
Council Minutes – 17 December 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Her Worship the Mayor, Liz McMillan; and Councillors Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Everest, Deb Gilkison, Phill Hooper, Julie Moffett, Jeanette Maxwell, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Tania Paddock (General Counsel) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Crissie Drummond (Infrastructure Services Support Lead), Shelley Donnelly (Economic Development Manager), Ann Smith (Community Liaison Officer), Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Michael Wong (Building Services Manager), Femke van der Valk (Policy Advisor), Lou Dunstan (Policy Advisor), Mel Neumann (Policy Advisor), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Jacqui Watson (Senior Legal Counsel), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Shirin Khosraviani (Art Gallery Director) and Richard Wood (Sports Facilities Manager).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Public Forum

John McCaw

John McCaw (Mt Harding Farm) spoke about the threat that full closure of Pudding Hill Race would have on Mt Harding Stream. While generally supportive of Council exiting stockwater races, he is concerned about the potential for stormwater flooding of land where races have been closed and filled in. He doesn't support the Council's position that races be closed and flooding be managed retrospectively and suggested that Council should instead wait until a drainage management plan has been developed.

John further commented that the constant flow of Ashburton River supports the ecology of Mt Harding Stream and not being able to augment flow from the Pudding Hill race will have a devastating effect on the ecology (vegetation will take over the riverbed increasing the risk of flooding).

He asked Council to consider Mt Harding Stream as more than just a water race and look at all of its potential and opportunities, including augmenting flow in Mt Harding Stream with clean Pudding Hill race water.

In conclusion, John suggested a hybrid model of Council and the community working together to manage ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the race, taking into consideration the need to also manage drainage and flood management.

Concluded at 1.13pm.

Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Ltd

Nick Daniels, Chief Executive presented his company's position. BCI Ltd are supportive of Council exiting stockwater delivery and also supportive of exploring the best transition to alternative sources, while mindful of resources that this may require.

BCI Ltd are concerned about 'community readiness' – specifically upfront costs of new infrastructure. The company would like Council to modify its timelines to allow some transitional planning and to ensure Council is resourced to progress the transition plans.

From BCI Ltd's perspective, particularly for the Methven auxiliary, the Company is not currently in a position to present a business case to determine viability. They would first need to know Council's requirement (cost) and how many are willing to commit to cost share. This should be done as quickly as practicable so that landowners know whether they can look to BCI, or need to look elsewhere. BCI Ltd are unable to commit to a timeline that would work for them at this stage.

Concluded at 1.20pm.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 3/12/25

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 December 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Ellis/Hooper

Carried

5 Biodiversity Advisory Group – 1/12/25

That Council receives the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 1 December 2025.

Wilson/Moffett

Carried

- **Biodiversity Advisory group terms of reference**

That Council adopts the Biodiversity Advisory Group Terms of Reference for the 2025-28 term.

Wilson/Gilkison

Carried

- **Biodiversity Strategy Actions – Environmental Champions Award**

That Council approves the establishment of an Environmental Champions Award and includes this award category in Council's Community Honours Awards.

Cameron/Moffett

Carried

6 Stockwater Transition Working Group – 4/12/25

That Council receives the minutes of the Stockwater Transition Working Group meeting held on 4 December 2025.

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

7 **Pudding Hill Race Network – Proposed Closure**

John Wright, Consultant Melius Ltd present for this discussion.

That Council approves:

1. The closure of the Pudding Hill race network from its connections to Mt Harding Creek at Scarness gate and Drayton’s gate, to its terminal discharge points.
2. The date of closure being:
For Rating purposes effective from 30 June 2026.
For Operational purposes effective from 30 September 2026.
3. **That** officers commence discussions with Environment Canterbury on the utilisation of the Pudding Hill intake for potential future environmental augmentation of Mt Harding Creek (by others).

Wilson/Cameron

Carried

Crs Everest and Maxwell recorded their votes against the motion

Heads of Agreement between Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Limited and ADC

That Council approves the signing of the Heads of Agreement between Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation Ltd and Ashburton District Council.

Wilson/Cameron

Carried

8 **Economic Development Strategy – six month report**

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

Mayor/Todd

Carried

9 **Community Grants & Funding Policy review**

That Council adopts the Community Grants and Funding Policy 2025.

Moffett/Ellis

Carried

10 **Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy**

That Council adopts the Dangerous, Affected & Insanitary Buildings Policy 2025.

Hooper/Maxwell

Carried

11 **Elected Members’ Allowances and Reimbursement Policy Review 2025**

That the travel time allowance be removed from Council’s Elected Members’ Allowances and Reimbursement.

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

That Council

- a) adopts the Elected Members’ Allowances and Reimbursement Policy 2025, as amended to remove the travel time allowance; and
- b) rolls over the Elected Members’ Attendance at Conferences, Training Courses and Seminars Guidelines.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

12 Gambling Venue Policy 2025

That Council adopts the Gambling Venue Policy 2025.

Hooper/Wilson

Carried

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion

13 Reserves and Memorial Hall Boards – Triennial Appointments

That Council approves the appointments submitted by each of the Boards.

Board	Members
Tinwald Memorial Hall	Thorsten Windhorst (Chair) Murray Reeves (Dep Chair) Karen Jones (Tres) Jenny Proctor Ponty Proctor Richard Ward Richard Pearce
Ruapuna Reserve Board	Robbie Watson (Chair) David Whillans (Sec/Tres) Rebecca Whillans Duncan King Fraser Tasker Johnny Bell
Lagmhor/Westerfield Memorial Hall Board	Shannon Johnson (Chair) Daryl Oldham (Sec/Tres) Mike Spence Rhys Roberts Nicola Sim Jane Tait Jacob Holdaway
Mt Somers Reserve Board	Nathan Huggins (Chair) David Mathews (Tres) Rhonda Huggins (Sec) Heath Heaven Maryann Heaven Colleen Stanley
Pendarves Reserve Board	Andrew Sparks (Chair) Justin Watson (Tres) Chris Keenan Warrick Sparks Paul Stuart Jake Sparks
Hinds Reserve Board	Garry Brown (Chair) Dean McConnell (Tres) Dave Kingsbury Angela Cushnie Jock Moore Damian Perriton Rodrick Sowman

Tinwald Reserve Board	Leen Braam (Chair) Ainsley Braam-Smith (Tres) Graham Ackroyd Michelle Box Raymond Nicholson Mark Scammell	
Mayfield Reserve & Memorial Hall Board	David Greenslade (Chair) Brent Murdoch (Tres) John Milne Helen Saxelby Tim Boyd Paul Dalgety Aafke Baxter Reon Blake	
Rakaia Reserve Board	Bruce Perry (Chair) Margaret Crozier (Sec/Tres) David Boag Alistair Sutherland Michelle Scrivenor	
Methven Reserve Board	Colin Maw (Chair) Graeme Smith (Tres) Murray Holmes Chris Lock Charles Whitehead Mark Smith	
Alford Forest Reserve Board	Richard Ellis (Chair) Carol Jones (Sec/Tres) Malcolm Cretney Danny Symons Matt Symons Martin Armour Katrin Geilfuss	
	Cameron/Ellis	Carried

14 Mayor's Report

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/Hooper Carried

- **Biodiversity Champions Group**

That Councillor Deb Gilkison be appointed as Council's representative on the Biodiversity Champions Group.

Maxwell/Wilson Carried

Welcome to Staff – 2.30pm

People & Capability Manager Katie Perry introduced new staff – Eli Sinclair (Digital Programmes Assistant), Philippa Hadley-Chinn (P&C Officer), Jackson Lattimer (Lifeguard) and Emily Willis (Horticulturist).

Council also acknowledged the long service – for 10 years of Jill Cullimore (EANC Customer Service) and Matthew Lucas (IS Application Specialist).

Business transacted with the public excluded - 2.35pm

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 3/12/25	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
16	Rates Remission	Section 7(2)(j)	Protection of information from improper use
17	Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board	Section 7(2)a	Protection of privacy of natural persons
18	Reserve Revocation	Section 7(2)h	Commercial activities
19	Elderly Persons Housing	Section 7(2)h	Commercial activities
20	EA Networks Centre	Section 7(2) a	Protection of privacy of natural persons
21	Rokowhiria Operating Hours	Section 7(2)a	Protection of privacy of natural persons
22	Service Provider for CE review & Board appointments	Section 7(2)h	Commercial activities
23	Audit NZ	Section 7(2)a	Protection of privacy of natural persons
24	Ashburton Contracting Ltd – quarterly report	Section 7(2)h	Commercial activities

Mayor/Ellis

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.35pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **Reserve Revocation and Land Disposal – Tinwald**

That in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 24 of the Reserves Act 1977, Council resolves that the area of land being 0.324 hectares of land shown as Section 2 on SO Plan 613500, being part of Lot 2 Deposited Plan 68747 comprised in Record of Title CB39D/1008, is surplus to requirements as it is no longer being used for its classification as recreation reserve and as the land serves no other reserve purpose and further that the Council requests that the Minister of Conservation revokes the reservation over the land.

Ellis/Gilkison

Carried

- **Change to late night hours at Rokowhiria**

That Council cease the weekly late-night Wednesday hours at Rokowhiria, instead using this for events as needed.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

The meeting concluded at 6.01pm.

[Confirmed by Council 4 February 2026]

MAYOR