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## *Council Minutes – 16 March 2022*

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 16 March 2022, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

### **Present**

Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan (Chair); Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, John Falloon, Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Angus McKay, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Dan Huisman (Senior Communications Advisor) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager) and Crissie Drummond (Infrastructure Services Team Lead).

Via MS Teams: Paul Brake (GM Business Support).

### **Presentations**

Environment Canterbury – 1.30pm-2.10pm

ChristchurchNZ – 2.11pm-2.30pm

### **1 Apologies**

His Worship the Mayor Neil Brown

Sustained

### **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 Mayor's report:

- Voices for Freedom Ashburton correspondence –vaccine passport mandates

Lovett/Braam

Carried

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

### **Commemoration of Christchurch terrorist attack**

Council observed a moment's silence in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attack on the Christchurch mosques, 15 March 2019.

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 2/03/22**

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 March 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

Braam/Falloon

Carried

### **5 Stockwater Race Closure – Longbeach Road**

The Chief Executive advised that the objector to this closure has been in contact after they learned today that the matter is being considered without them having the opportunity to speak.

Progressing the recommendation wasn't fully supported; Councillors opposed considered that the objector should have been notified sooner of today's meeting, with the opportunity to be present.

Councillors in support of the recommendation commented on the ecological assessment which concludes that the race closure should proceed. The report further identified a recommended process for the closure.

**That** the recommendation be now considered.

Letham/McKay

Carried

1. **That** Council approves the closure of the stockwater race from a junction at 310 Longbeach Road (RS 20914 BLKS IV VIII HINDS SD, PN: 16221), and finishing at a junction located on Boundary Road where the race exists 273 Longbeach Road (Lot 1 DP 62106, PN: 21899).
2. **That** the Willowby water race (the race) closure proceeds in the following order of operation:
  - (i) translocation of fish, and any other significant aquatic life, from the race into the new Willowby race;
  - (ii) Diversion of all remaining flow into the new race at 344 Longbeach Road, possibly by bunding the old channel;
  - (iii) As the race dewater, the receding habitat should be electric-fished downstream to push any remaining fish out of the bottom of the race;
  - (iv) Bund the race at its downstream confluence with the new race in the vicinity of 779 Boundary Road;
  - (v) Fill the race in an upstream direction, pumping any residual dirty groundwater onto adjacent pasture; and
  - (vi) The contractor to consider the means of mitigating the residual flow of groundwater along the decommissioned course of the race.

Letham/McKay

Carried

Cr Braam recorded his vote against the motion.

## **Environment Canterbury – NE Ashburton wastewater**

Aurora Grant (Consents Planning Manager) and Tracey Gray (Principle Consents Planner)

Presentation on ECan's response to the consenting of on-site wastewater consent applications in the north-east Ashburton area. Key points:

- A wastewater system, servicing a 4 person household can contribute nitrogen levels similar to a small to medium dairy platform. A high number in close proximity can run into issues for consenting safely.
- NE Ashburton area already has high nitrates, due to other land uses in the area (maps presented showed intensification of housing from mid 1990s to mid 2010s).
- Auditing the applications has been approached as a collective. Some current applications sit within the drinking water protection zone. Currently 8 applications lodged with ECan and others pending. 30 potential homes affected in all stages.
- Since detailed groundwater nitrate mapping was undertaken by ECan in 2000, scientists have identified specific bores for ongoing monitoring. Appears to have been little change since then (relatively static).
- Health risk is the key concern – risk to other bore users. Also, new NES / freshwater management requires a higher regard – need to put health of the water body first.
- Tangata whenua values to consider – generally that's to improve things.
- ECan is working closely with consultants and system designers to see whether there's a system that can deal with nitrates.

- Permitted activity framework provides option of installing wastewater holding tanks which have to be emptied regularly. Tank options include ‘blackwater/greywater’ (whole lot is emptied), and an option where only grey water is discharged and black is removed.
- Consenting pathway, particularly those in community drinking water zones, is quite uncertain. Would struggle to move forward with anything but a public notification, and no guarantee that consent would be granted at the end of the process (150 days for public notification).
- ECan have ongoing bore monitoring data and can provide more detail on the science.
- All applications are for advanced aerated systems, either discharged by drip irrigation or a sand trench (widely used in Canterbury). While extremely good at controlling e-coli, if maintained properly, they can’t remove nitrates which is what ECan is concerned about – and that’s part of the reason for the process being ongoing, as ECan continue to work with systems suppliers.
- Applicants also have the ability to test the bores themselves and provide ECan with data through the auditing process, but an additional cost.
- Some applicant’s requests are in a holding pattern – waiting to see what happens with other applications that are closer to being notified. Others have asked for time to explore permitted activity options, or are progressing.

The Group Manager Environmental Services advised that Council also has responsibility in this area, under the Health Act, and is working with ECan. Both councils acknowledge that communication could have been better and that has been addressed with the input of both ADC and ECan consenting teams.

Council thanked ECan officers for the presentation and the information that was shared at a public meeting last week.

## 7 ChristchurchNZ

Kath Low and Bruce Moffat presented the half year report.

Key points:

- Ōpuke hot pools – highest number of attendees recorded in December. Announced yesterday they will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (an impact of Covid).
- Visitor spending – electronic card data shows trends and year on year comparisons, but a number of other tools are being tested which would provide more tangible information about actual tourism value. ChChNZ’s data analyst is exploring this.
- Tourism Advisory Group – purpose is to receive feedback from a cross-section of industry experts to ensure the work ChChNZ is undertaking is fit for purpose and on point. A recent meeting talked about a range of marketing initiatives and industry challenges. Top line indication is that there are concerns and feedback was sought from the group.
- Tourism NZ are undertaking a programme with the support of MBIE to help drive tourist visitation, but the numbers needed vs what that campaign might generate will likely see a shortfall. It’s anticipated that border openings will see mainly family visitation initially, followed by leisure market. In other countries, there hasn’t been an immediate, significant rush of tourism. Anticipate that it will be slow in NZ too.
- Tourism NZ and MBIE are looking to support and grow the tourism (staff) skill base, anticipating that an influx of young people will be seen when the borders open.
- Domestic tourism market is important too - a campaign to promote this (by Tourism NZ) will run throughout the year. Also committed to a large campaign with tourism in Australia.

**That** Council receives the ChristchurchNZ report

McMillan/Braam

Carried

## 6 Triennial Elections 2022

1. **That** the report be received.
2. **That** the names of the candidates for the 2022 Ashburton District Council triennial elections, and any subsequent by-elections, be arranged on the ballot paper in random order.

McKay/Lovett Carried

## 8 Mayor's Report

### • Mayor's Discretionary Fund

**That** Council receives the Mayoral Discretionary Fund report and endorses the criteria and guidelines to be applied to applications made for financial assistance.

Cameron/Braam Carried

### • Extraordinary Business – Voices for Freedom

At the request of the Ashburton Voices for Freedom Group, Cr Lovett presented eight letters from families and individuals seeking Council's consideration of removing the requirement for vaccine passports to access Council facilities.

**That** Council receives the information from the Voices for Freedom Ashburton Group, and that a report be provided for Council's consideration of removing the vaccination pass mandate from Council facilities.

Lovett/Falloon Carried

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

Braam/Rawlinson Carried

## 9 Deputy Mayor's Report

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

McMillan/Wilson Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 3.15pm until 3.30pm.

### Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.30pm.


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 3/02/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ashburton Contracting Ltd</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
11	Library & Civic Centre PCG 8/03/22	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McKay/Braam Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.46pm.

Confirmed 6 April 2022



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MAYOR