
Council Minutes – 4 December 2024

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2024, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere, 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), Tania Paddock (Acting GM Business Support) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager), Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager) and Jacqui Watson (Property Legal Counsel).

Nicki Malone (Xyst) – via MS Teams until 1.22pm.

James Caygill (NZTA) 2.55pm-3.40pm.

One member of the public.

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Item 12 – the Mayor and Deputy Mayor both declared an interest and gave notice that they will leave the meeting.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

- Council – 20/11/24

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 November 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

5 Biodiversity Advisory Group – 4/11/24

That Council receives the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 4 November 2024.

Wilson/Lovett

Carried

Cr Mackle attended at 1.08pm.

- **Planting on road reserves for environmental benefits**

The recommendation wasn't fully supported. Those speaking against suggested that Council should firstly undertake consultation to determine who would be responsible for the plantings (e.g. for fire risk) and whether there will be any impact on roading.

That Council considers options for native planting on rural road reserves using appropriate native plants with maximum height <1.5 metres.

Wilson/Braam

Carried

Cr Lovett recorded her vote against the motion.

6 Approval of the Ashburton District Reserve Management Plan

- 1. That** Council, in its role as hearings panel for the Ashburton District Reserve Management Plan approves recommended changes to the Lake Camp section of the Reserve Management Plan, thereby completing deliberations for Lake Camp.
- 2. That** Council approves the minutes of the deliberations on the draft Ashburton District Reserve Management Plan as a record of the agreements reached by the Hearings Panel on amendments to the draft Ashburton District Reserve Management Plan (Appendix C of the agenda report).
- 3. That** Council approves the final Ashburton District Reserve Management Plan 2024 (Appendices D to H of this report).
- 4. That** Council delegates to the Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces the authority to approve any minor amendments to the Ashburton District Reserve Management Plan 2024 prior to publication, and report any changes to Council.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

Council carried the motion unanimously and thanked Nicki Malone for her input and work undertaken throughout the review process.

7 Central Business District Road Closure Issues & Options

- 1. That** Council receives the report.
- 2. That** Council directs staff to report further on the four potential alternative options.

Ellis/Cameron

Carried

8 Economic Development Report December 2024

That Council receives the Economic Development Strategy six monthly progress report.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

9 Financial Variance Report October 2024

That Council receives the October 2024 financial variance report.

Todd/Braam

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 1.49pm

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:	
10	Council – 20/11/24 • Sale of former Council site [Now in open meeting] • Award of Contract WATE0283	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
11	Aviation Museum Soc Trust Lease	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
12	Tender of former Polytech buildings	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Braam/Lovett

Carried

Council resumed in open meeting at 2.22pm.

Welcome to Staff (2.34pm)

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Feturi Brown (Library Assistant/Customer Services), Divya Saluja (Customer Services), Ulrich Glasner (Water Services Manager) and Yashar Sholehpak (Collections Registrar).

Council also acknowledged 5 years' long service of Connor Lysaght (Senior Museum Curator)

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.35pm to 2.55pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 2.55pm

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:	
13	Second Ashburton bridge funding	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
That James Caygill, NZTA Director of Regional Relationships, be present for discussion as part of Item 13.			

Ellis/Mayor

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

• Ashburton Aviation Museum Society Trust – ground lease at Ashburton Airport

That Council enters into a ground lease with Ashburton Aviation Museum Society Trust for approximately 8,859m² of land at Ashburton Airport for a period of 10 years with two rights of renewal for ten years each at an initial rental of \$2,400.00 per annum plus GST, including all clauses contained in the draft lease provided to Council.

Cameron/Lovett

Carried

- **Tender of buildings at former Polytech site – Cameron Street**

That Council demolishes the three relocatable buildings sited at the former Polytech site, 258 Cameron Street, Ashburton, in the current financial year, in accordance with the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

Cameron/Mackle

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.11pm.

[Confirmed by Council on 18 December 2024]

MAYOR