
Council Minutes – 4 September 2024

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 September 2024, commencing at 1pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement) *via MS Teams*, Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Mel Neumann (Policy Advisor), Lou Dunstan (Policy Advisor) and Erin Register (Finance Manager)

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cr Wilson gave notice he will withdraw from the meeting for item 12.

Kiingi Tuheitia

Council observed a moment's silence as a mark of respect on the passing of the Māori monarch, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII.

Public Forum (1.02pm – 1.11pm)

• **Proposal for a Unitary Authority**

Allan Andrews presented his views on the benefits of creating a separate regional council that would exclude the city and take in the area south of the Rakaia River to Waitaki. While reference was made to a 'unitary authority', Mr Andrews would want to retain the territorial local authorities.

Presentation (1.12pm – 1.23pm)

• **Festival for the Future**

Maddie Page presented on her attendance at the Festival for the Future forum – a two day summit held annually in Wellington for youth leaders across New Zealand. Around 200 young people attended along with a number of mayors associated with the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs scheme.

Highlights for Maddie included the opportunity to record a podcast about her goals for the future (Be an outlet for inspiration) and the "Mayors' Lunch" where valuable connections were made with other attendees.

Maddie acknowledged the partners that made the event possible and thanked Council for the opportunity to attend.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

- Council – 20/08/24

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 August 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Hooper/Cameron

Carried

5 Airport Authority Subcommittee – 21/08/24

That Council receives the minutes of the Airport Authority Subcommittee meeting held on Wednesday 21 August 2024.

Lovett/Braam

Carried

6 Biodiversity Advisory Group – 5/08/24

That Council receives the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on Monday 5 August 2024.

Braam/Todd

Carried

7 Representation Review – Final Proposal

1. That Council resolves the following as the final proposal for the representation arrangements for the next triennial election of the Ashburton District Council and Methven Community Board, to be held on 11 October 2025:

- a. The Council is made up of 9 members elected from three wards, plus the Mayor
- b. The three wards will reflect the following identified communities of interest:
Ashburton Ward – the areas around and including Ashburton town and the area of Lake Hood which are serviced or have the potential to be serviced in the medium future.
Western Ward – the inland portion of the rural area of Ashburton District.
Eastern Ward – the seaward portion of the rural area of Ashburton District.

c. The population that each member will represent is as follows:

| Ward | Population | Members | Ratio |
|----------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| Ashburton Ward | 21,220 | 5 | 4,244 |
| Eastern Ward | 7,640 | 2 | 3,820 |
| Western Ward | 7,860 | 2 | 3,930 |
| Total | 36,720 | 9 | 4,080 |

d. There will be one Community Board. The Community Board will be the Methven Community Board and will be representative of the services delivered to residential and commercial areas of Methven.

The Methven community will elect five members and have two appointed members. The Council's appointed members will be the two Western Ward councillors.

As part of the initial proposal, Council had proposed to reduce the elected number of members from five to four. However, in response to submissions received Council has amended its proposal to maintain the five elected members to the Methven Community Board. The reasons for retaining five elected members are:

- The current structure is working well
- Allows for a more diverse range of views, skills and experience
- The Methven Community Board boundary is extending
- The Methven population is expected to grow.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

Refer to the maps attached in the report indicating boundaries of the Ashburton District Council wards and Methven Community Board area

8 Sensitive Expenditure Policy Review

The recommendation wasn't fully supported. Councillors opposed referred to cl. 6.6 in the Policy (Private use of Council suppliers) and disagreed that benefits given to Council should be passed on to individual members of staff. There was also a view that this clause could remain on the proviso that staff purchases are subject to approval by the Chief Executive.

Officers advised that the provision, which has always been in the Policy, would allow Council to accept promotional offers that are made to councils and other employers from time to time.

That Council adopts the revised Sensitive Expenditure Policy, as attached in Appendix 2, with the next review scheduled for 2027.

Ellis/Braam

Carried

Amendment

- 1. That** Council adopts the revised Sensitive Expenditure Policy, with Appendix 2 amended to remove cl.6.6, Private use of Council suppliers; and
- 2. That** the next review of the Policy be scheduled for 2027.

Cameron/Mayor

A show of hands gave 4 for and 6 against and the amendment was lost

Amendment

- 1. That** Council adopts the revised Sensitive Expenditure Policy, with Appendix 2 (cl 6.6) amended to require that private use of Council suppliers is subject to the Chief Executive's approval; and
- 2. That** the next review of the Policy be scheduled for 2027.

Hooper/Mayor

A show of hands gave 2 for and 7 against and the amendment was lost

The original motion became the substantive motion.

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion.

9 Stockwater Transition Working Group Terms of Reference

It was agreed to amend the terms of reference to show that meeting frequency would be at least quarterly. This anticipates the possibility of additional meetings being required in early 2025.

- 1. That** Council adopts the Stockwater Transition Working Group Terms of Reference.
- 2. That** Council appoints Cr Richard Wilson as the Chair of the Stockwater Transition Working Group.

Cameron/Lovett

Carried

James Meager – MP Rangitata (2.05pm-2.31pm)

James discussed some current issues for local and central government, including the RMA reforms and Fast Track Bill, the Justice Committee's inquiry into the 2023 elections, water services delivery plans and the tourism visitor levy increase. He referred to the National Land Transport Programme noting that Ashburton's second bridge remains a key approved activity. Government recognises that the bridge is a priority for this region. It now sits with ADC and NZTA to discuss funding mechanisms. All options need to be put on the table.

10 July 2024 Financial Variance Report

That Council receives the July 2024 Financial Variance Report.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

11 Councillors' Report

- **LGNZ Conference**

That Council receives the Councillors' LGNZ Conference reports.

Braam/Hooper

Carried

Welcome to Staff

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Bobbie Rushton (Programmes Co-ordinator), Gracie Woodhouse (Planning Administrator) and Tania Hoefsloot (Accountant).

Business transacted with the public excluded – 2.56pm

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

| Item No | General subject of each matter to be considered: | In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter: | |
|---------|---|---|--|
| 12 | Council – 20/08/24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADC shareholding• Tradewaste discharge• EA Shareholder Committee• People & Capability report• ACL report to 30/06/24 | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| | | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| | | Section 7(2)(a) | Protection of privacy of natural persons |
| | | Section 7(2)(a) | Protection of privacy of natural persons |
| | | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| 13 | Airport Authority Subcommittee | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |

Ellis/Braam

Carried

Council adjourned from 2.56pm until 3.22pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **EA Shareholder Committee appointments**

1. **That** Council notes that Anne Marrett has declined reappointment and will step down from her Council appointed role on the Electricity Ashburton Shareholders Committee at the Company's annual meeting on 29 August 2024.

2. **That** Council appoints Kate Templeton to the Electricity Ashburton Shareholders Committee for a three year term expiring at the Company's annual meeting in 2027.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

[Confirmed by Council 18 September 2024]

MAYOR