

## *Council Minutes – 9 August 2023*

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 9 August 2023, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

### **Present**

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

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Janice McKay (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Femke van der Velk (Policy Advisor), Jim Henderson (Emergency Management Officer), Ian Hyde (Planning Manager), Dr Christian Chukwuka (Biodiversity Advisor)

### **1 Apologies**

Cr Rob Mackle

Sustained

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

### **Presentations**

Waka Kotahi – 1.10pm-2.02pm

Rakitata Revival Group – 2.04pm-2.53pm

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 25/07/23**

- *New Library & Civic building – parking time restrictions*

The minutes were amended to remove reference to Cr Cameron and record that Cr Lovett moved the motion (seconded Cr Braam). *The motion was subsequently amended.*

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 July 2023, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett/Cameron

Carried

### **Waka Kotahi**

James Caygill was welcomed to the meeting, and an apology from Tresca Forrester was noted.

Council received an update on the improvements being undertaken by Waka Kotahi on SH1

Key points from the presentation (*ppt presentation*)

- Waka Kotahi consulted towards the end of last year on a series of speed reductions in and around Rakaia and the bridge. Waiting for final regulatory signoff for that.

- Prioritising making progress with the section of SH1 north of Rakaia, and then focus on the area south (Selwyn side of the river has a much higher level of vehicle related deaths and injuries).
- Looking to widen the corridor between Rakaia and Ashburton out to about 11.5 metres (an additional metre each side) which will enable more room in the centre. Then look at putting median barriers in. Consultation will be undertaken with property owners to ensure barriers won't impact on access.
- 10,000-14,000 vehicle movements per day across the Rakaia bridge. The project safety approach is to reduce speed - north of the rail overbridge, on the bridge and in the township.
- Waka Kotahi's interim speed management plan has been submitted to the Minister of Transport and is awaiting approval. Council will be notified of the outcome.

**TARP Status** (Trigger Action Response Plan for Ashburton bridge)

- Has been in place since 2019
- Triggers largely around river level and debris build-up (or combination of both)
- In the 30 July event the alert moved to 'amber' – the onset of darkness and inability to monitor the river level and debris was a contributing factor.
- Waka Kotahi are looking at a methodology to manage debris in a more accurate way – there are complications with the Ashburton bridge (shallow piles, close proximity of bridge piers and the clip-ons).
- If managed appropriately the existing bridge will be functional for a few decades to come, but this doesn't solve severance issues on the SH and Waka Kotahi want to move to the next phase quickly.
- Waka Kotahi acknowledges the need for a second bridge across Ashburton River and will progress this through the Regional Land Transport Plan.

In conclusion, Mr Caygill undertook to follow up and report back on the Ashburton bridge maintenance costs and the extent to which Waka Kotahi's web site could include local roads affected in an emergency event.

## 5 Methven Community Board – 24/07/23

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 24 July 2023.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

- **Community Board Standing Orders**

**That** the Methven Community Board adopts the 2023 Standing Orders for the conduct of its meetings, with the following amendments:

- Provisions for meetings by audio-visual link – yes.
- A casting vote for chairpersons – yes.
- Option B (less formal) as the default for speaking and moving motions.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

- **Community Board Code of Conduct**

**That** the Methven Community Board Elected Members Code of Conduct 2023 be adopted.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

## Rakitata Revival Group (2.04pm)

Sally Reihana and Karl Russell (Arowhenua), Anna Ivanova and Kim Whitwell (ECan), Brad Edwards (DoC) (*ppt presentation*)

Key points –

- ADC have been part of the partnership (mana whenua and statutory agencies) since 2018 - representation from each partner on the working group (reporting back to the steering group)
- Mana whenua identified opportunity to reclaim some whakapapa belonging to the waterway after the 2019 flood
- Programme scope – Strategy consultation and South Branch engagement strategy is the core
- Restoration works have been boosted by the Government’s “Jobs for Nature” (Covid-response) scheme. Now have around 18 months funding left and are faced with the question on how they will continue to prioritise.
- Around 120,000 trees have been planted in the lower catchment and the Rangitata Landcare Group have achieved 116km of fencing in the upper catchment.
- Arowhenua nursery – has positively impacted on personal stories of those engaged and involved and supporting Runanga. Reassuring to see good young people coming through – this growth and wellbeing is contributing positively to the community.
- Arowhenua employs over 140 people (25 years ago they didn’t employ anyone).
- Predator control workstream – this is the first year to see the ‘tide turn’ and return of taonga back into the awa.
- South Branch future –collaborative discussion needed on what the future could look like. Going out for public consultation for a month from 4 September with the draft Strategy. DoC will have the Strategy online and key dates / critical junctions about wider consultation can be found at [www.doc.govt.nz/news/newsletters/rakitatai-river-revival-community-newsletter/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/newsletters/rakitatai-river-revival-community-newsletter/)
- Long term funding and resourcing remains an issue. Crucial to encourage community connection to the awa and involvement in restoration activities. Communications will focus on 3 key workstreams now until the end of 2023 – strategy consultation, South Branch, and story-telling.

In conclusion, the Mayor commented on the likelihood of government funding ceasing and the pressure that will put on others to keep the programme going. With its regional-wide benefit, consideration could be given to funding through ECan, and that’s discussion that Council will have through the LTP process.

## Welcome to Staff

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager introduced new staff members – Brenna McRobb (Horticulturalist), Maria O’Hara (Horticulturalist), Stacey Broadbent (Library Assistant) and Shelley Donnelly (Marketing Advisor).

Council also acknowledged each of the following staff for their 10 years of service –

Ian Jamieson (Horticulturist), Steven Handley (Building Official) and Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces).

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 3pm to 3.22pm.

## 6 Update on National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

**That** Council accepts the report and receives the information.

Ellis/Braam

Carried

## 7 Bancorp Treasury Report – June 2023

**That** Council receives the Bancorp Treasury report for the June 2023 quarter.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

## 8 Financial Reports

Refuse management variance (684,815U) – Neil McCann to check reason for this increase

Neil McCann to check 684,815U

Lake Clearwater occupation – Leanne to clarify (advise through Issues Sheet)  
 Rakaia Hall scoping and work – to be included in carry-over report (subject to timing)  
 Glow in the Park sponsorship – Jane to advise total amount of income (through Issues Sheet)  
 Domain cost centre overspend – related to internal allocation  
 Roading capex – Mayor asked what the projects were in roading that capital was spent on.

**That** Council receives the Preliminary June 2023 financial variance report.

Cameron/McMillan Carried

**9 Local Government NZ Conference – “Superlocal 23”**

**That** Council receives the Councillors’ LGNZ Conference report.

Lovett/Todd Carried

**10 Mayor’s Report**

**That** Council receives the Mayor’s report.

Mayor/McMillan Carried

**Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.57pm**

**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 25/07/23<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Committee / ACL appointments committee</li> <li>• Audit &amp; Risk Committee</li> <li>• EANC masterplan</li> </ul> | Section 7(2)(a)   | Protection of privacy of natural persons |
|         |   | Section 7(2)(h)   | Commercial activities                    |
|         |   | Section 7(2)(h)   | Commercial activities                    |
| 12      | Library & Civic Centre PCG 1/08/23  | Section 7(2)(h)   | Commercial activities                    |

McMillan/Braam Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.15pm.

**[Confirmed by Council on 23 August 2023]**

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 MAYOR