

Council Minutes – 7 December 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 December 2022, 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 Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper, Rodger Letham, Lynette Lovett, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Leanne Macdonald (GM Business Support), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Sarah Mosley (GM People & Facilities) and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Toni Durham (Strategy & Policy Manager), Femka van der Valk (Policy Advisor), Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor), Simon Worthington (Economic Development Manager), Janice McKay (Communications Manager) and Katie Perry (People & Capability Manager).

One member of the public attended.

Presentations

Public Forum – 1.05pm-1.20pm
ChristchurchNZ – 1.56pm-2.14pm
Kiwirail – 2.15pm-2.35pm
Tuia Rep -2.50pm-3.04pm
Ashburton Police – 4.20pm-4.46pm

1 Apologies

Cr Leen Braam

Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Public Forum

Brent McLaren (Wastebusters) asked Council to consider purchasing the polystyrene compacting machine that has been successfully used to reduce the amount of polystyrene stored at the Ashburton Wastebusters site (from 90m³ down to 0.7m³). Mr McLaren commented on the environmental benefits of being able to compress the estimated 3,000m³ of polystyrene collected in the district. There is currently a good market for polystyrene and while there has been interest shown in purchasing his equipment from other companies outside the district, he would prefer that it remained in Ashburton under Council's ownership.

It is no longer viable for Wastebusters to store greenwaste on the land that also houses the polystyrene machine. To meet ECan's consenting requirements, on-site storage of greenwaste can't exceed 20m³ and it must be stored at least 50m from site boundaries. Mr McLaren has spent \$20k to date to try and comply with Environment Canterbury's consent requirements but will be shutting down the operation.

In conclusion, Mr McLaren asked for an update on Council's plans for food waste collection. He has previously submitted on this and would like to be involved in the process if collection proceeds.

The presentation concluded at 1.20pm.

That Council requests a report that will consider options for the purchase of the polystyrene compacting machine from Wastebusters Ashburton.

Cameron/Lovett

Carried

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 23/11/22

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Cameron

Carried

5 Audit & Risk Committee – 30/11/22

That Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 30 November 2022.

Ellis/Letham

Carried

6 Council Strategy & Plan Review Programme

Council deliberated on the proposed timeframe for the Parking Strategy review, questioning whether it should be undertaken earlier than 2026. Council was reminded that 2026 is the midway point and had been agreed as an appropriate time for review as the effects of the CBD redevelopment and new civic building would be included.

The Strategy & Policy Manager advised that a progress report could be provided every three years, so that each term of Council has the opportunity to review and provide input.

Council agreed that an earlier review of the Parking Strategy Progress Report be undertaken in 2024.

That Council adopts the Strategy and Plan Review Schedule, as amended and attached in Appendix One.

Letham/Lovett

Carried

7 External Appointments Policy Review

That Council adopts the amended External Appointments Policy as attached in Appendix 1.

Todd/McMillan

Carried

8 Smokefree Outdoor Areas Policy Review

1. That Council adopts the amended policy as attached in Appendix 1.

2. That Council considers including funding for smokefree signage during the budgeting process for the Annual Plan 2023-24.

Letham/Hooper

Carried

9 Temporary Closure of Restricted Parking Spaces Policy Review

Council supported the updated Policy but agreed that it would be useful to have a workshop to better understand the application process and how the impact of temporary closures in the CBD is measured.

That Council adopts the updated Temporary Closure of Restricted Parking Spaces Policy, as attached in Appendix 1.

Lovett/McMillan

Carried

10 ChristchurchNZ Quarterly Report

Kath Low and Tracey Wilson were welcomed to the meeting and invited to present their report.

Key points raised:

- Seeing a robust recovery from the change to border restrictions and visitor numbers are exceeding expectations (comparable with pre-Covid numbers in the face of airlines operating to a lesser extent).
- Film/screen opportunities identified in Mid Canterbury which will create some tourism opportunities.
- Destination Management Plan – a series of workshops in from mid January / early February will help inform the Plan which is in early stages of construction.
- Work undertaken using an agri-tourism specialist has identified that agri-tourism is a strength and further opportunity for this district – will also be a focus for the workshops.
- ChristchurchNZ want to continue a working relationship with Council, following the change to contract.

That Council receives the ChristchurchNZ quarterly report.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

Kiwirail

Mark Heissenbuttel and Dave Allard were welcomed to the meeting.

Walnut Ave traffic signals are functioning well. Currently a speed restriction on the track which will require a number of trains to run through before the line speed is lifted in a few days. This is now the most modern level crossing in New Zealand.

Kiwirail and Waka Kotahi will commit to a programme of works for Tinwald. Lessons learned from the Walnut Ave upgrade have been taken on board.

Kiwirail are pleased to be working with the Wareing Group on the Fairfield freight hub. This will become an exceptional inland rail hub reducing the number of heavy vehicles on the road. The initiative is being looked at for other parts of the South Island. The movement of container transport out of town will trigger a safety awareness campaign for the community 3-4 months ahead of the new hub opening.

Kiwirail is working to improve the rail network generally – i.e. rail pedestrian crossings that will provide better access. Vegetation clearing is also a focus and FENZ are involved with a programme of work to mitigate the risk of trackside fires over the summer.

57 new locomotives have been ordered to replace the South Island's ageing fleet, due by June 2024.

Mark spoke about Kiwirail's involvement with rail heritage projects, noting that he will be working with Council's Roading Manager to determine a joint approach to the restoration of Ashburton's heritage rail bridge. He further noted requests from Council about the number of incidents of 'bridge strike', in respect to the Tinwald underpass.

The presentation concluded at 2.35pm.

11 Economic Development Quarterly Report

That Council receives the July, August & September 2022 Economic Development quarterly update.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

Mayor's Tuia Representative

Shyan Hughes spoke positively about her experience as the Mayor's Tuia representative, and the highlights for her during the year, including a recent hui attended in Upper Hutt with the Deputy Mayor. She thanked the Mayor and Council for selecting her as this year's Tuia.

Welcome to staff – 2.55pm

Katie Perry, People & Capability Manager, introduced new staff – Jenny Partington (Marketing & Engagement Coordinator), Andrew Martin (Horticulturalist) and Sarah Jones (Digital Access Coordinator).

Council also acknowledged Sonya Isherwood (Accounts Officer) for her long service of 25 years.

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.07pm and resumed at 3.27pm.

12 Economic Development Strategy Progress Report

Council discussed the option of reprioritising the actions in the Economic Development Strategy so that work can start on parts of the Strategy.

Council agreed it would be useful to have a workshop before finalising a Strategy for consultation, this workshop to be scheduled early in the new year.

- 1. That** Council receives the Economic Development Strategy – Progress Report to 31 October 2022.
- 2. That** Council provides the progress report to key stakeholders and makes it available on Council's website.
- 3. That** Council has a workshop before further considering consultation on a refreshed Economic Development Strategy.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

13 Barrhill Community Group

Officers were asked to report back on the lease discussions with the transitional group. Council agreed that a 10 year lease would be appropriate with rights of renewal.

- 1. That** Council grants the Barrhill Transitional Group (or its nominated representative) a lease over Lots 17-20 DP 144 (Barrhill Village Reserves) under section 61(2A) of the Reserves Act 1977 for a term not exceeding 33 years.
- 2. That** Barrhill Community Group and Council develop a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the roles and responsibilities of each party.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

14 Ashburton Community Water Trust – exemption from reporting requirements

That Council exempts the Ashburton Community Water Trust from being classified as a Council Controlled Organisation for the period ending 30 June 2024.

Letham/Todd

Carried

15 Mayor's Report

- **Appointments to Climate Change and Biodiversity Groups**

The Mayor reported on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's decision to establish a Climate Change Action Planning Reference Group and reinstate the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Councillor Group. Council has been invited to make an appointment to both groups.

That Council appoints Councillor Liz McMillan as the representative on the Climate Change Action Planning Reference Group.

Lovett/Todd Carried

That Council appoints Councillor Richard Wilson as the representative on the Biodiversity Champions Group.

Cameron/Lovett Carried

That Council receives the Mayor's report.

Mayor/McMillan Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 4.19pm.

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 23/11/22	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
17		Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
18	Building acquisition	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McMillan/Letham Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

- **Plains Museum Trust appointments**

That Council re-appoints Stefan Van Vliet and Alden Thomas to the Plains Museum Trust, for a further term, until the 2025 triennial local elections.

Cameron/Hooper Carried

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm.

[Confirmed by Council on 21 December 2022]

MAYOR