

## *Council Minutes – 19 April 2023*

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 19 April 2023, commencing at 9.00am in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

### **Present**

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown (Chair), Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Jane Donaldson (GM Compliance & Development), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Janice McKay (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Rick Catchpowle (Environmental Monitoring Manager) and Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel).

### **Presentations**

Ashburton A&P Association – 9.20am to 10am

#### **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 with the public excluded:

- Three Waters Reforms announcement

McMillan/Braam

Carried

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 5/04/23**

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 April 2023, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett/Braam

Carried

#### **5 Executive Committee – 8/03/23**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 8 March 2023.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

The Mayor recorded his thanks to the people of the Ashburton community for their contributions to the Cyclone Gabrielle flood relief appeal.

## 6 Dog Control Fees & Charges – 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

It was reported that a new type of dog tag is being introduced this year. A sample will be shown to Council at the May activity briefings.

1. **That** Council adopts the dog registration and control fees and charges for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1.
2. **That** the dog registration and control fees and charges for 2023/24 are publicly notified.

Ellis/Lovett

Carried

## 7 Deputy Mayor's report

### • Councillor Chats

The first of a series of "Councillor Chat" sessions was held yesterday at the Library, attended by the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Wilson. Relevant matters raised at these sessions will be relayed through the usual communication processes, as requests for service or with relevant group managers.

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

McMillan/Wilson

Carried

## 9 Ashburton A&P Association

The Mayor welcomed Ashburton A&P Association representatives, Richard Lemon and Tim Lovett who presented their proposal and concept plans for a major upgrade of the showgrounds. This has been driven by the need to accommodate the specific requirements of various user groups and sporting codes.

Council heard that the freehold grounds are vested in the Ashburton Agricultural & Pastoral Association. If the Association goes out of existence the grounds will revert to the Crown. The Association has consulted with its stakeholders and the response to the proposed upgrade is predominantly positive.

The Association is seeking Council's support for the concept plan, for some financial contribution, and for approval to lease a block of land (currently flagged for future cemetery development) that would be used as parking. It is envisaged that the grounds could be used as part of an overall events space for the Ashburton District – e.g. concerts would be a good use for the grounds/grandstand. The Association has an income of around \$250k/annum and hold some investments.

The proposal, in summary, would see ground development, fencing and planting at a cost of around \$600k (Stage 1), pavilions and toilet facilities in the new area (Stage 2) and undergrounding of power / installation of lighting poles (Stage 3). The Association would then work in conjunction with the MCRFU to repurpose the grounds and improve the grandstand.

- Mid Canterbury Rugby Union
  - Licence to occupy for seven months of the year
  - Under-utilised. The Association pays \$25k/annum to insure the grandstand and there's a need to encourage greater use to generate more revenue
  - Combined use (people / horses) is a potential health issue, especially on the main playing field.
  - Gender neutral changing facilities are required and the option of developing facilities under the grandstand needs to be considered
  - Have some funding to contribute to lighting
- Events
  - Annual A&P Show
  - Horse and dog events bring people into Ashburton District Council
  - Caravan / motorhome show – another big event
  - YFC competition (this year's regional finals held at the weekend)

- Mid Canterbury Vintage Machinery meeting room is utilised by a number of groups
  - SI Seeds facilities also used by multiple groups
  - A survey 10 years ago showed the grounds are used around 40 weekends out of 52.
- Proposal
    - Repurposing grounds – enhance dog training area and develop three new horse rings. Will shorten the oval, leaving side walls / fences for multi-purpose use.
    - Easement granted to Ashmark Holdings Group to run their sewer line across the top boundary and join in line at Brucefield Ave (with A&P reserving the right to connect to that line in the future).

Council generally supported the proposal and agreed that the Ashburton A&P Association grounds are a community asset that need to be retained and enhanced. The presenters were thanked for bringing forward a positive plan that has already received a high level of support from stakeholders.

In conclusion, the Mayor advised that Council will require funding details in order for this proposal to be considered as part of the Long-term Plan 2023-33.

## 8 Mayor’s report

- **LGNZ Remits**

At the waste management workshop on 12 April, Council heard that disposing of large amounts of polystyrene continues to be an issue and is increasingly costly. It was agreed that Council should advocate for legislative change.

**That** Council submits a remit to the 2023 annual general meeting of Local Government NZ, and encourages LGNZ to advocate on a national approach for dealing with polystyrene disposal.

Ellis/Cameron

Carried

- **Extraordinary Business – Three Waters Reform**

The Mayor referred to the Minister of Local Government’s announcement of “*Affordable Waters*” and changes to the Three Waters Reform process that would see four entities become 10, and the second tranche of “better-off funding” withdrawn.

Councillors each had the opportunity to comment and there was consensus that Ashburton District Council does not support the “*Affordable Waters*” proposal. It was further agreed that Council will continue supporting Communities for Local Democracy (C4LD).

The Chief Executive advised that another part of the reform is a two year delay, effective from 1 July 2026 (or an earlier date if agreed). He explained the implications of this for staff working in 3Waters and the ongoing uncertainty this creates.

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

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

## Business transacted with the public excluded – 10.22am

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 – 5/04/23	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
11	West Street carpark	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Braam/Lovett

Carried

### **Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting**

- 1. That** Council approves the proposed design of the West Street car park as contained in Appendix 1 and agrees, in principle, to proceed with development of this car park, subject to agreeing lease terms with KiwiRail Limited.
- 2. That** Council approves the request to carry over the unspent funds of \$1.5million from the 2021-2022 year into the 2022-2023 year to contribute towards the design and construction of the West Street car park.

Mayor/Braam

Carried

A show of hands gave 5 for and 4 against

Crs Ellis and Cameron recorded their votes against the motion.

The meeting concluded at 11.10am.

**[Confirmed by Council 3 May 2023]**

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MAYOR