

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday 30 October 2025 at 4.00pm
57 Kilmore Street, Christchurch



1 Welcome to Guests

Paul Deavoll, Chair welcomed everyone to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Business Canterbury, including life members Peter Townsend and Andrew Logie; fellow Board members; Business Canterbury staff and most importantly members. He acknowledged Strategic Partners Westpac, Orion, The University of Canterbury, 2degrees, and Softsource vBridge. Special thanks were given to local Ford dealers Avon City Ford and Team Hutchinson Ford for supporting the AGM.

Under the new constitution, no board elections were required this year. Expressions of interest for new board members have been sought, with the option to add up to three new members..

2 Apologies

Seven apologies were received for the AGM and are appended to the minutes.

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024

The minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on 24 October 2024, having been made available to the members present, were taken as read and signed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Peter Townsend
Seconded: Andrew Logie
Carried

There were no matters arising.

4 President's Key Comments

- The past year was one of consolidation, with a focus on embedding a refreshed strategy and board structure. Despite economic challenges, Business Canterbury remained committed to enhancing member services and delivering greater value. Looking ahead to 2025–26, Business Canterbury is refining its strategic direction, with a particular emphasis on national advocacy to ensure Canterbury and South Island perspectives are represented in Wellington.
- Key staffing updates made this year that will support the organisation's strategic direction were acknowledged. Jeremy Hanna who has recently been appointed Chief Operating Officer will lead efforts to grow revenue, build capability, and improve efficiency through technology. Tait Dench has transitioned into the role of Head of Advocacy and Strategy, enabling greater focus on the advocacy programme and strengthening Business Canterbury's voice locally and nationally. Joanne Koers was also welcomed to the team as Executive Assistant to the CEO and Leadership Team.
- The Chair recognised the Chief Executive's resilience and leadership throughout a challenging year, and thanked the wider Business Canterbury team, acknowledging their daily commitment and dedication. He extended thanks to strategic partners, event sponsors and members for their continued support and engagement. The Chair also expressed appreciation to fellow Board colleagues for their time and commitment, noting the significant workload over the past year and thanking them for their valuable contribution.

5 Adoption of Annual Report and Financial Statements

The motion to adopt the 2024/25 annual report and statement of accounts was carried without dissent.

Moved: Glenn Hansen
Seconded: Grant Walker
Carried

6 Appointment of the Auditors

The President thanked BDO for the 2024/2025 audit.

The motion for the appointment of the auditors to be delegated to the incoming 2025/26 Board was carried without dissent.

Moved: John Hutchinson
Seconded: Tony Aiken
Carried

7 Chief Executive Key Comments – Leeann Watson

- The Chief Executive reflected on the past year, noting the significant impact that the right support and connections can have on businesses, particularly during challenging economic conditions. Members have continued to invest in their businesses through Business Canterbury, engaging in training, accessing HR advisory services, participating in sector-specific programmes, and contributing to advocacy efforts. These actions reflect a strong commitment to building resilience and shaping the future of the region.
- The year has been focused on building momentum across the new membership model, increasing engagement and driving strong commercial outcomes for both the organisation and its members.
- Positive key impact measures from the Canterbury Business Survey were mentioned, with high levels of engagement across events, training courses and programmes.
- Throughout the year, Business Canterbury has strengthened its member proposition and partnerships, expanded services, identified new revenue streams, and increased visibility in the business community.
- The new Canterbury Trusted product now includes over 60 member businesses.
- Advocacy efforts continued to gain traction, with Business Canterbury firmly established as a trusted link between Canterbury businesses and key decision-makers. Over 30 ministers were hosted during the year, alongside numerous engagements with officials and government agencies.
- A key highlight was leading the Canterbury Ambition initiative, supported by 11 local authorities across the region.
- Despite economic pressures, Business Canterbury have continued to invest in capability, visibility and new ways of working including reducing operating costs, positioning itself for long-term resilience and impact.
- Looking ahead to 2026, Business Canterbury remains focused on increasing its impact and delivering greater value to members through enhanced services and a strong advocacy programme.
- Business Canterbury is committed to creating an environment where businesses can thrive, supported by tailored offerings and strategic influence. Our mission continues to focus on backing businesses to thrive by building capability, connections and advocacy—and this continues to guide Business Canterbury's work.
- Thanks were given to:
 - our strategic partners: The University of Canterbury, Orion, Westpac, and 2Degrees, along with all our other partners, including Avon City Ford and Team Hutchinson Ford for their support of the AGM.
 - the Board for their strategic oversight, strong decision making and support.
 - the entire Business Canterbury team, whose energy, resilience and unwavering commitment to supporting members is central to the organisations ongoing success.

- our members for their ongoing support, trust, engagement, and willingness to see us as part of your business journey and success. We recognise and are extremely grateful that you choose to invest in Business Canterbury to help support your business.

8 General Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.29pm.

Read and confirmed: _____ Date: _____ 202

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1. Mayor Marie Black
2. Dr. Rod Carr
3. Mayor Phil Mauger
4. Erin Black
5. Hayley Hobson
6. John Barr
7. Pat Fogarty

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