

---

## ***Council Minutes – 4 February 2026***

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026, 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 (*via MS Teams*), 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: Brad Thomson (Planning Manager), Ann Smith (Community Liaison Officer) and Rick Catchpowle (Regulatory Manager).

### **Presentation 1.08pm-1.22pm**

Canterbury Mayoral Forum Chair, Mayor Nigel Bowen and Principal Advisor Maree McNeilly

#### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

#### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

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

Nil.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 17/12/25**

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

Todd/Hooper

Carried

Council adjourned briefly (1.04pm-1.07pm) while sound issues with the MS Teams link were addressed.

#### **5 Draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement**

Canterbury Mayoral Forum Chair Nigel Bowen and Principal Advisor Maree McNeilly were welcomed to the meeting (*via MS Teams*).

Chair Bowen gave an overview of the Triennial Agreement requirements and Canterbury Mayoral Forum's workstream priorities (including the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan).

The Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan and the value of this work was discussed by the CMF in November where it was agreed that councils don't want to be spending money unnecessarily. ADC's budget commitment is in Year 3 of the LTP 2026-36 and Officers will be recommending this is retained.

The Regional Plan for Canterbury could look somewhat different with the reforms and CMF will be considering whether the priorities will remain, as currently defined, and where the Forum's focus needs to be. Central government has clearly signalled they expect the reforms to be funded from existing regional budgets and this will be a focus of CMF discussions.

CMF meet on 20 February and will report back to member councils with more detail on work programmes.

**That** Council ratifies the Canterbury Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2025-28.

Ellis/Gilkison

Carried

The CMF presenters were thanked and left the meeting.

## **6 Cameron Street Parking (former Polytechnic)**

The recommendation to charge for parking wasn't fully supported. Councillors commented on the need to consider free parking in the CBD to help ensure businesses remain viable. Reference was also made to cost savings if solar powered parking units aren't installed. Councillors speaking in support noted motorists have other options for free parking and agreed that \$3/day is a reasonable charge.

Officers are undertaking a full review of CBD parking and a report will be provided to Council in due course.

1. **That** motorists parking at the Balmoral Hall and former Ashburton Polytechnic carpark on Cameron Street, Ashburton, shall be required to pay for all day parking at a rate of \$3.00 (including GST) per day; and
2. **That** the required changes to Council's adopted Fees and Charges be made.

Wilson/Gilkison

Carried

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion.

## **7 Road Renaming Request – part of McKenzies Road to Millers Road**

Council declined this request due to an existing, similarly named road in the Lagmhor area (Millars Road).

It was further noted that the spelling of McKenzies Road appears to be incorrect and should instead be 'Mackenzies Road'. Officers will undertake further research as historical records show the Mackenzie family settled in this area.

**That** Council declines the request to change a portion of McKenzies Road to Millers Road.

Wilson/Todd

Carried

## **8 Ashburton Fire Museum discretionary grant**

**That** Council declines the request from the Ashburton Volunteer Fire Brigade for a discretionary grant at this time and advises that they reapply for funding for the Ashburton Fire Museum when Council's grants open for the 2026/27 year.

Ellis/Wilson

Carried

A show of hands gave 9 for and 1 against

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion.

## 9 Rates Target Model Submission

Officers presented an updated submission. Following review of other organisations' submissions comment has been expanded to show that Council supports and aligns its submission with the broader sector positions submitted by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, LGNZ and Taituarā.

**That** Council approves the submission to the Department of Internal Affairs on the Proposed Rates Target Model.

Wilson/Hooper

Carried

Cr Phill Everest recorded his vote against the motion

## 10 Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill Submission

**That** Council approves the submission to the Environment Select Committee on the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill.

Ellis/Todd

Carried

## 11 Ashburton Car Club Road Closure – Wakanui Bent Sprint

**That** Council permits the closure of Fitzgerald Road (between Gibsons Road and Bonningtons Road), Seaside Road (between Fitzgerald Road and Bonningtons Road) and Bonningtons Road (between Fitzgerald Road and Seaside Road), to be closed from 8.00 am Sunday, 15 March 2026 until 5.00 pm the same day to allow the Wakanui Bent Sprint event to take place.

Ellis/Todd

Carried

## 12 Ashburton Car Club Road Closure – Upper Downs Shingle Sprint

**That** Council permits the closure of Upper Downs Road, Mt Somers, from Quarry Road to Hinds Gorge Road from 8.00am Saturday 28 February 2026, until 5.00pm the same day to allow the Upper Downs Shingle Sprint event to take place.

Hooper/Moffett

Carried

## Business transacted with the public excluded – 2.06pm

**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	Council 17/12/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rates remission</li><li>Mt Hutt Hall Board</li><li>Reserve revocation</li><li>Elderly persons housing</li><li>EA Networks Centre</li><li>CE &amp; Board appointments service provider</li><li>Audit NZ</li><li>Ashburton Contracting Ltd</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(j) Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h)	Protection of information for improper use Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities
14	Executive Committee 19/01/26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CE &amp; Board appointments service provider</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Moffett/Maxwell

Carried

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

- **Appointments of Service Providers for the CE's annual review and for the recruitment of ACL Directors**
  1. **That** Council award the contract to manage the CE annual performance review process Sheffield Limited; and
  2. **That** Council award the contract to manage the process of recruiting directors to the Board of Ashburton Contracting Ltd to Brannigans.

Wilson/McMillan

Carried

The meeting concluded at 2.15pm.

**[Confirmed by Council on 25 February 2026]**

---

MAYOR