

Council Minutes – 1 October 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2025, commencing at 10.30am 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, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), 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: Tania Paddock (General Counsel), Shirin Khosraviani (AAGM Director), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner), Ann Smith (Community Liaison Officer), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor) and Gordon Cruickshank (Financial Performance Manager).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Item 13: Crs Cameron and Todd declared their interests and gave notice that they will leave the meeting for this item.

Business transacted with the public excluded 10.31am.

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:	
18	Council 17/09/25 - Ash Community Water Trust - Forestry land - Land purchase - Eastfield Investments Ltd - CE Annual Review 2025 [Now in open meeting] - Contract ROAD0400 - Three Waters resourcing	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a)	Commercial activities Commercial activities Commercial activities Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons

	• Stormwater resourcing • ACL Director reappointments		
19	Three Waters Committee 10/09	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
20	Audit & Risk Committee 10/09	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
21	Development Contribution	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
22	Mt Somers Reserve Board	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
23	Lake Hood	Section 7(2)(b)	Protection of trade or commercial information

That a Deputation be present to speak on Item 21.

McMillan/Ellis

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **Development contribution**

1. **That** Carol Burke be offered a non-transferable cancellation of the Mt Somers water supply development contribution fee of \$21,510 (gst inclusive) on the residential development at 36A Ashburton Gorge Road, Mt Somers; and
2. **That** Council's offer is for a period of six months from the date of the resolution only, subject to Mrs Burke's building consent application being lodged within that six month period.

Mayor/Mackle

Carried

Cr Wilson recorded his vote against the motion

- **EANC – letter to St John Mid-Canterbury**

That a letter be written to St John Mid-Canterbury to express Council's concern in the response time to recent events at the EA Networks Centre; and to ask what processes Council officers should follow in the future to expedite emergency services response.

Hooper/Cameron

Carried

- **Cycle Trail feasibility**

Council agreed to publicly release the rationale for its decision of 17/09/25 to not proceed with the cycle trail project; the project is cost prohibitive.

Council resumed in open meeting and adjourned at 12.39pm.

Council resumed at 1.00pm.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 17/09/25

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 September 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

5 Three Waters Committee – 10/09/25

That the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 10 September 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett/Ellis

Carried

6 Audit & Risk Committee – 10/09/25

- **Riskpool update**

That Council receives the report and notes the call of \$20,399.24 due for payment by 20 September 2025.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

That the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 10 September 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

7 Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee – 9/09/25

That the minutes of the Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee meeting held on 9 September 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

8 Stockwater Transition Working Group – 18/09/25

That the minutes of the Stockwater Transition Working Group meeting held on 18 September 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Wilson/Cameron

Carried

9 Methven Community Board – 22/09/25

That the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 22 September 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

10 Creative Communities Assessment Committee – 23/09/25

That Council receives the minutes of the Creative Community Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on 23 September 2025.

Todd/Ellis

Carried

11 Rakaia Salmon Sculpture Refurbishment

The recommendation to fund the refurbishment of the salmon sculpture wasn't fully supported. Those speaking against were disappointed at the cost and the lack of comparative pricing for a new structure. It was suggested that the project be deferred until the next Annual Plan and considered alongside other projects, and that a separate reserve fund be created for the upkeep of this and similar structures in the future.

Officers advised that replicating the structure would also be costly and construction would be complicated. Repair work is now urgent and Council's flexibility and consideration of expenditure between annual plan processes is sought. Delaying work could result in greater cost or leaving the structure unable to be repaired.

Those in support agreed to the restoration being undertaken by the original artist, with costs of up to \$297,000 being met from the reserves fund.

The Mayor acknowledged the iconic status of the sculpture which had been a well-intentioned Rakaia Lions Club project, gifted to the district in 1991.

1. **That** Council approves the expenditure of **up to** \$297,000 plus GST from the Reserves Contribution reserve for the refurbishment of the Rakaia Salmon Sculpture.
2. **That** Council awards the contract to refurbish the Rakaia Salmon Structure to Phil Price Structures Ltd for \$215,000 plus GST.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

A show of hands gave 6 for and 3 against and the motion was carried.

Crs Hooper and Mackle recorded their votes against the motion.

12 Community Infrastructure Grant Application – Hinds Domain

1. **That** Council allocates \$4,631.27 from the Community Infrastructure Grant fund to the Hinds Reserve Board to replace the streetlight pole inside the Hinds Domain.
2. **That** Council allocates \$956.52 from the Community Infrastructure Grant fund to the Hinds Reserve Board for the removal and reinstatement of the two War Memorial plaques from the concrete wall at the Hinds War Memorial swimming pool.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

13 Rotary Club of Ashburton – Discretionary grant request

Crs Cameron and Todd left the meeting for this item – 1.29pm-1.41pm.

Council generally agreed that the unwanted material from the Bookarama event would inevitably end up in the waste collection from individual households, therefore some contribution towards the Rotary Club's costs for disposal could be supported.

Officers reported that a cost sharing approach is being taken this year as a transition; however Rotary has been advised that any future requests for funding will need to be applied for through Council's annual grants process.

That Council agrees to grant \$3,500 towards the Rotary Club of Ashburton's disposal costs for unwanted goods from Bookarama 2025 from the Discretionary Fund.

Hooper/Ellis

Carried

14 Delegation to Chief Executive in the interregnum period

That, having considered all matters raised in the report, and from the day following the Electoral Officer's declaration, until the new Council is sworn in, subject to the limitations set out in clause 32(1) of the Seventh Schedule to the Local Government Act 2002, Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make decisions in respect of urgent matters, in consultation with the Mayor elect. All decisions made under this delegation will be reported to the first ordinary meeting of the new Council.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

15 Financial Report

That Council receives the 31 August 2025 financial variance report.

Lovett/Todd

Carried

16 Mayor's Report

• RDR Management Ltd – AGM

That Council appoints Hamish Riach as proxy to vote on Council's behalf at the RDR Management Limited AGM on 14 October 2025.

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

McMillan/Ellis

Carried

17 Naming of Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum

The Mayor welcomed Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua Chair Fiona Pimm and Ūpoko Tewera King who were joined by other Arowhenua representatives. On behalf of Council the Mayor thanked them for the gifting of "Rokowhiria" as a the name for the Ashburton Art Gallery and Musuem.

Tewera explained how the name was created – Roko depicts the Māori deity Rongomātāne, god of agriculture, abundance, creativity and space. Whiria is derived from 'whiri' which means to twist, plait, weave and spin.

Council accepted the name with honour, noting that it is the anchor for the final consolidation and merging of the art gallery and museum activities.

That Council accepts the name Rokowhiria gifted by Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua for the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum.

Mayor/Braam

Carried

Certificates of Service and Valedictory Speeches

Certificates of Service were presented to retiring Methven Community Board Members, Kelvin Holmes and Allan Lock; and to retiring Mayor Neil Brown and Councillors Leen Braam and Lynette Lovett.

- Kelvin Holmes paid tribute to Allan Lock who served as a member of the Methven Community Board from 8 October 2022 to 11 October 2025.
- Mayor Neil Brown paid tribute to Kelvin Holmes who served as a member of the Methven Community Board from 12 October 2019 to October 2022, and then as Chairman to 11 October 2025.
- Cr Tony Todd paid tribute to Leen Braam who served as a member of Council from 8 October 2016 to 11 October 2025.
- Cr Richard Wilson paid tribute to Lynette Lovett who served as a member of Council from 8 October 2016 to 11 October 2025.
- Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan paid tribute to Mayor Neil Brown who served as a member of Council from 9 October 2004 until 12 October 2019, and then as Mayor to 11 October 2025.
- Fiona Pimm also paid tribute to Mayor Neil Brown, acknowledging the strong relationship that has been developed between Council and Te Rūnaka o Arowhenua.

The retiring members responded accordingly and the Mayor concluded the proceedings with his appreciation and thanks, inviting all present to join Council for a celebratory afternoon tea.

Council concluded 3.24pm.

Confirmed 10 October 2025

Mayor Neil Brown

Chief Executive Hamish Riach