

Council Minutes –16 April 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 16 April 2025, commencing at 1.00pm 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, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

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

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Femke van der Valk (Policy Advisor), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Ravi Travedi (Asset Engineer), Jim Henderson (Emergency Management Officer), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel) and Jacqui Watson (Property Legal Counsel).

Deputation: Bill Thomas and Angela Cushnie (1.24pm-1.34pm)

Deputation: Methven Community Board members (3.30pm-3.54pm)

1 Apologies

Cr Mackle (lateness)

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

That pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business, to be taken with item 11:

- Lauriston School roading modification funding proposal

Braam/Cameron

Carried

3 Declarations of Interest

Item 15 – the Mayor declared an interest and gave notice he will leave the meeting for the duration of this item. The Deputy Mayor will take the Chair.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 2/03/25

- Ashburton Cemetery – new public toilets

That the matter left on the table at the 2 April 2025 Council meeting be uplifted for the Mayor's vote.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

After considering additional information, confirming that the cost of building new toilets would be predominantly loan funded, the Mayor remained opposed to the project and used his casting vote against the motion.

That Council constructs one new toilet facility in the Ashburton Cemetery between the Seafield Lawn and the Bremner Lawn and that the existing toilet block be demolished.

Lovett/Braam

Lost

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

The motion was lost on the Mayor's casting vote

1. **That** no further progress is made on the toilet project in the Ashburton Cemetery in the medium term.
2. **That** some maintenance be undertaken on the existing toilet block from within existing budgets to keep it functional.

Mayor/Lovett

Carried

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 April 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

5 **Audit & Risk Committee – 26/03/25**

That Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 26 March 2025.

Ellis/Cameron

Carried

• **Ashburton Contracting Ltd – Draft Statement of Intent 2025**

That Council develops a Statement of Expectation with Ashburton Contracting Ltd, to be signed off in conjunction with the Statement of Intent for the 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 financial year.

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

1. **That** Council receives the Ashburton Contracting Limited 2025/26 Draft Statement of Intent, confirming the request to amend clauses 6 and 13.
2. **That** the ACL Board be formally advised of Council's comments on the 2025/26 Draft Statement of Intent, prior to the company's meeting on 29 April 2025.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

• **New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool Receipt of Call Letter**

That Council receives the report and notes the requirement to make payment of \$17,404 plus GST to New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

• **EA Networks Centre income and expenditure report**

The recommendation to remove the report from the Audit & Risk Committee was not fully supported. It was suggested that increased scrutiny should be applied due to the support provided to maintain as EA Networks Centre receives a lot of support to maintain its operations.

That Council notes that the Audit & Risk Committee will no longer separately review the EA Networks Centre financial reports, as activity level data is included with Council's monthly financial variance report.

Ellis/Todd

Carried

Cr Cameron recorded her vote against the motion.

6 Three Waters Committee – 26 March 2025

That Council receives the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 26 March 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Ellis/Todd

Carried

7 Submission on Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill

That Council approves the submission to the Justice Committee on the Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year Term) Legislation Amendment Bill, as attached in Appendix 1.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

8 LocoDelegations Review 2025

That Council uplifts the Review of Council Delegations report from 5 February 2025.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

That Council adopts the 2025 delegations register (LocoDelegations).

Ellis/McMillan

Carried

9 Zone Committee Review Feedback

Deputation: Bill Thomas and Angela Cushnie

The presenters spoke about their preference for the core leadership group model to include representation from a local advisory group who would work alongside the other three stakeholders. They commented that feedback from the wider sector indicates support for a local advisory group to be formed (a group of 12-14 people representing different interests and concerns) with the Chair of this group to be the appointee on the core leadership group. It is envisaged that advisory group membership would be voluntary, with some remuneration for the advisory group Chair.

The presenters consider that their proposal aligns with Council's view that community representation and interest could be included if the option to replace the Zone Committee with a local leadership group is taken. They asked that their proposal be shared with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and submitted to Environment Canterbury.

The presenters were thanked and the deputation concluded at 1.34pm.

Officers advised that Council is being asked to consider a bespoke Mid Canterbury option. It is suggested that a trial be undertaken over an 18 month period that will focus on freshwater management at a local level. The core group, once established, would determine the projects and work programme.

There is some uncertainty on whether regional biodiversity funding will remain. Officers will raise this with ECan in the submission.

1. **That** Council approves the feedback memo to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on the Zone Committee Review, as attached in Appendix 1.
2. **That** Council supports proposed Option 2; having the Local Leadership Group replace the Ashburton Water Zone Committee, with representation from this 'advisory group' included as one of the four key stakeholders.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

10 ROAD0400 Road Maintenance and Operations Contract Procurement Model

That Council approves a Multiple Contracts procurement model for the ROAD0400 Road Network Maintenance and Operations Contract.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

11 2025/26 Unsubsidised Roding Projects

- **Extraordinary business – Lauriston School**

It was reported that Lauriston School Board of Trustees have asked Council to consider allocating funds to construct a turning bay and address flooding and accessibility issues at the school. The request was received on Monday and could be included with the unsubsidised roding projects under consideration today for the 2025-26 year.

Council heard that this work had been budgeted in the 2024-27 Roding Programme (Low Cost Low Risk) funding request which was subsequently declined by NZTA. If Council wishes to allocate funds for the Lauriston School project, work will have to be funded from the unsubsidised roding budget. The estimated cost of all the requested work is \$200k, but a staged approach could be considered.

Officers reported that NZTA have advised of targeted funding for local (resilience-based) projects and Council's funding share will need to be met from the unsubsidised roding budget. It was further reported that the Springburn Bushside Road project has been removed from the list of recommended projects. As a result of these changes, the available budget has reduced from \$2.5m to \$2.2m.

Should Council wish to include the Lauriston School (unsubsidised) project, other work would need to be reduced or removed.

Council discussed the merits of each of the proposed unsubsidised projects and agreed (by majority):

- *Lauriston School project*
Not supported in the 2025/26 year.
- *Replace concrete streetlight poles, new streetlights, signage improvements, footpath maintenance, and road safety promotion*
Budgeted amounts supported.
- *Drainage improvements*
Support reduced budget of \$100k
- *Road marking*
Support reduced budget of \$150k
- *Wills Street rail bridge*
Budgeted amount supported with this project to be renamed as 'additional structural refurbishment fund'. Council has asked for further information on the rail bridge project.

1. That Council spends the proposed Council unsubsidised budget for 2025/26 of \$2,200,000 on the following works:

- a) Replace concrete street light poles (42 poles) \$220,000
- b) New streetlights in conjunction with power undergrounding \$225,000
- c) Reseals \$1,000,000
- d) Drainage improvements \$100,000
- e) Signage improvements at curves and intersections \$50,000
- f) Road marking \$150,000
- g) Footpath maintenance \$50,000
- h) Road safety promotions \$20,000
- i) Additional structural refurbishment fund - \$365,000

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

12 Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting

That Council permits the temporary road closure of Blands Road from Dip Road to Methven Highway from 9.00 am to 4.30pm on Saturday, 17 May 2025 to allow the Standing Quarter Mile Sprint Meeting to be held.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

Civil Defence presentation

The Mayor welcomed Mr David Watson who has been recognised for his contribution as a volunteer radio operator with the local emergency management team over the past 10 years. On behalf of Council and the community, the Mayor thanked David and presented him with a certificate from the Minister of Emergency Management and the National Emergency Management Agency.

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.58pm until 3.15pm.

13 Deputy Mayor's report

That Council receives the Deputy Mayor's report.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

14 Mayor's report

• Lake Hood algae

The Mayor referred to the recent closure of Lake Hood due to health concerns associated with cyanobacteria. He commented that while work is being done to improve water flow and reduce weeds in the Lake, further options need to be explored to resolve the algae issue.

That Council requests the Chief Executive to provide an issues and options report on Lake Hood to restore water quality.

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded 3.29pm.

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:	
15	Council 2/04/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Birdsong Initiative TrustLand purchase	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities Commercial activities
16	Audit & Risk Committee 26/03/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Health & Safety report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
17	Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust lease	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
18	Land purchase	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

That the Methven Community Board deputation attend the meeting to speak to item 17, prior to Council receiving and debating this report.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **Purchase of land from Lake Extension Trust Ltd**

That Council enter into an Agreement for Sale and Purchase with the Lake Extension Trust Limited to purchase 2.89 hectares of land as contained in Lots 2 and 3 Deposited Plan 605866 (Record of Title 1209111) for the purchase price of \$1 plus GST (if any) on the terms contained in Appendix 1.

Lovett/Cameron

Carried

- **Development of Methven for Birdsong Initiative**

1. **That** Council agrees to the principle of the change of land use in line with the landscape concept plan (being the **Final Concept Plan** attached at amended Appendix 3) for 59 Main Street, Methven, legally described at Part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 48204 and commonly referred to as the “Garden of Harmony” site, from being a privately leased property to a publicly accessible property, but amends the MCB recommendation to retain the commercial lease with Big River Builders Limited, this lease to be reviewed in 2032.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

2. **That** Council approves the Final Birdsong Initiative Concept Plan for Methven, as shown in Appendix Three (amended to exclude the builder’s yard), and agrees to review this Plan in 2032.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

3. **That** Council leases that part of the property at 59 Main Street, Methven as is shown on the landscape concept plan (being the **Final Concept Plan** attached at amended Appendix 3) to the Methven Community Board and that the lease be generally in accordance with the following terms:

- a) *Term*: 35 years less one day
- b) *Rent*: Nominal
- c) *Permitted Use*: the development of the Premises in accordance with the landscape concept plan prepared by Botanic Landscape Architects to encourage native birdsong in Methven and protect that habitat from pests and predators.
- d) *Special Terms*:
 - a. the Lessee may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Methven and Foothills Birdsong Trust (**Trust**) to set out the role that the Trust will take in developing the Premises in accordance with the landscape concept plan prepared by Botanic Landscape Architects (**Birdsong Initiative**) and how the Lessee and the Trust will work together to maintain the Birdsong Initiative;
 - b. the Lessor may direct changes to the Birdsong Initiative to ensure the Birdsong Initiative does not impede on the Lessor’s primary purpose in holding 59 Main Street, Methven, being stormwater detention.

Braam/McMillan

Carried

Council concluded at 4.51pm.

[Confirmed by Council on 7 May 2025]

MAYOR