

Council Minutes – 20 December 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 20 December 2023, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Ann Smith (Community Services Officer), Richard Wood (Sports Facility Manager) and Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel).

1 Apologies

Cr Russell Ellis Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 6/12/23

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 December 2023, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Todd Carried

5 Audit & Risk Committee – 29/11/23

That Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 29 November 2023.

Cameron/Braam Carried

6 Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group – 29/11/23

That Council receives the minutes of the Heritage Mid Canterbury Working Group meeting, held on 29 November 2023.

Braam/Lovett Carried

7 Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee – 5/12/23

That Council receives the minutes of the Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee meeting held on 5 December 2023.

McMillan/Hooper Carried

8 Methven Community Board – 27/11/23

That Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 27 November 2023.

Lovett/Todd

Carried

9 Emergency Work Funding

That Council funds the local share of \$511,947, being 49% of the \$1,044,790 Waka Kotahi approved cost for Emergency Works in 2023/24, from the Disaster Insurance Reserve.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

10 Additional 2023-24 Subsidised Roading Funding

- 1. That** Council funds the local share of \$490,000 for the \$1,000,000 increase to sealed road pavement rehabilitation from the existing \$1,000,000 unsubsidised budget for Rural sealed road overlay; and
- 2. That** Council spends the remaining unsubsidised budget of \$510,000 on:
 - a)** Ashburton Gorge Road – Stoney Creek (Bridge #6) - \$10,000
 - b)** Ashburton Gorge Rd – Woolshed Creek (Bridge #7) - \$10,000
 - c)** Hakatere Heron Rd – Jacobs Stream (Bridge #48) - \$15,000
 - d)** Anama Settlement Road – Hinds River (Bridge #3) - \$7,500
 - e)** Hakatere Potts Road – Potts River (Bridge #44) - \$15,000
 - f)** Dry Creek – Cairnbrae Intersection – Concrete Apron - \$20,000
 - g)** Dry Creek – Lyndhurst Road – Concrete Apron - \$30,000
 - h)** Montalto Road – Upsize Culvert - \$25,000
 - i)** Dry Creek – Highbank Cairnbrae Road – Concrete Ford - \$30,000
 - j)** Springburn Bushside Road – New box culvert - \$285,000

Todd/McMillan

Carried

11 Rakaia Wastewater Treatment Plant – sludge drying beds

The recommendation wasn't fully supported. Those speaking against would prefer to see consent application being made to continue existing activities.

The Assets Manager advised that Council would be unlikely to get consent to discharge primary sludge to land. If separating sludge streams, consent would allow disposal of secondary sludge to land, but compliance for that will also be difficult and will become more rigorous going forward.

That Council approves:

1. Construction of wastewater sludge drying beds at the Rakaia wastewater treatment plant on Acton Road, Rakaia in the 2023/24 financial year with a budget provision of \$2.5M excluding GST;
2. Utilising the Grit Chamber Pipeline Renewal project carryover (being \$3.14M of a carryover total of \$5,806,809 approved by Council on 20 September), to cover the remaining design, and consenting works of the grit chamber project, and the sludge drying bed budget provision;
3. Reprogramming the physical works phase of the Grit Chamber Pipeline Renewal project for construction in the 2024/25 financial year.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

A show of hands gave 5 for and 4 against the motion.

12 CBD Analysis

That Council receives the CBD analysis report.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

13 CBD Pedestrian Counting

1. **That** Council agrees to install CountCulture in the Murney building, using existing budget of \$9,291 + GST to fund the installation.
2. **That** Council commits to \$7,419 plus GST for the ongoing annual licence fee as part of the Economic Development Budget in subsequent years.
3. **That** a review of the pedestrian counting be undertaken in three years' time.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

14 Bancorp Treasury Report – September 2023

That Council receives the Bancorp Treasury report for the September quarter.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

15 Economic Development Strategy – Rautaki Whanake Ohaoha 2023-33

That Council adopts the final Economic Development Strategy - Rautaki Whanake Ohaoha 2023-33.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

16 Community Grants Criteria for 2024-25

Heritage grants – there will be increased focus on publicising this to ensure heritage property owners are aware of funding available to them.

Community events grant - Cl7 will be amended to include reference to 'vape-free'.

Trail maintenance fund – amended to show that Council, rather than the Hakatere Ashburton River Trail Group, will make the final decision on applications for this funding.

That Council adopts the updated community grant criteria for the 2024/25 funding round.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

17 Future of Ashburton Youth Council

Council supported the proposed change and the use of digital technology to engage young people and capture their views but there was some concern that the loss of 'face to face' meetings would be detrimental. It was suggested that funds remaining in the Youth Council reserve budget be used to hold at least two in-person youth workshops each year.

That Council replaces the Ashburton Youth Council with youth focused digital engagement via Social Pinpoint and resurrects the annual Ashburton Youth Forum in 2024.

Hooper/Lovett

Carried

Amendment

1. **That** Council replaces the Ashburton Youth Council with youth focused digital engagement via Social Pinpoint and resurrects the annual Ashburton Youth Forum in 2024.
2. **That** up to two additional youth workshops be held, to be funded from the Youth Council reserve account.

McMillan/Wilson

The amendment was lost on a show of hands (3 for and 6 against) and the original motion carried

18 2023-24 Review of Solid Waste Management & Minimisation Bylaw 2018

1. **That** Council, having considered the tests for review set out in section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002, determines that the preferred course of action is to amend the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2018.
2. **That** Council receives the draft amendments to the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2018 set out in Appendix 1 and defers a decision on the commencement of consultation on the amendment until it has made decisions on the funding and levels of service for kerbside food organic and green organic collection.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

19 Treasury Management Policy

Council noted that Cl 13.3 of the policy requires an annual property investment report to be presented to Council.

The GM Business Support confirmed that a report can be made available but may need to be deferred due to current workloads.

That Council adopts the Treasury Management Policy 2023.

Todd/Braam

Carried

20 Mayor's Report

That Mayors report be received.

Mayor/Lovett

Carried

Welcome to Staff

Sarah Mosley, GM People & Facilities, introduced Samantha Hydes, recently appointed to the role of Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Co-ordinator.

Council also acknowledged the long service of Emily Reed, Corporate Planner (5 years).

Council adjourned from 2.46pm to 3pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded – 3pm

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:	
21	Council – 6/12/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCG – 14/11/23• Settlement Steering Group 7/11/23• EA Networks maintenance [Now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stopping & sale unformed legal road	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities
22	Audit & Risk – 29/11/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health & Safety report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
23	Library & Civic Centre PCG – 12/12/23	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
24	EA Networks Centre maintenance	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
25	Ashburton Business Estate – sale of land	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Braam

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **EA Networks Centre heat pump installation**

1. **That** Council approves up to \$386,545+GST additional expenditure, funded from depreciation reserves, to remove the existing Heat Pump 2 and instead replace and install three smaller Mitsubishi heat pumps at EA Networks Centre.
2. **That** officers will report to Audit & Risk Committee with the final insurance settlement.

Todd/Braam

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.29pm.

[Confirmed by Council 7 February 2024]

MAYOR