

---

## ***Council Minutes – 6 October 2021***

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 6 October 2021, commencing at 10.10am in the Bradford Room, Ashburton Trust Event Centre, 211 Wills Street, Ashburton.

### **Present**

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

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Paul Brake (GM Business Support), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure Services), Sarah Mosley (Manager People & Capability), Ruben Garcia (Communications Manager) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Richard Mabon (Senior Policy Advisor), Ian Hyde (District Planning Manager), Rick Catchpole (Environmental Monitoring Manager), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Colin Windleborn (Commercial Manager), Terry O'Neill (District Forester), Brian Fauth (Roading Manager) and Crissie Drummond (Support Officer – Infrastructure Services).

9 members of the public (from 1pm to 2.55pm).

### **Presentations**

Stantec & Waka Kotahi 1pm-2.55pm

Hekeao-Hinds Water Enhancement Trust 3.18pm-4.05pm

#### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

#### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

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

Nil.

### **Acknowledgement of former District Councillor Neville Truman**

Council observed a moment's silence for former Councillor Neville Truman who served two terms as a District Councillor from 1998 until his retirement in 2004.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 15/09/21**

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 September 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

**5 Confirmation of Minutes – 29/09/21**

**That** the minutes of the extraordinary Council meeting held on 29 September 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Cameron/Wilson

Carried

**6 Audit & Risk Committee – 22/09/21**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 22 September 2021.

Braam/Falloon

Carried

**• Waka Kotahi / NZTA Technical Audit Report**

**That** Council receives the Waka Kotahi NZTA Technical Audit Group report and that staff report back regularly on the progress being made on the areas that are suggested for improvements.

Falloon/Cameron

Carried

**7 Methven Community Board**

The GM Business Support agreed to report back on the budget for the Methven Strategic Plan. Clarification was sought on whether it will be funded through a mix of general and targeted rates.

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 20 September 2021.

McMillan/Letham

Carried

**8 Creative Communities grants – Round 1**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Creative Community Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on 17 September 2021.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

**9 Youth Council**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 8 September 2021.

Rawlinson/Lovett

Carried

The GM Community Services was asked to check when the Youth Councillor-designed labels will be put onto the skatepark bins.

**10 Deliberations on the future of Grove Street Park**

The Senior Policy Advisor advised against making the subdivision contingent on the position of the playground and reminded Council that there are two separate issues – the location of the playground, and the decision on the subdivision made under the RMA and District Plan.

The District Planning Manager advised that reserve contribution will be assessed through the subdivision consent.

Council generally supported the proposal to dispose of the Park on the proviso that officers will negotiate fair compensation for the land and ensure that the future playground meets required standards.

**That** Council agrees to the disposal of Grove Street Park and negotiates fair compensation for the land.

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

**9 Dog Control Policy and Practices Report**

1. **That** the report be received.
2. **That** the Council give public notice of the report and make it publicly available.

Braam/Falloon Carried

**12 District Licensing Committee Annual Report**

Council noted that the DLC considers greater resourcing of police in the licensing area would be very effective. The Environmental Monitoring Manager will provide local Police with a copy of the DLC report.

1. **That** the report be received.
2. **That** the report be posted on the Ashburton District Council website.
3. **That** the report be sent to the Secretary for the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority within one month of adoption.

McKay/Braam Carried

**13 Forestry Wind Damage**

**That** Council receives the forestry wind damage report.

McKay/Braam Carried

**Welcome to staff – 11.14am**

Sarah Mosley, Manager People & Capability, acknowledged the long service of Kate Green (Building Systems Administrator) – 5 years, and Bryn Brockhurst (Quality Assurance Documents Officer) – 5 years.

New staff introduced – Shirin Khosraviani (Art Gallery & Museum Director), Simone Barnsdale (Education & Programmes Coordinator), Hannah Crichton (Collections & Exhibitions Assistant), Martine Tait (Visitor Engagement Co-ordinator), Nicholas Law (Senior Planner), Bernard Batarao (Utilities Contracts Engineer), Simone Hopwood (Senior People & Capability Advisor) and Aliesha Esker (Consents Compliance Officer).

Council adjourned for morning tea from 11.20am to 11.45am.

**14 Carry-over Funds from 2020/21 to 2021/22**

1. **That** Council approves the request to carry over the unspent funds from the 2020-2021 year into the 2021-2022 year, as detailed in this report.
2. **That** these carry-overs be funded as per their original funding.

McKay/McMillan Carried

**15 Financial variance reports**

Council received the draft variance report for June 2021 and the July variance report.

The GM Business Support was asked to check the amount of loan repayments made for the 2020-21 financial year, after taking account of the internal / external loan swapping).

Council also asked for a balance sheet to be shown in future reports. The August variance report will have an estimated balance sheet.

## 17 Mayor's Report

That the Mayor's report be received

Mayor/Cameron

Carried

### Business transacted with the public excluded – 12.09pm

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:	
18	Council 15/09/21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Freeholding Glasgow lease</li><li>Ashburton Business Estate</li><li>Ashburton Domain</li><li>People &amp; Capability annual report</li><li>CE annual review</li></ul> [Now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ashburton Airport funding future development</li><li>ACL Director appointment process</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(h) Section 7(2)(a) Section 7(2)(a)	Commercial activities Commercial activities Commercial activities Protection of privacy of natural persons Protection of privacy of natural persons
19	Ashburton Business Estate	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
20	Library & Civic Centre PCG	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
21	Audit & Risk Committee	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
22	Economic Recovery Advisory Group	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Braam/Lovett

Carried

Council resumed in open meeting at 12.35pm and adjourned until 1.00pm.

## 16 Ashburton-Tinwald Connectivity – Indicative Business Case, Strategic Case and Options Assessment

The Mayor welcomed representatives from Stantec (Chris Rossiter and Dave Hunter) and Waka Kotahi (James Caygill, Andrew Washington, Ben Wong and Richard Osborne).

Chris Rossiter presented the Stantec report:

Key points:

- In the long term, and for connectivity, Chalmers Ave ultimately takes sufficient traffic away from the state highway to allow the highway to operate efficiently.
- Chalmers Ave is better aligned with the project's objectives, provides benefits in terms of reducing congestion and should provide less severance between Ashburton and Tinwald.
- Ability to build the bridge on Chalmers Ave with minimum impact on the rest of the town (as opposed to if constructing within the state highway corridor).
- Preliminary analysis shows limited ability to improve the existing bridge with clip-ons but have identified a potential opportunity in the future to have an active mode bridge for pedestrians / cyclists upstream (Tarbottons Rd). This is not part of the immediate strategy but would be a low cost construction option to provide connectivity for recreation and access to schools / town centre.
- The May floods haven't been a big part of the weighting towards Chalmers Ave – part of the focus was looking more closely at severance issues. (diversions and disruption).

- There are capacity constraints along the highway and it's about trying to get effective distribution across the network.
- Traffic data (confirmed through Google travel time and Tom Tom data) determined that 80% of vehicle movements across the bridge are local. There is high reliability around the data (which was collected from Monday-Thursday). [Amended 20/10/21]
- Land use information used for modelling has been provided by Council. There has been some change to the forecast compared with earlier modelling estimates that formed the basis of work in 2013 – in respect to household numbers and future growth.
- No expectations that regional / SH traffic will be using the Chalmers Ave bridge – it will serve as a location connection.
- Unlikely to be a benefit/cost ratio that would justify construction of bridges if eastern and western bypasses were created.
- Chalmers Ave stands out as being best aligned with the existing road network and the hierarchy being promoted in district roads.
- Initial thoughts (without detailed design) on a new bridge being constructed between the existing SH and railway bridges showed that it would be technically possible, but challenging – and consequently more expensive.
- Critical capacity issue for the SH network as a whole is not the bridge – it's the signalised intersections along the state highway.

Following Cr Wilson's comments that he was disgusted with the report and the idiocy of the report writers, who have been "got at" by NZTA, the Mayor raised a point of order on the basis that the comments were disrespectful and offensive. The point of order was upheld.

The Mayor spoke about the importance of connectivity across the river for emergency services response – highlighted by Civil Defence during the May flood event.

James Caygill advised that the analysis shows that Chalmers Ave is the best option and on that basis Waka Kotahi would not support a new bridge on the highway. He commented that if traffic volume was the only consideration then a new bridge won't be needed on the highway for some time. Fundamental to the decision (supporting Chalmers Ave) is the series of floods which have shown the risk around connectivity and severance.

Chris Rossiter explained the weighting aspects that will be applied in stage 3 of the business case, noting the different weighting applied for week-day and weekend traffic. It's not expected the modelling will change the location of the proposed new bridge, but it may change the weighting on timeframes

James Caygill confirmed that a detailed business case is required to determine funding and to ensure the project stacks up against other projects throughout the country competing for Waka Kotahi funding.

**That** Council approves the Ashburton-Tinwald Connectivity Indicative Business Case, Strategic Case and Options Assessment and supports it being forwarded for review and approval by Waka Kotahi / NZ Transport Agency to advance to the next phase of the business case. This phase to focus on progressing the design for the Chalmers Avenue bridge.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

Cr Rawlinson recorded her vote against the motion.

## **National Land Transport Programme**

James Caygill provided an overview, noting that the NLTP received a \$2b top-up from Cabinet two weeks before the programme was launched. The additional funding has allowed the transport agency to move off the baseline of minimum funding activity classes (with some exceptions such as walking and cycling activities and maintenance of local roads).

For ADC this means a change in maintenance operations and renewals for local road maintenance – while it moves Council closer to the request than initially put forward, there's around \$600k still required. If Council is of the view that more needs to be spent in an activity class, then it should work with the Mayoral Forum and Regional Land Transport Committee to put forward projects to the Ministry where funding settings will be adjusted.

Another area where there is substantial movement is in the low cost / low risk projects. This category will move from \$1m to \$2m projects, requiring more scrutiny and evidence.

Waka Kotahi acknowledge that ADC hasn't received the funding they asked for in the Low Cost Low Risk category, but got 50%. It was noted that the Board took the decision to top councils up to a floor of 50% and will work with them to tag projects that haven't met the threshold.

Mr Caygill gave assurance that Waka Kotahi will work with Council to find the best way to achieve the required standards within available funding and will work with the Crown to find a longer-term, more sustainable system.

The presenters were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at 2.55pm.

Council adjourned from 2.55pm to 3.18pm.

## **Hekeao-Hinds Water Enhancement Trust**

Peter Lowe and Brett Painter were welcomed to the meeting.

The powerpoint presentation provided an update on the Hekeao-Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge project which is now in its fifth year.

- Two further concepts being developed – wetlands and bio-reactor (in planning stage in the Lower Hinds catchment).
- Nitrate-N concentrations in 2021 – at lowest level since 2010
- The trial was shut down over last 4 months due to high groundwater levels – monitoring using ECan data.
- Targets are achievable – focusing on 3.8 at the moment. Good for the river.
- Tinwald plume – 3 MAR sites now operating in this area. Analysis is underway to assist groundwater users – a big win-win for irrigators is being able to utilise free nutrients and trace elements that are in the Tinwald plume.
- Looking to get long-term consents for water and access to site.
- Targeted rate funding has commenced from July 2021 and changes to the operational structure. The Trust is grateful to the Hinds ratepayers who have signed up for the targeted rate to keep the project going.
- Continuing to pursue government funding (which concludes in June 2022).
- The Trust acknowledges Council's assistance with ongoing work which is helping Council achieve its Surface Water Strategy goals.

The Mayor commented on the success of the MAR project and the work that the Trust has undertaken to overcome hurdles and achieve rate funding. It was agreed that Council will arrange a visit to the MAR site next month.

The presenters were thanked and left the meeting at 4.04pm.

**Business transacted with the public excluded – 4.04pm**

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:

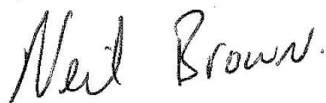
<b>Item No</b>	<b>General subject of each matter to be considered:</b>	<b>In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:</b>	
<b>19</b>	Ashburton Business Estate	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Braam

Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.13pm.

Confirmed 6 October 2021



---

MAYOR