

## ***Council Minutes – 23 August 2023***

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 23 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, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), 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: Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager) and Emily Reed (Corporate Planner).

### **Welcome Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua**

The Mayor welcomed Arowhenua representatives, Chairperson Fiona Pimm, Ūpoko Tewera King and Karl Russell. After recently visiting the new Library and Civic Centre building site, Arowhenua have offered Council a new Māori name – *Te Whare Whakatere*.

Tewera explained that after seeing the various spaces, and how the public will use them, they realised that the original names gifted (*Te Pātaka o kā Tuhituhi* for the library and *Te Waharoa a Hine Paaka* for the civic centre) did not fit the new building. Instead, *Te Whare Whakatere* (Ashburton House) will reflect its purpose of sheltering those persons using the building – like a whareniui on the marae, it should be there for all of the people in the community, as is their right.

While the whole civic complex will be known as Te Whare Whakatere, additional names were proposed for the Council Chamber and the Library. *Hine Paaka*, reflecting an ancestor and landmark where people sheltered when they came through the district, was offered for the Council Chamber, and *Te Kete Tuhinga*, reflecting a bag where things are placed, taken out and used has been offered for the Library.

On behalf of Council the Mayor thanked Fiona, Tewera and Karl for their reconsideration and gifting of the new names.

- a **That** Council accepts the gift of Te Whare Whakatere, Hine Paaka and Te Kete Tuhinga for the new library and civic centre from Tewera King the Ūpoko for Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

## Presentations

Environment Canterbury – 1.10pm-1.50pm

Te Whatu Ora, Waitaha – 2.10pm-2.45pm

Ashburton Contracting Ltd -

### 4 Confirmation of Minutes – 9/08/23

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 August 2023, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

### Environment Canterbury 1.10pm

ECan Chair, Peter Scott along with Andrew Parrish (Planning Manager), Sam Leonard (Principal Planning Advisor) and Serena Orr (Planning Officer) were invited to provide an overview of the Regional Policy Statement review.

Key points from the presentation

- ECan are asking if the current RPS is doing enough, or are there areas that could be improved – they are wanting to understand what changes are needed, rather than undertaking a full review
- Wanting to understand what is it that people value across the four well-beings – what’s driving our communities
- Now have a new national policy on Urban Development, Highly Productive Land and Freshwater that needs to be given effect to in the RPS
- The RPS is a pre-cursor (to Land & Water Plan) – an opportunity for Council to say how it wants its resources managed.
- Focus on RPS now will help as the RMA and FFLG reforms come through
- In late October / early November will put out options for changing the existing policy framework. Mid 2024 will begin formal consultation under the RMS
- Ashburton, because it has a second generation District Plan, is in a unique position by being ahead of the other councils in Canterbury still going through review
- ECan have heard there are different priorities around the region (balancing needs between city and rural) – when they move into the second round of consultation, the way in which they will engage may include one-on-one sessions with the TAs
- ECan are making sure that the whole spectrum of options is represented. Options will reflect what has either been heard by ECan or what they know has to change because of central government direction, and where its known that current objectives aren’t being met
- There are no pre-determined outcomes – the engagement processes are being used to drive the outcome. In the next round, there’s still opportunity for opposition to proposed options. Not yet at the point of knowing or having a fixed position
- Working with Papatipu Rūnunga, and the Mayoral Forum are also part of the process – that will help give comfort to the various communities in the region
- Conversations to come on what communities want and then determine how to get there and how long it will take
- Almost universal that improved water quality is needed. Some nuance on where that improvement needs to be and how water quality is improved. Have innovation in the region about some of the methods – the agricultural community is probably further ahead than urban
- Feedback on the RPS closes on ECan’s web site on 27 August.
- Chair Scott noted Council’s concerns with Carters Creek and will refer this to ECan Cr Mackenzie.

The presentation concluded at 1.50pm.

**5 Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee – 1/08/23**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee meeting held on 1 August 2023.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

- **Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee terms of reference**

**That** the Council adopts the revised Terms of Reference for the Ashburton District Road Safety Committee with the inclusion of Ia Ara Aotearoa Transport NZ in the membership list.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

- **Speed limits outside school**

The Mayor raised the matter of the 30km/hr speed limits that are now in effect, noting comment in the community that some drivers are not complying with the reduced speed limit near schools, and some are questioning the need to comply outside of school hours. He asked that a report be provided for the purposes of reviewing the 30km limit; and providing costs for variable speed signs as an alternative to the fixed 30km/hr signs.

A point of order raised by Cr Ellis (that this matter is not on the agenda) was not upheld, due to it being a road safety issue.

**That** Council acknowledge the change to 30 km/hr around the District's schools is causing comment in the community, but given how recently the change has been made, a review of the impacts be undertaken in six months time.

Mayor/Lovett

Carried

**6 Audit & Risk Committee – 2/08/23**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 2 August 2023.

Ellis/Braam

Carried

**7 Biodiversity Advisory Group – 7/08/23**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 7 August 2023.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

- **Wilding Management in ADC Rural C Zone**

1. **That** the Biodiversity Advisory Group advocates that Environment Canterbury develop a management strategy to deal with existing shelterbelts that pose wilding risk potential in ADC Rural C Zone.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

**That** the Biodiversity Advisory Group invites the ADC Planning Manager to make a presentation about plantation forestry, shelterbelt and amenity planting rules to control wilding trees and explain the widespread green shelterbelt areas in Rural C area.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

**8 Economic Development quarterly report**

**That** Council receives the April to June 2023 Economic Development quarterly update.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

## Te Whatu Ora, Waitaha – update on health services and Ashburton Hospital

Bernie Marra (GM Rural Health Services) was welcomed to the meeting and the apology from Lisa Blackler noted. Also present, Mary Ross and Tony Dann from Eastfield Health and Phillippa O’Neil from Ashburton Hospital.

Bernie Marra provided an overview of activities at Ashburton Hospital and the deliv-

- Upgrading maternity ward at Ashburton Hospital
- Outpatient hub at Ashburton Hospital undergoing upgrade
- Ashburton people are now able to transfer to Timaru where comprehensive secondary services are available
- Ashburton hospital theatre continues to be used, but its use is constrained by limited workforce – currently have gastroscopy clinics (bringing surgeons down)
- The hospital continues to provide medical training facility – philanthropic partners are the Mckenzie Charitable Trust and the Advance Ashburton Trust.

Bernie undertook to forward information showing the number of people who have travelled to Christchurch for treatment, and the means of transport, and the work that Gary Nixon has identified.

The presentation concluded at 2.45pm.

## 9 End of Year Strategy & Plan progress report

**That** Council receives the end-of-year strategy and plan progress report.

Braam/Todd

Carried

## 10 Mayor’s Report

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

Mayor/Braam

Carried

## Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.15pm

**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 9/08/23 • Library & Civic Centre PCG 1/08/23	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
12	Audit & Risk Committee 2/08/23	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
13	Methven membrane water treatment plant clarifier funding	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
14	Ashburton Contracting Ltd	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 3.03pm until 3.21pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.14pm.

**[Confirmed by Council on 6 September 2023]**

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MAYOR