
Council Minutes –19 February 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2025, commencing at 3.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere, 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), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), 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), Femke van der Valk (Corporate Planner), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Rick Catchpowle (Regulatory Manager), Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel), Renee Julius (Property Manager).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

- Council – 5/02/25

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 February 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

5 Methven Community Board – 27/01/25

That Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 27 January 2025.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

6 Biodiversity Advisory Group – 3/02/25

That Council receives the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 3 February 2025.

Lovett/Wilson

Carried

- **Implication of cats on native biodiversity**

That Council investigates a formal cat management policy.

Todd/Cameron

Carried

7 Mid-year performance and Strategy & Plan report 2024-25

Council noted that drinking water quality is reported annually. An explanation of the new DIA water supply compliance rules has been requested and will be addressed at the Three Waters Committee meeting on 26 March. This Committee will also discuss water loss from the reticulated systems.

1. **That** Council receives the mid-year non-financial performance report.
2. **That** Council receives the mid-year progress report on the Climate Resilience Plan.

Hooper/Braam

Carried

8 Submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill

1. **That** Council approves the draft submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill and directs the Chief Executive to lodge the submission with the Finance & Expenditure Select Committee.
2. **That** Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to approve the final wording of any amendments to the draft Submission made at the Council meeting, if necessary.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

9 Parking in Ashburton CBD

Council asked for a review of the short-term parking time restrictions still in existence on Havelock Street (adjacent to the old Library) and an update on the parking space adjacent to Balmoral Hall, i.e. timeline for demolition and if parking is to be paid. Officers will prepare a report.

1. **That** Council receives the report.
2. **That** Council continues to monitor the situation and directs staff to undertake further investigation, including appropriate technical reports on parking in the Ashburton Central Business District, reporting back to Council in August 2026.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

10 Mayor's Report

- **Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Revitalisation**

That Councillors Braam and Wilson be appointed as representatives on the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Revitalisation steering group.

Todd/Lovett

Carried

The Mayor's report was updated to note that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CE met with James Meager on 31 January and that the meeting with Bill Thomas has been rescheduled.

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.48pm

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:	
11	Council 5/02/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• P&C quarterly report• Land purchase	Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
12	Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Wilson

Carried

Council concluded at 3.56pm.

[Confirmed by Council 5 March 2025]

MAYOR