
Council Minutes – 7 May 2025

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 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, 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), Lou Dunstan (Policy Advisor), Jill Watson (District Librarian), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Alifia Baramatiwala (Financial Accountant), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel) and Jacqui Watson (Property Legal Counsel).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Public Forum

Neysa Koizumi and Vanessa Clarke from Digital Waitaha spoke about the Youth Digital Wellbeing Research Report 2024 – a collaboration between Digital Waitaha and the University of Canterbury.

Key points –

- Study focused on years 5-8 students from Waitaha who participated in the Stop, Block & Talk programme.
- Set out to understand students' digital wellbeing and safety concerns, identify online risks and understand what youth need to navigate the online world confidently.
- Positive findings show that students manage their digital wellbeing and safety but would benefit from structured strategies. They can recognise a range of online risks and want guidance and accountability from adults and tech companies.

The presentation concluded at 1.22pm.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 16/04/25

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 April 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Hooper

Carried

5 Methven Community Board – 14/04/25

That Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 14 April 2025.

Lovett/Todd

Carried

6 Library Collection Policy 2025

That Council adopts the Library Collection Policy 2025, as attached in Appendix 1.

Braam/McMillan

Carried

7 Procurement Policy 2025

Retaining the Policy's 'buy local' provision, where a local supplier's estimate is within 5% of the most competitive estimate, was not fully supported for larger expenditure.

- 1. That** Council adopts a buy local premium applied for all evaluation models for minor and moderate expenditure.
- 2. That** Council adopts the 2025 Procurement Policy as attached in appendix 3.
- 3. That** Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive to approve the final wording of any amendments to the Procurement Policy made at the Council meeting, if necessary.

Cameron/Todd

Carried

Cr Lovett recorded her vote against the motion.

8 Public Transport Trial

That Council has further discussions with ECan on the understandings of the district's public transport requirements.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

9 Ashburton Community Water Trust – exemption of CCO requirements

That Council exempts the Ashburton Community Water Trust from being classified as a Council Controlled Organisation for the period ending 30 June 2027.

Mayor/Wilson

Carried

10 Financial variance report

Officers were asked to check where references to favourable variances are at odds with the narrative. Clarification was sought on how the memorial hall costs are applied and further detail on Library depreciation and the 3.8m Glasgow lease variance has been requested.

That Council receives the March 2025 financial variance report.

Cameron/McMillan

Carried

11 Councillor reports

That Council receives the LGNZ Zones 5 & 6 Conference reports of Crs Cameron and Wilson.

Lovett/Wilson

Carried

NZTA

The Mayor welcomed NZTA Project Director, Lonnie Dalzell who provided an update on the second bridge project.

Lonnie spoke positively about the work that has already been undertaken by Council, including land designation and acquisition, and community consultation. With Ngai Tahu approval confirmed for the project, NZTA can now progress the inground transfer of the remaining piece of land in the river area.

NZTA propose to lodge consent directly with ECan in August and call for tenders by September. A collaborative approach will be taken for the design process and for project communications.

ADC roading officers are currently meeting weekly with the NZTA team with updates to be reported to Council as frequently as required. Lonnie advised that the project is currently tracking to start construction in March 2026, but that will depend on the outcome of the consenting process.

The Chief Executive advised that Council's wish to see local river extraction for the bridge project has been raised with ECan. Council will work with NZTA on this, but discussions with ECan will need to be held now to ensure the gravel extraction proposal is reflected in the tender.

Business transacted with the public excluded 2.57pm.

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:	
12	Council 16/04/25 • Birdsong Initiative Trust	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
13	Forestry land	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
14	Land purchase	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
15	Glasgow lease	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
16	People & Capability Report	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
17	Ashburton Contracting Ltd	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Ellis/Cameron

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.57pm to 3.16pm.

Council concluded at 4.54pm.

[Confirmed by Council 21 May 2025]

MAYOR