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## *Council Minutes – 7 August 2024*

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 August 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, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), 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), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Nick >>>>(Planning Officer), Hernando Marilla (Projects Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager) and Michelle Hydes (Property Officer)

Two members of public.

### **1 Apologies**

Cr Rob Mackle

Sustained

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

### **Former Councillor Roger Tasker**

Council observed a moment's silence for former Councillor Roger Tasker. Councillor Tasker was elected to the Ashburton County Council in October 1977 and held the position of County Chairman from 1986 until October 1989, when amalgamation of the Ashburton Borough and County Councils took place. He was then elected to the Ashburton District Council and served one term, as Deputy Mayor, before retiring in 1992. Cr Tasker went on to serve as a Canterbury Regional Councillor before being appointed as a Commissioner to the Environment Court in 1997.

### **Public Forum – 1.02pm-1.19pm**

#### **• Proposal for a Unitary Authority**

David Douglas and Andrew Simpson presented their proposal for the Mid and South Canterbury Councils (Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate and Waitaki) to amalgamate into a single authority that would combine the local and regional council functions. The high country farmers suggested there are too many tiers of government currently and that the high cost of consent renewal and compliance is impacting on people trying to grow their businesses and in turn, the region. They are concerned about urban influence on decision-making on rural based issues, particularly in regional councils.

The submitters have been canvassing this with the other councils and asked ADC to consider giving support to the Mayor to take up the discussion at the Mayoral Forum. They suggested that there may be different models, and acknowledged that representation would have to be negotiated if there was only one authority. Their focus is on finding a cost effective solution and they are asking councils to get together and workshop how a unitary authority could work. They said that if the councils can come up with a 'blueprint' and agree in principle how it will be done, then farmers are prepared to work with the councils throughout the region.

The Mayor undertook to raise the matter with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum when they meet in August.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

- **Council – 26/06/24**

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 June 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

#### **5 Methven Community Board – 29/07/24**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 29 July 2024.

Lovett/Hooper

Carried

#### **6 2023/24 Annual Residents' Survey**

Michael Hooker was welcomed to the meeting at 1.25pm and invited to present the findings of the annual survey. He noted this year is the first to have 100% completion of the survey online. Key findings are encouraging with a trend developing that shows a 3% increase in satisfaction of Council's performance overall.

*Post meeting note:* Elected members have been provided with the survey's full verbatim comments.

**That** Council receives the 2023/24 Annual Residents' Survey.

Braam/Todd

Carried

#### **7 Discretionary Grant Request -Digital Waitaha**

It was noted that the report had omitted to reflect inflation and the budget includes an additional \$1,000.

**That** Council allocates \$10,000 from its discretionary grant to Digital Waitaha to be used towards a part-time co-ordinator for the Ashburton District.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

The recommendation wasn't fully supported. Councillors speaking against noted the request wasn't submitted in time to be assessed alongside other annual funding applications, and the amount proposed isn't in line with similar requests. There was some support for a lesser amount and for the grant to be sufficient to enable the role to be established.

#### **Amendment**

**That** Council allocates \$5,000 from its discretionary grant to Digital Waitaha to be used towards a part-time co-ordinator for the Ashburton District.

Cameron/Todd

A show of hands gave 4 for and 5 against and the Amendment failed to pass

The original motion became the substantive motion (on a show of hands – 5 for and 4 against)

**8 Updated Settlement Working Group Terms of Reference**

1. **That** Council approves the updated Terms of Reference for the Settlement Working Group.
2. **That** the Working Group reviews and confirms the name of the Group.

Cameron/Lovett

Carried

**9 Service Delivery Review – Solid Waste Management and Collection**

1. **That** Council receives the Solid Waste Management and Collection Section 17A review, as attached in Appendix 1.
2. **That** Council continues to deliver the Solid Waste Management and Collection service through a combination of in-house asset and contract management and contracted collection services.

Braam/Ellis

Carried

**10 Draft Canterbury Regional Policy Statement Feedback**

**That** Council approves the feedback on the Draft Canterbury Regional Policy Statement as contained in Appendix 1.

Ellis/Todd

Carried

**11 Road naming – Strowan Fields**

**That** the road to vest in Council as part of Subdivision SUB23/0040 within the subdivision known as Strowan Fields accessed from Nelson Street, be renamed Marshalls Place.

Cameron/Lovett

Carried

**12 Road naming – Village Green**

**That** the roads to vest in Council as part of Subdivision SUBA22/0003 within the subdivision known as Village Green, accessed from Huntingdon Avenue, be named Skevington Close, and that Springdale Avenue be renamed Springdale Close.

Todd/Lovett

Carried

**13 Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club Gravel Bent Sprint Meeting**

**That** Council permits the temporary closure of a portion of Le Bretons Road and Chertsey Road on Saturday 14 September 2024, from 8am to 5.30pm to allow the Gravel Bent Sprint Meeting to be held.

Ellis/Hooper

Carried

**14 Deputy Mayor’s Report**

- **Bike Skills**

The Group’s funding application for detailed design was unsuccessful and they are now looking to form a Trust. 400k will need to be raised, and there has been positive feedback after the Group set up a Facebook page.

- **Age Friendly Ashburton Strategy Development**

**That** Councillor Carolyn Cameron be appointed as Council’s representative on the Age Friendly Ashburton Strategy Steering Group.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

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

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

## Welcome to Staff

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Maria McDonald (Swim School Coordinator).

Council also acknowledged the long service of Janice McKay – Communications Manager (5 years) and Ashein Abeykesara – Roading Engineer (5 years).

Prior to adjourning for afternoon tea, the Deputy Mayor introduced Warren Maslin, President of the United Fire Brigades Association. Mr Maslin was invited to present Mayor Neil Brown with the Association's Silver Bar, in recognition of the 21 years of service that Neil has given to the Pendarves Fire Brigade.

Council adjourned from 2.58pm to 3.22pm.

## Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.22pm

**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:	
15	Council – 26/06/24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Glasgow lease freeholding</li><li>ABE sale of land</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities Commercial activities
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Freeholding Glasgow lease</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Award of water treatment plant UV contract – package 1</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Award of Rakaia WWTP sludge drying beds contract</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ABE sale of land</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Braam/Hooper

Carried

## Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- Award of Water Treatment Plant UV Contract – Package 1**

- That** Council approves a carryover of \$2,177,588, being unspent funds in the Group Water Supplies new capital accounts;
- That** Council awards contract WATE0304 Package 1 - Ashburton Water Treatment Plant Upgrades 2024-2025 to ARC Projects Ltd for One Million, seven hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and eighty-one dollars and fifty cents excluding GST (\$1,799,981.50 +GST).

Todd/Cameron

Carried

- Award of Rakaia WWTP Sludge drying beds**

**That** Council awards contract WATE0209 Rakaia WWTP Sludge Drying Beds to Grant Hood Contracting Ltd in the amount of one million, two hundred and thirty-one thousand, nineteen dollars and five cents (\$1,231,019.05) plus GST.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.45pm.

**[Confirmed by Council on 20 August 2024]**

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MAYOR