

---

## *Council Minutes – 1 June 2022*

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 June 2022, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

### **Present**

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan; Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, John Falloon, Rodger Letham, Angus McKay, Lynette Lovett, Diane Rawlinson and Stuart Wilson.

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Toni Durham (Acting GM Business Support) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Clare Harden (Community Administration Officer), Colin Windleborn (Commercial Manager) and Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager).

12 members of the public attended during the public forum presentations.

### **Presentations**

Public Forum (2): 1.02pm-1.30pm

Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail: 1.31pm-2.25pm

#### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

#### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

*Public forum* (Mitchell) - the Mayor declared an interest and gave notice he will vacate the Chair for this item.

*Item 5* – the Deputy Mayor declared an interest, as Chair of KidzMethven, and will withdraw from debate and decision.

### **Public Forum**

#### **Stivens**

Sheryl Stivens spoke against Council's decision (16/03/22) to close a section of water race that runs through the Stivens property, commenting that the historic waterway is shown on early survey maps and should therefore be protected under the freshwater and biodiversity national policy statements. She asked Council to give consideration to its climate change and biodiversity policies before putting anything in place and shutting down a race that provides habitat for a wide variety of natural flora and fauna as well as providing drainage that prevents flooding on Longbeach and Boundary Roads.

Referring to the ecology report, Sheryl noted that it hasn't looked wider than the water creatures and doesn't take into account other species reliant on this waterway such as bees, insects, frogs and tui.

A petition being presented today (191 signatures) seeks Council's reconsideration of the race closure. *[The petition wasn't presented today and was instead emailed to Council on 26/06/22 attached to a submission on the draft WMMP]*

In conclusion, the Mayor advised that Council would only be able to consider this if there is sufficient elected member support for a notice of motion to revoke the race closure decision.

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair

#### **Helen Mitchell**

Helen Mitchell presented a submission of 29 signatures, opposing the requirement for ADC employees to have vaccination passes. The submitter commented that the requirement is in breach of rights and is unlawful, citing examples of similar mandates being lifted by NZ Police and Defence Force for their employees.

The Mayor resumed the Chair

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 18/05/22**

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 May 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

#### **Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail – 1.31pm**

James Caygill (Waka Kotahi), Mark Heissenbuttel and Shaun Gore (KiwiRail) were welcomed to the meeting and invited to update Council on the upgrade of the Walnut Ave (SH1 and East St) intersection upgrades.

Both agencies acknowledged Council and community concerns with some aspects of the project. They have appreciated the dialogue, particularly around safety aspects, and will continue to monitor traffic management.

Council heard that Waka Kotahi's project is on track. Planning and construction of the road had to happen before KiwiRail could complete the rail design work and the delay between the two parts of the project, while frustrating for Council, could not be avoided. The complexities of the design are such that KiwiRail requires the area to be fully locked down by Waka Kotahi before rail work can start.

KiwiRail has a 10 year investment plan in place and the commitment from central government to invest in rail and make good for the lack of investment over the last 20-30 years. The funding, through Waka Kotahi, has brought a new dimension to KiwiRail and increased reporting requirements.

In respect to the Walnut Ave upgrades, KiwiRail's next step is to order the track slab (a concrete slab that will have to cure for one month). This is key to the project and dictates the programme. KiwiRail have booked the slab for 26 August and have reprioritised equipment, and the signals and track crews, so that work can start from late September to complete the signalling enablement. Temporary speed restrictions will be in place for trains until final inspection and sign-off is complete. KiwiRail and Waka Kotahi expect the project to be operational in November 2022.

The agencies agreed that the project, which is being carried out as planned, has highlighted the importance of communication and ensuring all parties have an understanding of the complexities and what to expect. They gave assurance that Council will be kept informed, and the contractor on site will continue to be responsive and monitor safety issues to minimise disruption to the public.

Additional matters raised for Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail response –

- Pedestrian crossing – the proximity of the crossing to the Walnut Ave roundabout was raised as a safety issue with the suggestion that it be relocated further north of the roundabout.
- Rail corridor – Council officers will continue to work with KiwiRail on vegetation control.

- Tinwald corridor – in detailed design stage. James and Mark will report back to Council with an outline of the project timeline. Remedial work following the reseal on Archibald Street will be undertaken by the contractor. The seal is in the long-term plan for replacement and will be fully resurfaced once the Tinwald corridor is complete.
- Pedestrian rail bridge – KiwiRail’s heritage trust undertakes condition assessments and assesses potential funding for repair work. Council officers will liaise with KiwiRail to determine the extent of work required on the Ashburton overhead bridge.
- Red light cameras – Waka Kotahi have a programme to take over cctv cameras from NZ Police which will significantly increase the number of cameras on the network.
- SH77, Methven – under the new rules for road controlling authorities, Waka Kotahi can adopt an interim speed management plan on the state highway network until 2024. The key issue for Council is whether a lower speed limit on a section of SH77 in Methven can go in the interim plan or will need to wait until the 2024 plan. The Methven community’s concerns will be kept in mind.
- Fairton freight hub – work is being undertaken on the signals design for the freight hub and new buildings for electricity and infrastructure. The timeline for the hub to be operational is not yet known – still in the consenting phase.
- Bridges/culverts – KiwiRail have repaired all of the temporary works following the May 2021 floods (\$8m). This includes increasing the size of the Hinds culvert which caused flooding and property damage.

In conclusion, the Mayor presented James Caygill with a petition received from an Ashburton resident who has gathered signatures from people concerned with the traffic safety at the Walnut Ave project.

## 5 Vesting of Methven Skate Park

Council congratulated the KidzMethven Committee and acknowledged the work of all those responsible for successfully creating a valuable community asset.

**That** Council receives the Methven skate park as a vested asset.

|

Braam/Lovett

Carried

## 6 Draft MfE Submission – Building a Climate Resilient Aotearoa New Zealand

Officers were asked to make reference to Ashburton River flood bank protection work undertaken by ECan a number of years ago. Designed for a one in 200 year flood event, this work protected the Ashburton urban area during last year’s flood event.

Council supported the submission with the following changes:

- Cl 7 – include comment on earlier flood protection works along Ashburton River banks
- Cl 19-20 – Officers were asked to prepare two options to consider after it was suggested that reference to ‘population’ as a basis for funding wouldn’t be fair for this district which contributes a high GDP per capita. It was further suggested that funding should instead be allocated on a risk basis
- Cl 20 – remove reference to ‘climate crisis’ and replace with ‘climate change’
- Cl 21 delete
- Cl 24 – delete redundant number

The draft submission will be amended and circulated to the elected members for final comment before it is lodged with MfE.

**That**, with the agreed changes, Council approves the draft submission to the Ministry for the Environment consultation document *Adapt and thrive: Building a climate-resilient Aotearoa New Zealand*.

Cameron/Falloon

Carried

## 7 Creative Communities Grants Assessment

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Creative Community Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on 6 May 2022.

Braam/McMillan

Carried

## 8 Mayor's Report

### • 3Waters emails

The Mayor will continue to respond to emails that have been prompted by Groundswell's opposition to the 3Waters proposal. It was noted that the approximately 41 emails received to date have also been sent to Councillors.

### • Regional Land Transport

The Mayor reported on some of the key discussion items from last week's Mayoral Forum and Regional Land Transport Committee meeting.

The Mayoral Forum has supported the Transport Committee's recommendation that the Transport Officers Group be asked to report back on whether current funding mechanisms across Canterbury for road maintenance, operations and renewals are sufficient to maintain appropriate levels of service and consider new approaches if they are not.

### • Climate Change Action Committee (CCAC)

The CCAC has asked the Mayoral Forum, which established the regional climate change councillor group, to nominate one or two climate change 'champions' from each Council to attend a CCAC meeting and workshop on 30 June. The Co-Chairs of the CCAC would like the regional councillor group to have a more formalised 'home' and have proposed that it is aligned with the CCAC.

Crs McMillan and Cameron have attended regional climate change meetings and will continue to be Council's representatives on this group.

### • Business Awards

The Deputy Mayor commented on the successful ANZ Business of the Year awards ceremony which was held at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall on Friday 27 May and attended by the Mayor and a number of Councillors.

Council noted that the idea for this came from the late Bevan Rickerby, Council's former Economic Development Manager, and it was very pleasing to see that the work undertaken by Council officers involved in planning and delivering this inaugural event resulted in significant interest and entries from local businesses.

**That** Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/Rawlinson

Carried

## Business transacted with the public excluded – 3.12pm

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:	
9	Council 18/05/22		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit &amp; Risk Committee 11/05/22</li> <li>• Library &amp; Civic Centre PCG 12/05/22</li> <li>• Freeholding Glasgow lease [Now in open meeting]</li> <li>• Review of corporate risk register</li> <li>• Relocation of Boer War memorial</li> </ul>	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities Commercial activities Commercial activities
<b>10</b>	Property matter	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
<b>11</b>	Contract ROAD0145 – road resurfacing	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Mayor/Rawlinson

Council adjourned for afternoon tea from 3.12pm to 3.35pm.

### **Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting**

- **Contract ROAD0145 – road resurfacing 2020/22**

**That** Council approves an extension to the current Contract ROAD0145 Road Resurfacing 2020/22 to include the 2022/23 financial year.

McKay/Falloon

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.21pm.

Confirmed 15 June 2022

*Neil Brown*

---

MAYOR