
Council Minutes – 3 April 2024

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 April 2023, commencing at 1pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatare, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, 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), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager) and Michelle Hydes (Property Officer).

1 Apologies

Cr Rob Mackle

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Presentations

- Carters Creek Catchment Group – 1.24-1.35pm
- Kiwirail – 1.35-2.02pm
- James Meager MP – 2.30-2.52pm (via MS Teams)
- Fonterra – 3.22pm-4.09pm

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 20/03/24

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 March 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

5 Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee – 5/03/24

That Council receives the minutes of the Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2024.

McMillan/Wilson

Carried

7 Environment Canterbury Draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34: Submission

Council amended the submission to make it clear that it wants to ECan bring forward the following projects into Year 1 of the LTP –

- Ashburton River consent process
- Carters Creek maintenance
- Mt Somers / Ashburton catchment flood mitigation work

Clarification will be sought on the rural rate component of public transport.

The Mayor is attending the hearings to present Council's submission and will request a detailed response from ECan to clearly show where ratepayers' money will be spent in the district and to ensure accountability for goals ECan is seeking to achieve.

1. **That** Council receives the report.
2. **That**, with agreed alterations, Council approves the submission, with agreed alterations, to Environment Canterbury on the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

6 Endorsement of Carters Creek Catchment Group submission to ECan

The Mayor welcomed representatives of the Carters Creek Catchment Group, Janine Holland and Willie Leferink who asked Council to support their submission in respect to the Carters Creek flood investigation work, including bringing forward funding for this project into Year 1 of the Plan.

That Council endorses Carters Creek Catchment Group's submission to ECan's draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

Kiwirail 1.35pm

Alan Piper, Executive GM Freight Markets, provided an overview of how KiwiRail will operate its services from the new Fairfield freight hub. This will start from Monday 8 April, resulting in some delays initially when trains are required to shunt over Fairfield Road. KiwiRail have engaged with the Fairton and wider Ashburton community with traffic safety messages, including notice that train speeds will increase through town.

The hub has increased capacity for containers, in the first year up to 10,000 and over time increasing to 20,000. The current Ashburton site will no longer be used for rail and will be cleared for alternative, commercial use in the future.

Council heard that between 4-5 trains travel between Christchurch and Invercargill each day. Towards the end of 2025, KiwiRail will have 57 new locomotives operating in the South Island.

Alan acknowledged the support that Council has provided to the Fairfield freight hub which is seen to be a good example of successful central and local government and private partnership.

8 Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Review – Council representative

That Council appoints Councillors Richard Wilson and Leen Braam to represent Ashburton District Council at the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy Discovery Session on 10 April 2024.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

9 Financial Reports

That Council receives the February 2024 financial variance report.

Todd/Lovett

Carried

10 Mayor's Report

That the Mayor's report be received.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

Council adjourned from 2.19pm to 2.30pm.

James Meager MP

James joined the meeting via MS Teams and provided an update on the Government's first 100 days, and what's planned for the next 100 days, along with discussion on specific issues for this district.

A full copy of the presentation can be viewed on Stellar Library.

Welcome to Staff

Sarah Mosley, GM People & Facilities, introduced new staff – Jason Mactier (Water Race Ranger), Georgie Johnson (Gym Instructor), Sarah Colcord (Events Advisor), Alifia Ranapurwala (Financial Accountant), Aaron Rose (GIS Analyst) and Cristian Villagran (GIS Analyst – Senior).

Council also acknowledged the long service of Tania Paddock, Legal Counsel (5 years) and Mahara Heslop, Information Management Advisor (10 years).

Business transacted with the public excluded – 2.58pm

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:	
11	Council – 20/03/24	Sections 7(2)(a) & h	Protection of privacy of natural persons & Commercial activities
12	Library & Civic Centre PCG 19/03/24	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
13	Sale of Building	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Ellis/Lovett

Carried

Council adjourned from 2.58pm until 3.22pm.

Council resumed in open meeting and concluded at 4.23pm.

[Confirmed by Council 17 April 2024]

MAYOR