

Council Minutes – 23 November 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

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

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Toni Durham (Strategy & Policy Manager), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Femka van der Valk (Policy Advisor), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel), Janice McKay (Communications Manager), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager) and Michelle Hydes (Property Advisor).

Presentations

Waka Kotahi 2.12pm-2.57pm

Ashburton Contracting Ltd 4pm-4.24pm

1 Apologies

Cr Leen Braam

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Acknowledgement of former Councillor Geoff Stone

Council observed a moment's silence for former Councillor Geoff Stone. Cr Stone was elected to the Ashburton Borough Council in 1986 and served one term before being elected to the newly formed Ashburton District Council in 1989. He was re-elected in 1992 and 1995 before resigning from Council in February 1997.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 27/10/22

That the minutes of the Inaugural Council meeting held on 27 October 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

5 Confirmation of Minutes – 9/11/22

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 November 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

Lovett/Ellis

Carried

6 Methven Community Board – 31/10/22

That Council receives the minutes of the Inaugural Methven Community Board meeting held on 31 October 2022.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

7 Revenue & Financing Policy

That Council confirms that the scope of the 2022/23 review of the Revenue and Financing Policy is confined to the funding of the Methven-Springfield water supply, taking effect from 1 July 2023.

Letham/McMillan

Carried

8 Elected Members' Allowances & Expenses Policy

The recommendation to allocate the Methven Community Board members' communications allowance equally between the Chair and Members wasn't fully supported. It was suggested that the Chair should continue to receive a higher amount to recognise the additional demands of that role.

1. **That** Council adopts the Draft Elected Members' Allowance and Reimbursement Policy 2022 as attached in Appendix 1; with the following amendment:

Methven Community Board communications equipment

– MCB Chair \$700

– MCB Members \$600

2. **That** Council rolls over the Elected Members' Attendance at Conferences, Training Courses and Seminars Guidelines (as attached in Appendix 2).

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

9 Community Honours Awards Policy

That Council adopts the Community Honours Awards Policy, as attached in Appendix 1.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

10 Open Spaces Strategy Review

Councillors commented on the increasing open space requirements with new developments and questioned whether mapping of residential areas greater than 400m away from open space areas should continue as this is resulting in a number of small areas needing to be maintained.

Comment was also made on the proposal to identify and prioritise future land requirements and the potential impact of legislative (RMA) changes. Members questioned whether Council could pre-empt the RMA by having an early plan for future development in place.

The Chief Executive advised that there's uncertainty around the RMA reform and whether a Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan will be likely to give effect to individual councils' planned work. Council could opt for an earlier review of the Open Spaces Strategy, but if this is given priority then other work will need to be put on hold. Officers could provide Council with an update on work being undertaken currently, such as the Reserve Management Plan.

That Officers report back to Council with further detail on the work being undertaken to identify future land requirements, including priority areas.

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

11 Mt Somers Water Treatment Plant – change of reserve classification

That Council

1. Resolves under the Reserves Act 1977 to classify 1.6187 hectares of land contained within Reserve 4813, Canterbury Land District (*New Zealand Gazette* 1956 p 661) (“the Reserve”) as Local Purpose (Utility) Reserve, subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.
2. Shall issue public notice of its intention to classify the Reserve in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.
3. Notes that if any objections are received following the public notice, a subsequent report to Council shall be presented for Council to consider these objections.
4. Authorises the Chief Executive to sign any documentation required to give effect to the Reserve classification.

Ellis/Lovett

Carried

12 2023 Meeting Schedule

With Council’s agreement the Mayor rescheduled the 19 July meeting to Tuesday 25 July.

That Council adopts the 2023 schedule of Council and Methven Community Board meetings.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

13 Financial Variance Report – September 2022

The Finance Manager will clarify and report back on the following:

- Community grants and Water Zone Committee loan repayments reference
- Environmental Services budget and expenditure balance

That Council receives the September 2022 financial reports.

Cameron/Letham

Carried

14 Deputy Mayor’s Report

• Community Vehicle Trust

The Deputy Mayor attended the Trust’s AGM on 22 November and has been elected co-Chair.

The Trust is receiving more inquiries for passenger services and there is also a need to find more volunteer drivers.

That Council receives the Deputy Mayor’s report.

McMillan/Mayor

Carried

Waka Kotahi presentation

Director of Regional Relationships, James Caygill provided Council with an update on the Ashburton (2nd) bridge business case. He also acknowledged the success of the new traffic signals at SH1/Walnut Ave which were completed on schedule and officially activated on 18 November. Council’s forbearance and tolerance of traffic issues during construction has been appreciated.

The next significant project is the Tinwald corridor. Full design is expected by the end of the calendar year and, from lessons learned with the Walnut Ave project, Waka Kotahi is working closely with KiwiRail to ensure both design works are carried out consecutively. The project will go to the market next year, with construction expected to start mid year.

Public consultation resulted in one change to the design with vehicle access at the viaduct to be retained. Waka Kotahi took on board concerns raised by Council and KiwiRail about the impact of the proposed change and will be monitoring this.

2nd Ashburton bridge

Council's resolutions of 7 August form the basis of the process looking forward.

Mr Caygill explained the three separate funding pools:

- 1) **Local** (Council) – confirmed existing budget of \$7.5m, and would consider increasing through the next annual plan process. Given the cost escalation that occurred during the business case, the indicators are that \$7.5m won't be enough.
- 2) **National** (Waka Kotahi) – project sits within the 2024-2027 NLTP. Aiming to construct the bridge within the next NLTP and that programme will be confirmed by the Waka Kotahi Board in early to mid 2024. A lot of work is required on this and all transport projects to build the programme for adoption.
 - Regional Transport Committee will prioritise regional transport programmes over the next year and they feed into the national prioritisation programme. *Note* the current prioritisation programme flagged the 2nd bridge as a project (back in 2020/21).
 - Prioritisation is informed by the Government Policy Statement on land transport (GPS) – in this process it sets policy priorities. Waka Kotahi expect the Minister will soon issue an updated GPS for the next LTP. It's not yet known what priorities the projects will be judged against for the 2024/27 LTP. All going well, if the project prioritises well nationally, Council can expect to get the normal 51% funding from Waka Kotahi.
 - While Council may believe there is a case for more than 51%, it is rare (in non-emergency situations) that Waka Kotahi would go beyond the 51%, but there is criteria for this to happen. Either way, there will likely still be a gap between the local and national funding share.
- 4) **Crown** – an example of this is the Walnut Ave/SH1 traffic signals – result of Ministerial decision and funded directly from the Crown. It is likely that Council will want to have conversations directly with Ministers to gauge the Crown's appetite to close the funding gap.

All three funding processes are interconnected and will require ongoing conversations between now and early 2024. Mr Caygill explained that the purpose of his presentation today is to show the timeline and give assurance that Waka Kotahi are pleased with the work that has been done to date. They are limited by three year funding requirements, and there is a lot of work to be done between now and 2024, but that they are committed to continuing to work with Council.

With Council's budget of \$7.5m (business case \$113m), and if a 51% share from Waka Kotahi is achieved, the Chief Executive advised that the shortfall would be around \$50m. He asked how Council would give the community a sense of assurance when each agency has their own rigid regimes to allocate their share.

Mr Caygill advised this will become increasingly clear as work is done over the coming year. Council will have its annual plan process, there will be a consultation process led by the Ministry on the next GPS (land transport). Waka Kotahi are conscious of the timing issues and will try and align the processes (National Land Transport Programme timing with that of councils' programmes).

Further issues were raised relating to the existing SH1 bridge. Mr Caygill has previously advised that there's limited ability to improve the bridge (and the business case for the 2nd bridge examined this more closely).

Waka Kotahi have previously considered but discounted pedestrian 'islands' which are unhelpful from a traffic flow point of view and are unlikely to proceed on Archibald Street. Similarly an underpass near the river would be unlikely. It was suggested these matters would be better discussed with Council in a future workshop.

Council's business case for the 2nd bridge is being reviewed by Waka Kotahi officers and will go to the Board for decision in the next (2024-27) Plan.

The presentation concluded at 2.57pm.

15 Mayor's Report

- **Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs**

Following the meeting attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive, the offer has been accepted for Ashburton (as a provincial council) to run a pilot programme that will support youth employment and other youth focussed issues. Council's Welcoming Communities Advisor will be the lead on this and officers are currently going through the process of entering into a contract (\$108k until 30/06/23) which will be paid on the basis of outcomes.

- **Communities for local democracy (C4LD)**

The Mayor spoke about meeting held on 4 November where the revised C4LD strategy direction was discussed.

1. **That** Council continues to endorse and support efforts of the Communities for Local Democracy Group and the Mayors of Auckland, Christchurch and Waimakariri in their efforts to overturn the 3Waters legislation; and
2. **That** Council continues to oppose the 3Waters proposal.

Letham/Ellis Carried

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

McMillan/Lovett Carried

Welcome to staff – 2.55pm

Sarah Mosley, Manager People & Capability, introduced new staff – Katie Perry (People & Capability Lead) , Femke van der Valk (Policy Advisor), and Graeme White (Property Advisor).

Council also acknowledged long-serving staff – Simon Hore (Horticulturist) – 5 years, Terry O'Neill (District Forester) – 30 years and Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability) - 15 years.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.19pm

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: | |
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| 16 | Library & Civic Centre PCG 9/11/22 | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |

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| 17 | CE Decisions in interim election period 1) Library & Civic Centre PCG 13/10/22 2) Methven membrane treatment | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| 18 | Building acquisition | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| 19 | Land acquisition | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| 20 | Land acquisition | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| 21 | Fairfield freight hub agreement | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |
| 22 | ACL quarterly report | Section 7(2)(h) | Commercial activities |

Ellis/Cameron

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 3.19pm until 3.44pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **Terms of Reference – Library & Civic Centre Project Control Group**

That Council adopts the Library & Civic Centre Project Control Group terms of reference 2022.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.51pm.

[Confirmed by Council on 7 December 2022]

MAYOR