Surgery and two days a week at Bulls. When Mrs Bates got this, she sent Toaiva an email back saying thanks, can she please fill in the form. The reason she did that was on the form it says how much are you wanting and if she fills in the form, we will then find out. There was no form forthcoming when she checked the emails today so she sent a text asking if she was coming tonight. On the basis she hasn't turned up and we don't know how much she is wanting, her suggestion is we either refuse it or we leave it over to the next meeting.

Mr Christison said, next meeting.

Mr Whittaker suggested also reply to her to say that had she considered any other options for funding and the guidelines for our one really is for community projects.

Mrs Bates said she is aware that she was applying to Rural Women because she asked if Mrs Bates could do a character reference for her because she had to, with her application, put in two references. One she was putting in her Tutor and the other one had to be somebody to do with Rural Women. Mrs Bates went back to her and said she wasn't a member of Rural Women but she can connect her with people who she knows are in Rural Women. The next conversation was she was having a talk with Pauline Masters who is involved in the middle layer of governance and she knows Toaiva was meeting with Pauline a couple of Saturdays back but that is as much as she is aware. Whether Toaiva is getting any funding from them at this stage, Mrs Bates has no idea nor deadline is, but for us, not knowing how much, and Mrs Bates is happy for someone else to read the application in case she has missed this, but she is stuck.

Mrs Bovey suggested that if she hasn't followed the process and filled out the form, it shouldn't be considered until next time.

Mrs Bates said when she talked to her in the past she said she doesn't have to fill in the form but you do have to answer all the questions, as one of the questions is how much do you want, if that's not included.

Cr Wilson suggested the way forward was simply to ask her to resubmit to the Committee meeting and it would be absolutely appropriate to have a chat to her saying the feeling of the Committee was it wasn't a complete form and perhaps she could revisit that and resubmit. That is a nice simple way forward.

Mrs Bates thought if she comes at least she can talk around it and do whatever.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/049

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update – December 2024' be received.

Mr D Christison/Cr D Wilson. Carried

9 Discussion Items

10.1 Local Water Done Well

Mrs Bates anticipated somebody would be there to talk to everybody about Local Water Done Well.

Cr Wilson said he could talk to some of it but it is a very moving beast, ask the question and he will do his best to answer because with little information coming from the Government and a lot of guess work being done as to what the next tranche of the Bill may or may not be. It is a very, very difficult space to be working in at the moment.

Mrs Bates had one copy of the Local Water Done Well leaflet and that was handed out.

Cr Wilson asked if there were any specific questions anyone's got, he may not be able to answer them, there is a lot of work going on, there it the leaflet Mrs Bates referred to out there which gives some idea about the next stages.

Mrs Bates said at the Bulls meeting there was talk about giving feedback or making decisions by the end of the year, is that still in place.

Cr Wilson said the next two things are they have to have a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) developed and presented to DIA (Department of Internal Affairs) by the 3rd of September 2025, that is quite a critical timeline for us to work to. The next stages are there have been a significant amount of conversations being had with our neighbouring Councils as to a certain extent who we are getting into bed with and who wants to be in the sandpit. Some Councils have already made those decisions. Whanganui made their decision today, he has been privy to what that decision is, they will announce it themselves tomorrow. Manawatu and Palmerston North have indicated what their positions are. The Rangitikei District Council's preferred position is to be in a larger grouping, the Horizons territory, it could be up to seven authorities. So that is our preferred position and our second position is to form some sort of CCO arrangement or something of that nature. Remember we are yet to make that decision because there are several different choices of CCO that you can have, he thinks there are five different options. Our preferred option is to form a CCO arrangement or some sort, the second position, with Whanganui, Ruapehu and ourselves. That item is on the Council agenda for discussion tomorrow. For those of you who are interested, take the time to look at the Council Order Papers, there is a very good 20 page report which is being presented to Council tomorrow. It is quite detailed, it is not an arduous read but in his opinion it is an accurate report that covers the last 8 months of work that has been going on and lists the 13 or 14, he thinks, meetings that have been held around this subject and in his opinion, it is quite a good report that encompasses where we have started to from the Government coming in and repeating the Three Waters back in February to where we have got to now. Within that space there has been a huge amount of work done.

Mrs Bates asked did everyone realise as well as having formal Council meetings, Councillors have workshops, this has been the topic of workshops when you look at the details.

Cr Wilson said workshops, he has attended meetings in Whanganui, Palmerston North with Councillors from other Councils, Mayors and Chief Executives. Everyone is trying to flesh out what this piece of legislation is coming down the line effectively like a steam train from Central Government and what does it look like. The biggest concern he can see is what does it look like for the Rangitikei, not right now, but in three to five years' time when this is going to be enacted, 2027 2028 is when this comes in and the one concern that he will share, and he does know HWTM Watson shares the same concern, is how do we still be relevant and have a voice with bigger parties. One of the things we are strongly suggesting is each Council has one vote, so if we end up in a situation, for example, with Palmerston North with more people, we wouldn't want to see a situation where given the size of their population, that they have two votes. We want one Council one vote. That is what we are working on. The outcomes of what comes from these decisions when they are made still have to be approved by the DIA, the Water Services Delivery Plan. That has got to be approved by them and, if it is financially sustainable, they will be checking the maths to make sure it is what it is, the CCO's will be formed, if that is the process we go through. Boards will be appointed and those Boards will be given a series of instructions effectively by the Councils to deliver to whoever the end make up is, whether it is a CCO or whatever. That is the key part we need to keep an eye on, how do we have our say in the next stage of this. Change is coming, the simple fact of the matter, it was coming with Three Waters. This is just a slightly different version of Three Waters in his opinion. Change has to come, something has to be done with the way we deliver our three water infrastructure. We can't continue with it with the way it is at the moment, it is really quite simple. This is a 30 year program of work to deal with the issue of three waters and infrastructure but how do we make sure that the Rangitikei and the people of the Rangitikei have a voice and are relevant, that our work programs that we need to get done and don't get pushed aside by other organisations, that's the key and that is where the big questions needs to be asked. There is a lot of work to be done.

10.2 Fluoridation

Mr Christison said he knows the Council has a lot of work on its plate but he sees one Council has already voted against fluoride and it was across the board and every Councillor said no.

Cr Wilson said this was Whangarei.

Mr Christison asked if the Rangitikei District Council would consider doing such a thing?

Cr Wilson said we haven't been asked to do it, we have not had a direction to that so it would be pre-emptive for him to give it consideration. The only thing with fluoride, two years ago Council was asked to formulate or indicate to one of the Government Departments, he is not sure which one, what the cost would be to the district to install fluoride into our system. That was the only piece of information he has.

Mr Christison said he thinks the Government is really pushing for it.

Cr Wilson said they have had no indication of that come across the Council table he is aware of. He has not seen any requests for it, he has not been made aware of it, either from the Chief Executive or the Mayor and he is aware of that decision made in Whangarei but it is not a decision on the

Council table and he has no indication of it even being on the Council table at any time soon. When it comes up, Council will make its decision based on that preference.

Mr Christison asked will it be up for debate, is it just a Council decision or will you make it a public.

Cr Wilson said who knows, it depends on what the directive comes from whichever department sends it to Council. It is premature to suggest whether it's a debatable thing or whether or not it's a consultative process that Council will need to go through. He really doesn't know without seeing any directive from whichever department it comes down to say what actions Council may or may not be required to do or whether or not there is any legal reference as to what they may or may not have to do. So without seeing that, it's a moot conversation because we haven't had anything given to us.

Mrs Bates said she read something a while ago, can't remember what it was, but fluoride was mentioned and she looked at the different Councils that had put fluoride in or not, and what she came up with was Rangitikei hadn't got fluoride, and she thought that was fine, it will come up at some point.

Cr Wilson said Rangitikei never have done, some Councils do and some Councils don't and he knows there is great debate whether it's good or bad or indifferent. He doesn't think it's worthwhile debating the point as nothing has come to the Council table asking us to formally install fluoride in our water. The only question that was asked was would we could come back with some prices, what the fluoridation of our plant would cost, and that is the only information we have replied back with. We have not been asked to take anything more with the question of fluoride. And some people say it's poison and some will say it's not, and there is science for and against, he doesn't want to get into a debate about it but from a Council point of view we haven't been asked to consider it from that first request which was about two years ago.

Mrs Bates' view is if you don't put fluoride in the water, then people have the choice to use toothpaste with fluoride in it or not then it is the purchaser in the household's choice.

Cr Wilson said, again Chair, no point in debating it there because we will go round and round in circles.

Mr Christison asked if we would get fair notice that it is coming up though?

Cr Wilson said as soon as any information comes to Council we will have to follow the process but at this stage it is not sitting on it, he does not know.

Mrs Bates said if the directive from on high comes down to say you will do, then there is no consultation with the masses, the directive from on high says we are encouraging you to do that, then you have more chance of having more consultation. Remember it is how its worded from on high as to whether Council get the option to consult.

Cr Wilson suggested Mr Christison, if he hasn't done so already, have a look at the Whangarei Council website, have a look at their Minutes, find out what was the actual motion Councillors voted against and see if there was a report that lead to that motion and that may give you some information as to what being directed, who it was being directed by. Cr Wilson was sure it was the Whangarei District Council, correct him if he is wrong, but again for us to have this conversation is a moot point. Right here and right now it is not on the Council's topic for discussion and they have received no instruction one way or the other.

10.3 Marton Water

Mr Whittaker said while we are on the topic of water, he thinks it has improved.

Cr Wilson said he hoped so. He would rather have people talking to him about it on a one on one, then we can share it.

Mr Whittaker asked about the bore and what is happening.

Cr Wilson said the bore is down, it's 490 metres deep, the water down there has been tested as to what the makeup of that water is. As expected iron, calcium and manganese as most bore water is. We have the flows, we know we have 600 litres per second, so we know we have the capacity. The test bore goes down then it becomes the production bore. That work has now been completed and it's got a big cap on it. The next stage is to take some of that water through a smaller, not much bigger than the table, nano filtration plant, that is to test the type of filters that we are going to need in an upscale plant to make sure we get the outcome we are looking for at the end. So that is going through its testing at the moment. The first round of filters didn't prove to be as successful as we had, as we decided, so we have got some more filters which are now being tested and those results are proving to be pretty good. He said to the Team that are leading the project as an Assets meeting, the original project was set up in 2019 with a completion date of December 2024, we are there now. And whilst that was a desirable date, he said do not rush to that date if they haven't got it right. He would rather they came to the Council table and said we need to delay this project six months to get it right and that is effectively what's happened. Because they are going to need to test it, test it and test it. We get one chance to get this process right. So that is the process where it's at, at the moment. But where the risk lies, and he has said this publicly around the Council table, we have to temper people's expectations, because come a certain date in May, whatever the case may be, they are not going to get champagne coming out of the taps. You are going to get water that will meet the strategy and one must always refer back, what was the original strategy. If you have a strategy to do something, you should always check in periodically that everything you are doing meets the original strategy. The original strategy is to have clear water which is consistent in colour, odour, taste, smell and meets regulatory requirements. Those are the five things that the strategy was always set up to do and at this stage we are still on target to meet those. And providing that we have met those at the end of the project, his opinion is the project will be successful, but the end result of water that comes out, some people may not like the taste of it. And remember there is different water everywhere. There are people in Whanganui that do not like the taste of the Whanganui water. He is fortunate enough to have a place at Foxton Beach, the water is awful. People tastes are different and we have to make sure that whilst the strategy is in place to meet those five targets, and if its meets those targets which means we won't get the seasonal change that anyone who has lived in Marton as long as any of us have, we know it comes generally in January, we got caught out in the middle of November, which happened a lot earlier, if the strategy meets the five points that we need to do, then the project is a success. But some people may not like the end result of what that water is. They may take some time to adjust and we will be looking to go through a process where we are going to blend the two waters so that there is a more gradual change as the water is switched slowly out of one to ramp up the other.

Mr Christison asked once the process has been done, will the lake be redundant and used for recreation?

Cr Wilson said no, they will stay in place and they will always be used as an emergency backup. If the bore collapsed 490 metres down for example, you would want to make sure you had another water source. Council is working on a plan, a great idea if they can do it, but the logistics of it are quite difficult, is to have some form of an open day at the treatment plant to allow people to go through and have a greater understanding that water doesn't just come out of sky. Water actually has to be produced to go down your taps and if we can get that happening in some form of open day. Then a lot of people will understand that the basic treatment plan was built over a 100 years

and it was built and designed through its carbon filters, sand filters, UV and chlorinated and that process but it was designed to treat dam water. You have to have a completely different treatment process to treat bore water. That's why it's as complex as it is and takes as long as it does. He is really hopeful Council can move to having an open day of some sort, the logistics will be difficult with health and safety and people walking around the water plant so there is health and safety that has to happen. He is happy the project is getting near the pointy end but there is still a lot of work going on to make sure we have it right.

Mrs Bates said she thinks the Open Day is a good idea, always a fan of Open Days.

Cr Wilson said they are working towards but it does create some complexities that he couldn't guarantee to this Committee now that it is something that would go ahead. There is a desire to do it, we think it would be very beneficial for people to see how our water is made and what the makeup of it is, some complexities around doing it.

Mrs Bates said an alternative in her mind is send Ben (from the Communications Team) out there with his camera.

Cr Wilson yes, said that could be a thing. Water is a complex beast and we all know it is a problem. He wanted to share the updates around the water, we all know it's bad, we are working on it. The Ratepayers are on working on it because it's costing them.

10.4 Closed Toilets in Lower High Street

Mr Whittaker queried the toilets opposite Mad Tom's, he asked if they were still closed?

Cr Wilson said there was no intention of opening them at this stage.

Mr Whittaker spoke to a bus driver when they had three or four public sessions at the Village Green space and the roads were chocker, the people were chocker and the bus turned up, the people had to get off the bus and walk up to Follett St to the toilet. The Bus driver said he wasn't allowed to park up there because there wasn't parks up there.

Cr Wilson asked if it was a normal day or was there an event on.

Mr Whittaker said there was an event on, a public concert or something.

Cr Wilson said that shouldn't have stopped him from parking in Follett Street, you can park a bus in Follett Street.

Mr Whittaker said there are no car parks in Follett Street and there is no parking, so that is what he said, they are not allowed to do it.

Cr Wilson asked; was he saying there was an event on so there wasn't enough room to park his bus.

Mr Whittaker said yes. He said there were two buses pulled up and they had to wait half an hour for the people to go and back.

Cr Wilson asked were they the Transit buses?

Mr Whittaker said they were the InterCity buses.

Mrs Bovey said if they came off State Highway 1, they come past Centennial Park, they can stop there.

Cr Wilson said there are no plans to open that toilet again.

Mrs Bates said she thought they were going to be demolished.

Cr Wilson said he doesn't know if they were to be demolished or not, he couldn't answer to that.

Mr Yates said he used to be an InterCity bus driver and spoke to the distance between Flat Hills, Marton and Bulls and the need for passengers to go to the toilet. This is the only place they have got to go to and the buses have pretty strict timeframes.

Cr Wilson asked do the bus drivers know there is a toilet at Centennial Park. There is no reason they couldn't park a bus there, he knows it's not a bus stop.

Mr Whittaker was going to suggest why don't they put or talk about getting some bus stops inserted by Centennial Park by the Rose garden on both sides.

Cr Wilson said that has been considered but it isn't quite as simple as it might seem though. He is thinking particularly about the toilets in Follett Street, it is quite easy to come in that way, down Follett Street, go straight through around the back of the shops and end up in there. It wouldn't be an onerous journey. Going either way in a bus you would end up going back up Follett Street.

Mr Whittaker asked wasn't it just easier to reopen the toilets. A lot of people are saying why don't the Council reconsider their decision rather than putting in a new one here and a new one there. Surely it must be cheaper than a new one.

Cr Wilson is not actually sure you need to have a new one. He knows what Mr Whittaker is saying but he is wondering if there is an education process that could come here because if you look where the toilets are particularly in Follett Street, and to a certain extent Centennial Park, it is literally 500 metres on any bus route from that point, no matter which way.

Mrs Greener said probably Centennial Park is easier because you can never get a park in Follett Street.

Cr Wilson said to answer your question, there are no plans from the Council to open those toilets.

Mr Spence said as a regular volunteer at the Op Shop, they often have customers asking to leave stuff there and stop in the wheelchair park outside to load up. They buy stuff and can't carry it all in their arms back to the car. They have had to park hundreds of metres away.

Mr Whittaker said there were quite a few wheelchairs there at the Green space.

Mr Christison said the problem is, do you have 100 toilets.

Mr Whittaker said there are two toilets just down the road and you bought three new toilets.

Ms Moore said they would need complete rebuilding. Where they are, they are on route between all the pubs and you could imagine the state they used to be in.

Mr Whittaker thought he would bring it up because there are a lot of people talking about it.

Cr Wilson said Council hears that talk as well.

Mr Whittaker said you have solved that because its Council land isn't it.

Cr Wilson said it's a funny little piece of land, just that little square. It is not on the radar.

10.6 Walker Park, Bulls toilets

Cr Wilson said one of the things on the radar, which came out of the Long Term was consideration of toilets in Walker Park in Bulls where the Bulls and the Water Tower. That is the only thing on toilets in the district which may be considered in the future, is at Walker Park. This was a request that came, from the Bulls Community Committee?

Mr Yates said no.

Cr Wilson said it came from somebody that there was a request which has gone further for consideration.

10.6 High Street buildings

Mrs Bates asked if there has been an interest in the buildings on High Street and Broadway.

Cr Wilson said there have been four expressions of interest were received and he is not sure where they are going. A couple were being further discussed but what the makeup is of that who would know.

10.7 Rail Hub Land

Mr Whittaker asked about news on the Rail Hub land.

Cr Wilson asked if he meant the bit that was being rezoned. There is nothing, all the actions of the Environment Court have been enacted and the land is now deemed to be 65 hectares of industrial land. That would allow interested parties who are looking to development it further, to now be having more definite conversations with funders because there is a significant amount of money to be funded to carry on. The Council’s role in that process was to get it rezoned and of which 65 hectares was rezoned. Obviously there were some court matters that were challenged, it went through the Environment Court then went back to the Environment Court. Those matters have all been settled so the process of that has been enacted with the provisions of the Environment Court being done. Those players with some more certainty can now come together and make greater commercial decisions, again it’s another three to five year long project. We have seen changes of Government in that space, changes of views. The world is a different place to what it was five years ago. He is very much in favour of development of that kind and nature, he thinks it’s good for the district. A lot of people have a different opinion but he doesn’t mind sharing that he is a supporter of the Rail Hub project in its principle.

10.8 Kensington Road Wood Plant

Mrs Bates mentioned the area on Kensington Road where the wood plant used to be, there doesn’t seem as if there has been much happening there for a while.

Cr Wilson said he couldn’t comment on that, he is not privy to what goes on there or what they are doing.

Mr Whittaker asked if it was that plastic wood.

Cr Wilson said there was some testing of some description going on and it would have been on the Council Order Paper some time ago but it’s not something he has taken particular focus on. He couldn’t make any comment on it.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Marton Community Committee held on 12 February 2025.

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Chairperson