

Council Minutes – 15 February 2023

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2023, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown (Chair); Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan; 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), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities), Ian Hyde (Planning Manager), Janice McKay (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Emily Reed (Corporate Planner), Ian Soper (Open Spaces Manager), Dr Christian Chukwuka (Biodiversity Advisor), Mark Chamberlain (Roading Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager) and Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager).

Presentations

Electricity Ashburton – 4.02pm-4.50pm

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

The Mayor advised that item 9 will be taken later in the meeting with the Economic Development Manager present.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 1/02/23

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 February 2023, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

5 Methven Community Board

That Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 30 January 2023.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

6 Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board

That Council receives the minutes of the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board meeting held on 23 January 2023.

Hooper/McMillan

Carried

- **Methven i-Hub**

It was reported that staff at the Methven i-Hub receive and pass on information but have identified an increase in the number of visitors who would benefit from a face to face booking service.

Council supported an investigation to quantify costs and compare the operations of similar sized providers while noting that the previous i-Site service was closed due to lack of use and a reduced demand for agency bookings.

That Council investigates the Methven i-Hub becoming a booking agent.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

7 Development of Ashburton District Biodiversity Strategy

That Council approves the development of Ashburton District Council Biodiversity Strategy.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

8 Wills Street Rail Footbridge

Council supported the intent of the Conservation Management Plan, noting that the footbridge is the only remaining structure of its type in the country being used for its original purpose on its original site.

The Roading Manager advised that the bridge is well used and a pedestrian count could be undertaken if that's required. The bridge will be retained and funded from part of the overall subsidised maintenance budget. The structure is listed with the Rail Heritage Trust and may attract some funding from that organisation.

The footbridge is not included in the programme of work for new footpaths. Officers are preparing a separate report on this work and how the \$900k better-off funding will be applied.

That Council adopts the Conservation Management Plan for the Wills Street rail footbridge and fund the maintenance and renewal of the footbridge.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

10 Water Services Legislation Bill – draft submission

Clarification was sought on whether the submission should address the possibility of debt falling to Council in the future, if the new entity fails.

The Chief Executive advised this issue is unlikely to be specifically referred to in the Bill (and officers will check). Council's submission supports and makes reference to the comprehensive submission prepared by Taituarā who have examined the Bill in detail. When Council's submission is presented, there will be opportunity to comment further on issues of particular importance to ADC, such as the inclusion of CCOs.

That Council approves the draft submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Water Services Legislation Bill.

Cameron/Braam

Carried

11 Naming Policy

That Council adopts the amended Naming Policy.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

Simon Worthington attended the meeting at 1.44pm.

9 Tourism Arrangements

The recommendation to manage visitor promotion in-house and increase funding for this activity wasn't fully supported. Councillors speaking against referred to negative stakeholder feedback when Council reviewed this activity in 2021. It was suggested that the need for extra funding should be reviewed now, in tandem with private projects that are getting underway, and that KPIs need to be firmed up.

Councillors in support of the recommendations agreed that economic development and visitor promotion are aligned and that there is capacity and resource within this area of Council to deliver services and events that will attract revenue and promote the district. It was further agreed that the in-house model of district promotion needs to run for three years before reviewing its performance.

The Economic Development Manager reported that ChristchurchNZ's budget is constrained and has no provision for new concepts or feasibility development of new projects that might come in. There is industry support for the recommended approach and major operators in the district have had input.

The Chief Executive explained that the requirement for additional funding has been fully considered and Council will need to determine where visitor information sits within the final budget. Council will have the opportunity to regularly review the activity against the KPIs.

Council heard that the additional funding doesn't require Annual Plan consultation, but could be included for comment if there are other matters being consulted on.

Post meeting note: At the 22/02/23 workshop to consider the draft 2023/24 Budget, Council made the decision not to include additional funding of \$180k for visitor promotion in 2023/24.

1. **That** Council agrees to establishing a Visitor Promotion function within Council in the Economic Development team.

Braam/McMillan

Carried

A show of hands gave 7 for and 2 against the motion

2. **That** Council refers an increase in funding from \$195k to \$375k to the budget (Annual Plan 2023/24) considerations.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

A show of hands gave 7 for and 2 against the motion

3. **That** a review of District Promotion activities takes place in three years' time as part of the 2027-37 Long Term Planning process.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

12 Mid-year Performance Report

That Council receives the mid-year non-financial performance report.

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

13 Bancorp Treasury Report – December 2022

That Council receives the Bancorp Treasury report for the December 2022 quarter.

Todd/Hooper

Carried

14 Deputy Mayor's Report

It was reported the Deputy Mayor also attended the Hakatere Marae Komiti meeting on Monday 13 February, accompanied Poppy SurrIDGE who has been appointed as the Mayor's Tuia representative for 2023.

That Council receives the Deputy Mayor's report.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

15 Mayor's Report

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/McMillan

Carried

Welcome to Staff – 2.48pm

Katy Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Renee Julius (Property Manager), Michelle Driscoll (Team Leader Business Improvement), Katie Graham (Art Gallery & Museum Educator), Arven Torio (Applications Specialist), Beau Adams (Utilities Contracts Engineer), Poppy Surridge (Customer Services Officer), Harrison Crossley (People & Capability Graduate), Caitlin Smith (People & Capability Graduate).

Business transacted with the public excluded – 2.52pm

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:	
16	Council 21/12/22	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
17	Library & Civic Centre PCG 24/01/23	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
18	EA Networks	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.52pm until 3.22pm.

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **Purchase of polystyrene compacting machine from Wastebusters**

That Council resolves to not purchase the polystyrene compacting machine.

Braam/Hooper

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm.

Confirmed by Council 1 March 2023

MAYOR