
Council Minutes – 25 February 2026

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 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, Deb Gilkison, Phill Hooper, Jeanette Maxwell, Julie Moffett, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Community & Open Spaces), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Tania Paddock (GM Legal & Democracy) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Emily Reid (Corporate Planner), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Mel Neumann (Policy Advisor), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 4/2/26

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 February 2026, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Gilkison

Carried

5 Audit, Risk & Finance Committee – 11/02/26

That Council receives the minutes of the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee meeting held on 11 February 2026

Todd/Cameron

Carried

- **Ashburton Contracting Limited – Draft Statement of Expectations**

That Point 6 of the draft Statement of Expectations be reworded to:

6. Dividend Policy

ACL is expected to maintain a prudent dividend policy balancing shareholder returns and reinvestment needs. Dividends should be declared annually subject to profitability and liquidity, with a target payout based on the greater of either:

- i. 50-60% of net profit after tax (excluding any realised capital gains/losses, revaluation movements, any material one-off non-cash items, and any after tax profits/losses arising from the Lake Hood Extension Project); or
- ii. 4% of closing equity

In the event that Directors do not believe that this expectation is in the best interests of ACL in any particular year, ACL Chairman shall enter discussions with ADC Mayor and CEO with the expectation agreement can be reached in relation to the specific dividend paid.

7. Capital Investment Expectations

Capital investment proposals must align with Council's strategic priorities and demonstrate robust business cases, including risk assessment and sustainability considerations

Cameron/Ellis Carried

That Council

- a) Adopts the Ashburton Contracting Limited – Statement of Expectation; and
- b) Grants Ashburton Contracting Limited an extension to 9 March 2026 to provide its draft Statement of Intent to Council, in accordance with Clause 4, Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Cameron/Moffett Carried

- **Audit NZ Engagement Letter 2026-2028**

That Council

- a) Receives Audit New Zealand's Audit Engagement Letter for 2026, 2027 and 2028; and
- b) Recommends that Council delegates authority to Mayor Liz McMillan to sign the Audit Engagement Letter.

Todd/Maxwell Carried

6 Three Waters Committee – 11/02/26

That Council receives the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 11 February 2026

Ellis/Gilkison Carried

7 Methven Community Board – 26/01/26

That Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 26 June 2026

Gilkison/Moffett Carried

8 Mid-Year Non-Financial Performance Report

Clarification was sought on the performance by dimension of service statistics, in particular the Utilisations which are showing as primarily off track. Officers will investigate and report back to Council.

That Council receives the Mid-year non-financial performance report 2025/26.

Hooper/Everest Carried

9 Open Spaces Bylaw 2016 – adopt for public consultation

Amendment:

10.2 – correction to the spelling of devices

1. **That** Council determines that:
 - a. A bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem; and
 - b. The proposed amendment to the Open Spaces Bylaw is the most appropriate form of bylaw; and
 - c. Does not give rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) and is not inconsistent with NZBORA
2. **That** Council adopts the proposal to amend the Open Spaces Bylaw 2016, attached as Appendix 1, as the basis for public consultation

Gilkison/Todd

Carried

10 Draft Open Spaces Strategy 2026 for public consultation

That Council approves the draft Open Spaces Strategy for public consultation from 4 March to 7 April 2026.

Maxwell/Todd

Carried

11 Brothel Location Bylaw 2016 – adopt draft for public consultation

1. **That** Council determines that:
 - a. A bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem; and
 - b. The proposed amendment to the Brothel Location Bylaw is the most appropriate form of bylaw; and
 - c. Does not give rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) and is not inconsistent with NZBORA
2. **That** Council adopts the proposal to amend the Brothel Bylaw 2016, attached as Appendix 1, as the basis for public consultation

Hooper/Maxwell

Carried

12 Local Governance Statement 2025-28

Amendment:

Membership – correction to the spelling of Cr Deb Gilkison’s name.

That Council receives and publishes the Local Governance Statement 2025-2028.

Mayor/Moffett

Carried

13 Mayor’s Report

• Canterbury Biodiversity Advisory Group

That Councillor Richard Wilson be appointed as the Ashburton District Council’s representative on the Central Canterbury Biodiversity Advisory Group

Cameron/Gilkison

Carried

• SuperLocal26 Conference and AGM

LGNZ have requested Council to submit remits for consideration by Monday 25 May 2026. Copies of previous remits are to be circulated to Councillors for background information.

• **Local Government Members (2025/26) Determination – proposed amendment**

That Ashburton District Council does not support the Remuneration Authority’s proposal to amend clauses 11, 12, 14 and 15 of the Local Government Members (2025/26) Determination.

Cameron/Hooper Carried

That Council receives the Mayor’s report.

Mayor/Ellis Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 1.43pm

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:	
14	Council 4/02/26 • Executive Committee 19/01/26	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
15	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee 11/02/26 • Health & Safety • Legal & Democracy Activity • Audit NZ Report	Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons
16	Methven Community Board 26/01/26 • Short-term visitor accommodation	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
17	People & Capability Report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
18	Appointments Committee for ACL Directors	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Ellis/Cameron Carried

Council resumed in open meeting at 2.13pm

Welcome to Staff

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Natalie Lucas (Swim School & Programmes Manager), Natasha Fourie (Financial Accountant) and Shania Harrison-Lee (People & Capability Graduate).

Council also acknowledged the long service of Library Manager Jane Riach (5 years) and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator Penny Tuanui (5 years).

The meeting concluded at 2.16pm.

[Confirmed by Council 18 March 2026]

MAYOR