
Council Minutes – 3 September 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 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, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader). Helen Barnes (GM Business Support) joined via Teams at 3.57pm.

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Femke van der Valk (Policy Advisor), Emily Reed (Corporate Planner), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Tania Paddock (General Counsel) and Shelley Donnelly (Economic Development Manager).

Presentations

Key Research – 1.30pm-1.52pm

1 Apologies

Cr Lynette Lovett

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 20/08/25

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 August 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

5 Methven Community Board – 11/08/25

That Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 11 August 2025.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

6 Adoption of Water Races Bylaw 2025

1. **That** Council adopts the Ashburton District Council Water Races Bylaw 2025 (as set out in Appendix 1) effective from 12 September 2025.
2. **That** Council advises submitters of the outcome of the consultation process and deliberations feedback.

Wilson/Braam

Carried

7 Adoption of Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2025

- Strategy to include reference to food production per capita in this district to balance the information on the emissions from the agricultural sector.
- Strategy to include comparative data of NZ with other countries, including Kuwait, Finland and Ireland.

That Council adopts the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2025, with the agreed changes, revoking the Climate Change Policy 2022 and Climate Resilience Plan 2022.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

8 Annual Residents' Survey 2024/25

Michael Hooker presented an overview of the survey results, noting that Council's overall performance continues to lift and that roading remains a key driver of overall performance.

That Council receives the 2024/25 Annual Residents' Survey report.

Ellis/Braam

Carried

9 End-of-year non-financial performance reporting

Officers were asked for further information on why kerbside glass collection has decreased, how parking will be monitored in the CBD, and what the parking payment arrangements will be on completion of the Cameron Street carpark.

Additionally, Council has asked that advocacy continues for a pedestrian island on West Street and for a safe pedestrian crossing near the Methven Medical Centre. When available, this information will be reported through the Activity Briefings.

1. **That** Council receives the End-of-Year Non-Financial Performance Report 2024-25.
2. **That** Council receives the Strategy & Plan 2024/25 Progress Report.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded 2.48pm.

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:	
10	Council 20/08/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People & Capability report• Land purchases• ACL quarterly report	Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Protection of privacy of natural persons Commercial activities

	[Now in open meeting] • EA Shareholders Committee appointment		Commercial activities
11	MCB 11/08/25 • Methven & Foothills Birdsong	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
12	Cycle Trail Feasibility	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
13	Award of ROAD0400 Road network mtnc & operations	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
14	Three Waters resourcing	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
15	Stormwater resourcing	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
16	ACL Director appointments	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Mayor/Hooper

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.48pm to 3.14pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **Contract ROAD0400 Road Network Maintenance & Operations 2025-2030**

That Council accepts the tender from Fulton Hogan Limited for the contract ROAD0400 Road Network Maintenance and Operations 2025-2030 and awards the contract for \$40,660,916.59.

Mayor/Hooper

Carried

- **Three Waters Asset Data Analyst resourcing**

That Council approves the recruitment of a Three Waters Asset Data Analyst to be funded from the uplift allocated to the water and wastewater budgets in the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

Braam/Ellis

Carried

- **Stormwater Engineer resourcing**

That Council approves the recruitment of a Stormwater Engineer to be funded from existing stormwater consultancy budgets for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

- **ACL Director reappointments**

That Council reappoints Ashburton Contracting Limited Directors Andrew Barlass and Ross Pickworth for three-year terms expiring at the Ashburton Contracting Limited AGM in October 2028; and Darin Cusack for a two-year term expiring at the Company's AGM in October 2027.

Todd/Ellis

Carried

Council concluded at 4.50pm.

[Confirmed by Council 17 September 2025]

MAYOR