
Extraordinary Council Minutes – 23/05/24

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 23 May 2024, commencing at 9.05am in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakare, 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), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Femke van der Valk (Corporate Planner), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Richard Wood (Recreational Facilities Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business, to be taken with the public excluded:

- Rating impact – schedule of changes to rates from deliberations (tabled)

Ellis/Braam

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Cr Lovett, who was on leave during the submission hearings and for most of the deliberations, gave notice that she will participate in discussion but will refrain from voting.

Extraordinary business – Rating impact

Officers tabled a summary of changes to rates from deliberations for Years 1-10. Due to time constraints, information on individual rates and individual classes of ratepayer haven't been provided for today's meeting. Should Council require that information to inform decision-making, officers would recommend that decisions be deferred and reconsidered when the Extraordinary meeting resumes on 29 May. Similarly, information on debt levels across the LTP would be provided for the 29 May meeting.

The Group Manager Democracy & Engagement presented the summary of changes to rates throughout Years 1-10.

4 Key Decision 1: Kerbside green waste collection

1. **That** Council introduces a green waste collection service for all residential users from September 2026 as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.
2. **That** Council considers:
 - a. what bin size options, if any, will be made available to the community in 2024/25; and
 - b. the approach to implementation of a green waste collection service for businesses.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

5 Key Decision 2: Water-based leisure

No funding in LTP for investigation into an alternative option for the Tinwald pool. Would likely be operating cost. Next 12 months will be working with the Reserve Board to determine options that could then be included in the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

The impact of not taking up the \$3M loan has not yet been removed (from the rating impact schedule). Funding in Years 1 and 2 won't impact on rates.

Should Council progress a hydroslide, that loan money would come in. Noted the impact on rates would be from Year 3. Some support for indicating the hydroslide could be an option in the future – from Years 5-6.

Noted the Tinwald Reserve Board is funded 50% general, 50% urban.

1. **That** Council does not invest in water-based leisure at this time and this is revisited in a future Annual Plan or LTP.
2. **That** the proposed funding is removed from the LTP 2024-34 budget.
3. **That**, as a result of this decision, the Tinwald Pool is permanently closed and in conjunction with the Tinwald Reserve Board, an alternative option is investigated for the site.

Wilson/Todd

Carried

Amendment

1. **That** Council makes provision for a hydroslide option in Years 5-6 of the LTP;
2. **That** proposed funding for other water-based leisure be removed from the LTP 2024-34 budget; and
3. **That**, as a result of this decision, the Tinwald Pool is permanently closed and in conjunction with the Tinwald Reserve Board, an alternative option is investigated for the site.

Ellis/Cameron

Lost

A show of hands gave 4 for and 5 against and the amendment failed to pass.
1 abstained

6 Key Decision 3: Balmoral Hall and old Polytech site

Council requested further information to better understand the extent and cost of repairs to the hall, and the implication on rates on all options, including if the hall is unsold and the carpark is unsealed.

That the matter lies on the table, to be uplifted later in the meeting.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

Council adjourned from 10.26am to 10.47am.

7 Key Decision 4: Stockwater

1. **That** Council exits the stockwater service by 30 June 2027.
2. **That** Council increase the long-term plan budgets for District Water Management by \$45,940 in 2025/26 & \$152,970 in 2026/27 to fund a managed and inclusive exit from Council delivery of the stockwater service.
3. **That** a Stockwater Working Group be established to monitor progress, with two Councillors appointed as members.

Ellis/McMillan

Carried

8 Key Decision 5: EA Networks Stadium

That Council approves up to \$23.7 million for a three-court EA Networks Centre stadium extension providing a minimum of the features identified in option 2, with project preparation and construction in Year 5-7 of the LTP (2029-30 – 2031-32) of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Todd/McMillan

Lost

Amendment

That Council approves up to \$23.7 million for a three-court EA Networks Centre stadium extension providing a minimum of the features identified in option 2, with project preparation and construction in Year 9 of the LTP (2029-30 – 2031-32) of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Mayor/Braam

Lost

Amendment

That Council approves up to \$23.7 million for a three-court EA Networks Centre stadium extension providing a minimum of the features identified in option 2, with project preparation and construction in Years 7 - 9 of the LTP (2029-30 – 2031-32) of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

A show of hands gave 6 for and 3 against
Cr Lovett abstained
Cr Hooper recorded his vote against the amended motion

Council adjourned for lunch from 12.03pm to 2.00pm

9 Lake Hood – water quality investment

1. **That** Council approves \$200,000 operational funding in Year 1 for water quality projects as a one-off.
2. **That** Council approves \$50,000 of operational funding for ongoing consent compliance and monitoring work from years 1-3 of the LTP 2024-34.

Ellis/Braam

Carried

10 Airport Fees & Charges

1. **That** Council introduces a bulk landing fee of \$200 for annual fee holders for 2024-25.
2. **That** Council introduces a flat \$12.00 fee per landing (to include all landings for up to one hour) for casual airport users for 2024-25.
3. **That** Council amends the Revenue and Financing Policy for the Ashburton Airport from 40-50% fees and charges and 50-60% general rate to 30-40% fees and charges and 60-70% general rate taking effect 1 July 2024.

4. **That** Council directs officers to investigate alternative management and operation models for the Ashburton Airport over 2024-25.

Todd/Braam

Officers have reviewed data from the last two financial years and estimate that revenue will increase but not to the extent that it meets the requirements of Council's funding policy.

Council agreed the Revenue & Financing Policy should remain unchanged, noting that there will be opportunity to review the fees for the next annual plan.

It was further agreed to discuss the proposed fees with the Airport Users Group before making a decision. This will be undertaken at the Airport User Group meeting on 27 May.

That the matter lies on the table until later in the meeting.

Mackle/Cameron

Carried

11 Community Funding Requests

That the motion be taken in parts.

Ellis/McMillan

Carried

- **Ashburton Event Centre**

1. **That** Council enters into a three-year service level agreement with the Ashburton Event Centre and approves operational funding of \$337,800 in year 1 of the LTP, \$346,245 in year 2 of the LTP and \$353,863 in year 3 of the LTP.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

2. That Council allocates \$40,000 per annum across years 1-10 of the LTP to the Ashburton Event Centre capital reserve, with the Ashburton Event Centre to apply for this funding as needed.

Mayor/Braam

- **Citizens Advice Bureau**

That Council enters into a three-year service level agreement with the Citizens Advice Bureau and approves operational funding of \$15,625 in year 1 of the LTP, \$16,015 in year 2 of the LTP and \$16,368 in year 3 of the LTP.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

- **Safe Communities**

That Council enters into a three-year service level agreement with Safe Communities and approves operational funding of \$54,000 in year 1 of the LTP, \$55,350 in year 2 of the LTP and \$56,568 in year 3 of the LTP.

McMillan/Ellis

Carried

- **Safer Mid Canterbury**

That Council enters into a three-year service level agreement with Safer Mid Canterbury and approves operational funding of \$220,500 in year 1 of the LTP, \$226,012 in year 2 of the LTP and \$230,985 in year 3 of the LTP.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

- **Sport Canterbury**

That Council approves operational funding of \$67,600 for Sport Canterbury in year 1 of the LTP.

Hooper/Braam

Carried

- **Hakatere Multi-Cultural Council**

That Council does not provide funding for Hakatere Multi-Cultural Council through the Long-Term Plan and instead considers the funding request through the contestable grant process being reported to Council on 5 June 2024.

Mayor/Wilson

Carried

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion

- **Plains Museum Trust**

That Council approves funding for the Plains Museum Trust (via the Tinwald Reserve Board) of up to \$35,000 in year 1 of the LTP for signage and entranceway upgrades, and \$20,000 in year 2 of the LTP for a site development plan.

Braam/Hooper

Carried

- **Base Café**

That Council allocates the Ashburton Youth Council Reserve of \$45,000 to Base Café to support the Youth Advisory Group (to be paid as \$15,000 per annum over years 1, 2 and 3).

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

That Council does not allocate funding to Base Café for a Youth Worker in year 1 of the LTP.

Wilson/Braam

Carried

- **Methven Swimming Pool**

That Council approves funding of \$25,000 per annum across years 1-10 of the LTP for the Methven Swimming Pool (as part of the Methven Community Board rate).

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

- **Ashburton Cadets**

That Council advises the Ashburton Army Cadets that decisions are yet to be made on the future of the portable buildings and that they will be advised as soon as the decision has been made by Council in mid-2024.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

- **Ashburton Aviation Museum**

Council supported managing the Aviation Museum's request for funding assistance through the lease arrangement, rather than granting the \$5,000 tagged for insurance. It was agreed to discuss this with the Aviation Museum, prior to making a decision on Wednesday.

That the matter lies on the table until later in the meeting

McMillan/Mayor Carried

- **Methven Community Board – Birdsong Initiative**

That Council does not approve \$10,000 funding in year 1 of the LTP 2024-34 for Methven Community Board to develop a plan for the Birdsong Initiative project adjacent to the Garden of Harmony.

McMillan/Wilson Carried

- **Upper Rangitata Landcare Group**

That Council approves funding \$5,000 annually for the Upper Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group via the Biodiversity cost centre.

Ellis/Braam Carried

- **Methven lighting project**

That Council approves funding for the Methven Lighting Project from the Methven Amenity Rate at \$5,000 per annum of operational expenditure in years 1 – 10 of the LTP, and capital expenditure of \$51,000 in year 1, \$55,000 in year 3 and \$10,000 in year 4.

Cameron/Hooper Carried

Council adjourned from 3.26pm to 3.43pm.

12 General Summary – LTP Decisions

That the motion be taken in parts.

Mayor/McMillan Carried

- **Roading**

That Council approves aligning the total costs of the Second Ashburton River Bridge to the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan project cost of \$130 million.

Cameron/McMillan Carried

That Council approves \$7.5 million of funding for the second Ashburton River bridge.

Hooper/Wilson Carried

- ***Additional unsubsidised roading***

Council sought further clarification on what effect an additional \$500,000 funding for the unsealed road network will have on rates.

That the matter lies on the table until later in the meeting.

McMillan/Wilson Carried

Suspension of Standing Order – meeting duration

That Council suspends Standing Order 4.2 to allow meeting to continue beyond 6 hours.

Cameron/Hooper Carried

- **Waste Reduction and Recovery**

That Council includes \$75,000 in year 2 for the investigation of alternative sites for the Methven Recovery Park funded through the Solid Waste Management activity.

Cameron/McMillan Carried

- **Public Conveniences**

That Council does not bring forward to Year 1 the Lake Hood public convenience project in year 10 of the LTP 2024-34 at a cost of \$1.4 million.

Hooper/Cameron Carried

- **Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy**

That Council includes \$20,000 additional funding in the Strategy & Policy cost centre in year 2 for the development of an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.

Cameron/McMillan *[Amended Council 26/06/24]*

Amendment

That Council does not include \$20,000 additional funding in the Strategy & Policy cost centre in year 2 for the development of an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy but still develops the strategy

Mayor/Braam Carried

- **Methven Strategic Plan**

That Council changes the funding mechanism for the Methven Strategic Plan \$20,000 development in year 1 of the LTP from the Methven Community Board cost centre, to the Council cost centre, so it becomes funded via the UAGC, instead of a Methven targeted rate.

Cameron/Wilson Carried

- **Reserve Board & Memorial Hall**

1. **That** Council reduces the budget for Methven Reserve Board mowing costs to \$20,000 from Years 1-10.
2. **That** Council reduces the budget for the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall salaries and wages by \$20,000 from Years 1-10.

McMillan/Hooper Carried

- **District Promotion**

That Council provides \$25,000 in Year 1 for the investigation of the District Biking Trail, funded through the District Promotion activity.

Hooper/Todd Carried

- **Open Spaces**

- **Public conveniences**

Officers sought additional funding to meet the cost of cleaning the Digby Park toilets (omitted from the budget) and at the Tinwald holiday park where Open Spaces have picked up work previously undertaken by the caretaker.

The request wasn't fully supported and it was suggested that funding for the additional work instead be found within the existing budget across the Open Spaces activity.

That Council does not include additional funding of \$26,000 to cover 0.3FTE for cleaning of public conveniences.

Mayor/Wilson

Carried

Cr Braam recorded his vote against the motion

- **EA Networks Centre**

That Council extends the opening hours of EA Networks Centre, and offers 'bespoke' swimming sessions as required, within the existing funding of \$25,000, resulting in a \$9,000 savings in years 1-10 of the EANC budget.

Ellis/McMillan

Carried

That Council alters the EA Networks Centre membership structure to a wet/dry membership, effective 1 July 2024.

Hooper/Ellis

Carried.

- **Swim squad**

It was reported that the increase is an interim step and it's anticipated a further adjustment will be made to the Swim Squad fee from 1 July 2025, after consultation with the wider community.

That Council introduces the swim squad fee increase from 1 January 2025.

Wilson/Braam

Carried

That Council directs officers to report back to Council, in early 2024-25, a mini-golf concept proposal, funded from the Reserve Contribution account, with a value of up to \$400,000.

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

13 Additional items

1) Stadium scoreboards

Council's agreement was sought to bring forward the scoreboard replacement budget from Year 4 to Year 1. It was reported that replacement will be required sooner, due to the problems that are starting to show – i.e. lag times and scores not appearing.

Council asked for more detail on depreciation of capital items at EANC. Officers will report back.

That the matter lies on the table until later in the meeting.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

2) Ashburton Welcome Signs

Council agreed to retain the "Ashburton Welcome Signs" project in Year 4 of LTP with budget provision of \$161k.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.01pm, to resume on Wednesday 29 May 2024.

The Extraordinary Council meeting resumed at 9.am on Wednesday 29 May

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper (*via MS Teams*), Lynette Lovett, Rob Mackle, 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), Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager, Femke van der Valk (Corporate Planner, Erin Register (Finance Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Janice McKay (Communications Manager), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Financial update

It was reported that the overall rate increase for Year 1 has lifted to 10.6%, based on Council's decisions to date, with potential for further increase depending on the outcome of decisions left for today. Clarification was also provided on the impact that additional spending will have on debt levels over the years of the Plan.

- **Water Meter rates**

That inflation be added to the water meters targeted rate, from year 2.

McMillan/Ellis

Carried

A show of hands gave 7 for and 2 against, 1 abstained
Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion.

Council adjourned from 10.33am to 10.55am.

5 Key Decision 3: Balmoral Hall and old Polytech site

That the matter be uplifted for debate.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

In response to Council's request for more information, Officers provided technical reports and cost estimates to enable debate on various options. Council was reminded that actual costs won't be known until the project is tendered. Should Council commit to retaining and repairing the hall, and the final cost exceeds budget expectations, the work could be reconsidered and suspended and further community consultation may be required..

That Council resolves to retain Balmoral Hall, demolish the old Polytech buildings and develop a carpark on the old Polytech site.

Braam/Cameron

Lost

A show of hands gave 4 for and 5 against, 1 abstained

That Council offers the Balmoral Hall and old Polytech buildings for relocation; and if the buildings are unsold, the buildings will be demolished and the site redeveloped.

Ellis/Mackle Lost

A show of hands gave 4 for and 5 against, 1 abstained

That Council retains the Balmoral Hall and the old Polytech site, with an upgrade of the carpark to undertaken within a \$200k budget.

Cameron/Braam Lost

A show of hands gave 4 for and 5 against, 1 abstained

Council adjourned for lunch from 12.14pm to 1.12pm.

That Council sells both the Balmoral Hall and old Polytech site.

Hooper/Mackle Lost

A show of hand gave 2 for and 7 against (1 abstained)

Polytech site

That Council retains the Polytech site, demolishes or sells the buildings and invests in the redevelopment of an unsealed carpark on the site at an estimate of \$1.5m.

McMillan/Braam Carried

Balmoral Hall

That Council sells or demolishes the Balmoral Hall, and retains the site.

Ellis/Mackle Lost

A show of hands gave 4 for and 5 against, 1 abstained

That Council retains the Balmoral Hall and the site for two more years, or until the Hall becomes unusable, whereby the hall is sold or demolished.

Wilson/Mackle Carried

A show of hands gave 6 for and 3 against, 1 abstained

6 Airport Fees & Charges

That Council uplifts this matter for debate.

Braam/Todd Carried

1. **That** Council introduces a bulk landing fee of \$200 for annual fee holders for 2024-25.
2. **That** Council introduces a flat \$12.00 fee per landing (to include all landings for up to one hour) for casual airport users for 2024/25.
3. **That** Council amends the Revenue & Financing Policy for the Ashburton Airport from 40-50% fees and charges and 50-60% general rate to 30-40% fees and charges and 60-70% general rate taking effect 1 July 2024.
4. **That** Council directs officers to investigate alternative management and operation models for the Ashburton Airport over 2024/25.

McMillan/Braam Carried

7 Ashburton Aviation Museum insurance

That Council uplifts this matter for debate.

McMillan/Cameron Carried

It was reported that the proposed action has been discussed with representatives of the Aviation Museum who support this decision.

That the \$5,000 included for Ashburton Aviation Museum insurance is removed from the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

Ellis/Hooper Carried

8 LTP General Decisions – Roothing (unsubsidised)

That Council uplifts this matter for debate.

Todd/Braam Carried

That Council approves an additional \$500,000 of unsubsidised funding across years 1-10 for maintaining the unsealed roading network.

Wilson/Mayor Carried

9 LTP General Decisions – EA Networks Centre stadium scoreboards

That the matter be uplifted for debate.

McMillan/Cameron Carried

It was reported that scoreboards will be funded through cyclic renewals depreciation. Officers advised that it is now proposed to bring forward the scoreboard replacement to Year 2 and defer the aquatic play improvements.

That Council approves bringing forward the renewal of scoreboard upgrades to year 2 from year 4, and delaying the aquatic play improvements from year 2 until year 4.

Ellis/Todd Carried

10 EA Networks Centre – Fees & charges

That Council uplifts this matter for debate.

Todd/Wilson Carried

- 1. That** all fees and charges, excluding the new Two Tier Membership structure and Squad Swimming, come into effect 1 July 2024.
- 2. That** the new fees relating to the new Two Tier Membership structure come into effect no later than 5 August 2024.

Wilson/Braam Carried

That Council adopts the EA Networks Centre fees and charges for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1, with officers adhering to notice provision to members.

Cameron/McMillan Carried

In passing this resolution, Council agreed to change the casual student aquasize class fee (\$8.50) to \$7.50 to align with the senior pricing fee.

2nd Bridge drinking water main

Council's direction was sought on this project which will improve connectivity.

Council agreed to retain funding for the second bridge drinking water main in Years 2-5 of the Long-term Plan 2024-34.

The Extraordinary Council meeting concluded at 2.22pm.

[Confirmed by Council 26 June 2024]

MAYOR