



Minutes meeting 23 Sept '25 held at Avebury House

Present

Murray James (chair), Liesbeth van Bruchem, Ewout van Bruchem, Rachel Crawford, Hayley Guglietta, Ross Skinner, David Duffy, Jenna Kelly, Kate Palmer, Reuben Davidson.

Apologies

Craig Given, Nick Hughes, Cheryl Doig.

Liesbeth opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

She handed Jenna her name badge, because Jenna is now an official member of WAR.

The minutes from the previous meeting (26 Aug '25) were moved by David and seconded by Murray. There was one small matter arising. An apology for last month's meeting was also received from Emily Low.

Correspondence:

We received an email on the 28th of August from Chris Duncan (she/her), the Community Outreach Coordinator of the Neighbourhood Support Christchurch Area.

She would like to connect neighbours to develop more connection, safety and emergency preparedness for resilience.

WAR is the perfect group to establish that connection and collaboration. Rachel and Kate to get together with Chris to discuss next steps.

On the 12th of September, Stacey Holbrough from council emailed the outcome of the Community Board meeting regarding the Shirley Reserve Project (10 Shirley Road).

Murray explained what happened and expressed his deep disappointment with the way things were handled. WAR consulted the community on several occasions over the last 3 years and the outcome was that people wanted a space suitable for youth with an extended pump track, basketball court, a nice green space and an ablution block. The council wanted a bookable space and everyone was in agreement that it should be a character design, not a contemporary building.

Murray presented the findings to the community board, but it is back to the drawing board and the community voice is not heard.

Murray to write a letter expressing his concern.

Outgoing correspondence:

Liesbeth emailed the council regarding Eveleyn Couzins Ave and the state of the footpath.

Both Rachel and Liesbeth met with Sahan Lalpe (traffic engineer; traffic operations team) and he pointed out that it is actually a carriageway, leading to Avebury House.

Interim solution will be to spread gravel over the path to make it more accessible.

For a longterm solution we would like to see a concrete path (curved), parking spaces for residents (and visitors if we have an event) and landscaping.

Location: 85 Eveleyn Cousins Ave - [Google Maps](#)



Issue: No formed footpath, the current state of the space has potholes, and difficult to use after rain (due to ponding/lack of drainage).



Update from the Chair

Murray mentioned that there will be another working bee for the pool project in the next couple of weeks.

We talked about Warden Street briefly and the recent planting session. It was disappointing that no families of the school turned up to help. Maybe the time/timing wasn't right?

We will organise another planting, mulching session.

Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report is the same as last month.

Handover has to be done and invoices need to be paid.

Capacity Builder

Rachel mentioned that the RCAN meeting was well received with Anna Stewart, the guest speaker for vape free kids NZ.

We all unanimously agreed that Rachel can purchase a voucher for Anna and invite Anna to come to one of our meetings to present to us and the community at a later date too.

Reuben will follow up regarding vape legislation.

Let Rachel know if you can help at the WAR table at the Spring Fair, which is on the 18th of October.

We will have Shirley Intermediate with the pool project, Rotary, Civil Defence information and a whiteboard where people can write on what they want to see in Richmond.

Alex, the Pace intern, is working across the 3 organisations: WAR, RCG and Avebury House, mainly on the Spring Fair (painting signs etc) and mainly with Morgane.

Working groups

Roading



David expressed his concern over the lost relationship between WAR and the roading team. Apparently there was a meeting with residents and Pareawa Banks Ave school about the cycleway in Averill Street, but no one from WAR was invited.

David also mentioned that some people in council start a project and then others take over, which doesn't help and is inefficient.

We need to strengthen this relationship again and David to contact Trevor Cattermole to discuss.

Communications

Nothing to note regarding the website, just that the dogs of Petrie Park page needs updating, with Nui added, and Daisy removed, who passed away. The owner has a new dog: Simon.

Arts & Parks

Every Friday from 9am till 10am, Liesbeth works in the parklet on the corner of Swanns Road and River Road. Sarah Mankelow from council supplied some grasses that need to be planted asap, so please come along if you can help. We call it gentle gardening in the wildlife garden.

David suggested we start a competition for Richmond gardens.

Ewout suggested to call it: Richmond garden of the year.

We will call for nominations at the Spring Fair and a \$100 voucher for the Richmond Club will be the prize.

Update from council

Murray mentioned that there have been some amendments to the Dudley character area. A resident got in touch about it and Murray updated him.

General business

Nick has painted the wall at the Fish Fry. It looks really good!

Before and after:





Reuben Davidson explained that the election boundaries for national government have been changed. The eastern electorate now includes the whole of Linwood, so up to Fitzgerald Ave (at the expense of the Central Ward).

His office in New Brighton receives lots of requests from people to help with housing, health and mental health, school fees and dental expenses.

Reuben's team is working hard to find funding for these people and it's great that they are there and people find them.

Reuben also works closely with the schools to navigate challenging behaviours they encounter.

We can ask for specific letters of support for funding applications and that is much appreciated.

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Ross thanked everyone who made the 'meet the candidates' evening a success.

He also mentioned that Rotary is looking for applicants to take part in a 1 week live-in RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) course. It's for late teens/early 20's in Christchurch and late 20's/early 30's in Queenstown.

We went through the action points.

Liesbeth mentioned she contacted council regarding the rubbish bins at bus stops and wanted to know what the rules are regarding them and how often they get emptied.

The answer was: Thanks for getting in touch regarding a request for a new rubbish bin.

A request has been put through to our contractor for you. Your job reference number is: 1465865. You will also receive an automated confirmation email for this.

Liesbeth emailed again to say this wasn't the question and there were actually 2 questions...

Someone else from council answered and said:

I can say that we do not have any particular 'rules' stating a bus stop must have a bin, but our teams attempt where possible to have such amenities nearby.

And a week later someone else again answered regarding the emptying of the bins, which Liesbeth asked (again) in a snap send solve: Litter bins around the city are on either a 5 day or 7-day collection. We will go and empty a bin if we get a request to do so.

This was from the Central Roading Team.

A frustrating exercise dealing with council, which seems to be a theme at the moment.

The Medway parklet will be looked after by a resident, which we really appreciate. Rachel to check in to see if she needs any help.

Jenna expressed her concern over the use of AI and its environmental impact. She urged everyone to not just use it for 'fun' and is worried about the future workplace.



Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Next meeting will be on the 21st of October at Avebury House, 7pm.

Date added:	Action Points	
24 Sept '25	Get together with Neighbourhood Support Coordinator	Rachel/Kate
24 Sept '25	Write letter to express concern with 10 Shirley Road Project	Murray and David to edit
24 Sept '25	Organise mulch for Warden Street and create event	Hayley and Rachel
24 Sept '25	Handover treasurer's tasks and pay invoices	Hayley/Craig
24 Sept '25	Purchase voucher for Anna and invite her to talk at one of our meetings	Rachel
24 Sept '25	Contact Trevor Cattermole regarding council relationship	David
24 Sept '25	Contact owner dog Simon to be featured on website?	Rachel
24 Sept '25	Check in with resident who looks after Medway parklet	Rachel
24 Sept '25	Contact Meepleopolis regarding vouchers which we will use for sack race prize at Spring Fair	Rachel
27 Aug '25	Follow up with Nick regarding footpath cleaning	Rachel
27 Aug '25	Write submission regarding vape shops and send to Duncan Webb and Reuben Davidson	Rachel/Murray
27 Aug '25	Let Rachel know if you can help at Spring Fair on 18 October	Everyone
27 Aug '25	Pick a date in Feb for summer with your neighbours	Rachel/everyone
27 Aug '25	Fix WAR sign at Richmond Village	Ewout
28 May '25	Add dog Nui to the website	Hayley
28 May '25	Design last history panel	Rachel
27 Nov '24	Attach downpipe and chain at tattoo shop	Murray/Ewout