

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

ATTENDANCE

Crs, Barry Hughes, Laurell Royes, Joe Haase, Cameron Barns, and Tony Gallagher

Cr Barns attended the meeting via teleconferencing in accordance with S.276 of the Local Government Regulation 2012

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Les Morgan, Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Ian Kuhn, Director of Corporate and Community Services
Miss. Abbey Taylor, Executive Assistant

GALLERY

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 8:59am and welcomed all in attendance.

S.276 Teleconferencing

- (1) Teleconferencing is the use of a telephone, video conferencing equipment or other means of instant communication that allows a person to take part in discussions as they happen.*
(2) A local government may allow a person to take part in a meeting by teleconferencing.
(3) A councillor taking part in a meeting by teleconferencing is taken to have attended the meeting if—
(a) the councillor was simultaneously in audio contact with each other person at the meeting; and
(b) the local government approved the teleconferencing arrangement.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Resolve pursuant to section 276 (3)(b) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 to approve teleconferencing arrangements for the Ordinary General Meeting and furthermore in accordance with S.276 (2) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 allow Cr Barns to take part in the Ordinary General Meeting dated 17 February 2021.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.01.CEO
4/0

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the history, cultural practice and traditions, of their people.”

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES & CONGRATULATIONS

Council wishes to Congratulate past Council employee Cara Gallagher on the birth of her new baby boy Wyatt James Gallagher born on the 26th January.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 20 January 2021

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 20 January 2021 be confirmed.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.02.CEO
4/0

Corrections:

On the first page where it says that the deputy mayor chairs the meeting it should say “Laurell Royes” Chairs the meeting

On the last page where it says “the mayor” closes the meeting it must say the “Chair”

ATTENDANCE

Cr Barns joined the meeting at 9:11am

Ian Carroll entered the meeting at 9:14am

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Cr Haase – Questioned matters of interest resolution – to create a community planning brochure and whether or not Council will be going ahead with it. It is noted that the brochure is part of the Corporate Plan Review.

Cr Haase – Queried the progress of the cattle proof fence in Georgetown – Advise that the Rural Lands Officer is in the process of collecting quotes for repairs to the fence.

Cr Haase – Questioned if the thank you letter had been sent to the Gilbert River Headwater Action Group and will further correspondence be sent once our biosecurity plan has been made. Noted that correspondence has been sent.

Cr Haase – requested an update on the Savannah way art trail – there will be a meeting in the next couple of weeks. – Further it will be discussed at the next Councillor workshop.

Cr Haase – Requested an update on the resolution expressions of interest to seek qualified consultant to help with development of aged care. This will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

Cr Haase – Requested an update on School program for first aid for the get ready Queensland program pending discussion with EMQ.

Cr Haase – Suggested that the report for a road campaign informing tourists to get off the road for road trains be made important so it can be completed before tourist season.

Cr Gallagher – Engineering 2019 safety signage on the Einasleigh road.

Cr Gallagher – Requested an update on the progress of the engineering report regarding the Mt Surprise town fence. Advised this is same discussed with DNR re ownership.

Cr Gallagher – Requested an update on the report on the extension of the Georgetown airstrip. April Meeting.

Cr Gallagher – Requested an update on the resolution to remove the Mt Surprise wash down bay. Advised works pending dry weather.

Cr Royes – Provided an update on women leading in local government program stating that she has been accepted. Completed

Cr Royes – Requested an update on the Kidston Lease – information is currently with Preston Law.

Cr Royes – Requested an update on the Forsayth Dump resolution. Advised a report will submit to a workshop meeting.

Cr Royes – Requested an update on the signage on the Gregory Development Road.

Cr Royes – Requested and update on the tenure of Percyvale road. Advised works pending dry weather.

Cr Royes – Requested an update on the progress of the Bedrock Village road resolution. Completed

Cr Hughes – Informed Council that the letter to Clive Scarrott has been completed.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourn for morning tea at 10:06am

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10:25am.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN REPORTS

GMCCS1.

Gilbert River Agricultural Forum Event Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has expressed interest in hosting a Gilbert River Agricultural Forum in order to discuss the current status of the project, provide a platform for beneficial research to be presented and workshop potential avenues for business and community growth. This report provides Council with a draft event plan and budget.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Approves the suggested event format, commits \$20,000 to host the Gilbert River Agricultural Forum in Georgetown on the 7th and 8th April 2021 and furthermore advises the Officer to pursue sponsorship opportunities for the event to recoup costs.

MOVED: Cr. Barns

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.03.CEO
5/0

GMCCS2.

Financial Performance (Actual v Budget) for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is a statutory requirement under Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 that the Chief Executive Officer must present a Financial Report of its accounts to the Local Government at least monthly.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Resolve to adopt the monthly Financial Report which incorporates the monthly statutory financial statements (Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position & Statement of Cashflows) pursuant to and in accordance with Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 for the period ending 31 January 2021.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.04.DCCS
5/0

RESOLUTION:

That Council advocate to Transport and Main Roads for the installation of electronic road closed signs at the major highway intersections throughout the shire.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.05.DES
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mrs. Rebekah Haase entered the meeting at 11:12am

Mr. Ian Carroll left the meeting at 1:40pm

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourn for lunch at 12:23pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 12:56pm.

GMCCS3.

Final Management Report for the year ending 30 June 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019/20 audit for Etheridge Shire Council has been completed as at 8 December 2020 with Council receiving its Closing Audit Report on 9 December 2020.

This was received and adopted by Council in its December 2020 General Meeting.

A Final Management Report from the Queensland Audit Office has now been received. This report provides an update on any matters that may have arisen since the Closing Report.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Receives and notes the contents of the Closing Audit Report by QAO for the year ending 30 June 2020.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.06.DCCS
5/0

GMES1.

North Head Road – TIDS Grant.

The Mayor had a declarable conflict of interest as he... and left the room for the discussion of this matter including voting on the matter at 2:17pm

The deputy mayor chaired the meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the FNQROC meeting to be held on 29th January 2021, the Technical Committee will give consideration to the 2021/22 to 2024/25 works program.

North Head Road from the end of the first seal at 3.0km to the beginning of the second seal at 7.75km has been included in the draft program for funding in 21/22 and 22/23.

The proposed project involves the sealing of 4.75km of unsealed road, the upgrading of 8 causeways to box culverts to and improvements to horizontal and vertical curves.

These funding amounts are \$1,334,545 in 21/22 and \$1,127,955 in 22/23 or a total of \$2,462,500 in grant funding over the next 2 financial years. This will have to be matched by Council to bring the full expenditure to \$4,925,000.

RESOLUTION

That council resolve to adopt in principle the project to upgrade and seal 4.75km of North Head Road, between 3km and 7.75km from Forsayth Road, pending approval at the FNQROC Technical Committee meeting to be held on 29th January 2021.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.07.DES
4/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Les Morgan left the meeting at 2:17pm and returned at 2:18pm

Cr Hughes returned to the meeting at 2:33pm and resumed to chair the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF ADDENDUM OPEN REPORTS

GMCCS4.

Regional Biosecurity Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a letter from North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC) requesting Etheridge Shire Council to confirm its participation in the development of the NWQROC Regional Development Plan. Council's share of the cost in this arrangement is \$15,000.

Under the Biosecurity Act 2014 it is a statutory obligation that Council adopts a biosecurity Plan. The ESC Biosecurity Plan is vital to the development of the Regional Plan.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Resolve that Council endorse and confirm its participation in the development of the NWQROC Regional Development Plan and furthermore agrees on its share of the cost of \$15,000:

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.08.DCCS
5/0

GMCCS5.

Terrestrial Centre Fit Out

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020/21 Budget allows provisioned funds for the fit out for the recently upgraded Terrestrial Centre in Georgetown. Various quotes and options have been sourced from a number of suppliers for the design of fitting out the centre with various displays that engage visually, auditory, reading etc.

Council resolved to call quotes from 4 companies as it was deemed that a special service was required for the task.

Attached to this report for Council's information and consideration are some options and quotations for the required design and fit out.

Quotes were called from the company's below:

- *Arterial*
- *Show works*
- *One Diversified*
- *Xzibit*

Quotes were received from companies below:

- *Arterial*
- *One Diversified*
- *Xzibit*

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Resolve to note and receive the Officers report and furthermore that Council accept the quotation from Xzibit in the amount of \$329,888.90.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.09.CEO
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ian Carroll left the meeting at 2:46pm and returned at 2:48pm

GMCEO1.

Proposed Corporate Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of Council's Financial Management Systems, Council is required (S 104 (3) *Local Government Act 2009*) to prepare a 5 year corporate plan that incorporates community engagement. Council has recently conducted several workshops with Councillors, Staff, and also Community meetings. These changes have been incorporated into the current to make the document easier to read.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

- Adopt the attached document as its 2021-2025 Corporate Plan (subject to the changes at the meeting), pursuant to S 104 (3) *Local Government Act 2009*.
- Use the Corporate Plan as the basis for the preparation of the 2021-22 budget and Operational Plan.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.10.CEO
5/0

GMCEO2.

Revised Budget for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is a statutory requirement under Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009 and Section 169 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 that the Chief Executive Officer must present any amendments to the Council's Original Budget for the 2020-2021 financial year, incorporating:

1. The Statements of Financial Position
2. The Statement of Income and Expenditure
3. The Statement of Cash Flow

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Resolve to adopt the Revised Budget which incorporates the statutory financial statements (Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position & Statement of Cashflows) pursuant to and in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009 and Section 169 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 for the year ended 30 June 2021.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.11.DCCS

SUGGESTION BOX ITEMS

- “Upgrade the Public toilets in Mt Surprise (across the road from the Police Station). It would be ideal to see professional, touristy looking bathrooms; no holes in the walls, tiled, freshly painted, taps with the right water pressure and with a slow release pushdown so that the water runs for 15 seconds and you can actually wash your hands with soap.”
- “The Charleston Dam seems like it’s not safe for water sports, skiing, wakeboarding, tubing etc. because of the sticks and trees at the water surface. Council could consider safety signage similar to what’s at Tinaroo Dam that indicates the water depth at which water sports may be safe – or recommend no water sports, just fishing.”
- “It would be great to see Council offer more apprenticeships and Traineeships to
 - Encourage young people to stay in the shire
 - Build more skills in the local community and in Council’s workforce so that more people reside in our towns.Fields such as horticulture, plumbing, electrical and mechanical.”

RESOLUTION

That Council notes the suggestion box items received and the CEO is to bring back a recommendation at the next General Council Meeting.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.12.CEO
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourn for afternoon tea at 3:33pm

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 3:45pm.

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Tony Potter left the meeting at 4:05pm

CEO UPDATE

- Advised Council of available funding

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ian Kuhn left the meeting at 4:18pm and returned at 4:19pm

Mr. Ian Carroll left the meeting at 4:25pm and returned at 4:40pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Gallagher

- Informed Council of safety issues on Gulf Development Road – depth markers – narrow bridges signage and line marking – grid width markers between Routh and Eveleigh width markers – bridge inspections
- Updated Council of the condition of the Multipurpose Sports Centre – gravel on the cement
- Requested an after-hours phone number to report incidents
- Informed Council of a request for a second gate and a man gate at the Forsayth cemetery
- Requested an update on the progress of patching pot holes in town streets
- Informed Council of past attendance by Councillors at Anzac Day ceremonies and their duties
- Informed Council of damage to the Georgetown River Walk especially behind the Golf Club

Cr Barns

- Invited discussion from Council for the consideration of Implementing a “Work Progress Tracking” System
- Requested information re the recent water alert for Georgetown on the 12/02/21, what was the cause and what is the present status of sampling (to be performed from 16/02-18th)
- Questioned the feasibility of a truck stop on the western side of Einasleigh, for trucks to drop dust etc.
- Inquired about Council’s readiness for an influx during tourist season, in relation to the Charleston Dam Rec Reserve and the Terrestrial.
- Feasibility of River crossing monitor devices for the major rivers on main connecting roads throughout shire
- Requested update on the road signage for the shire
- Mentioned the Van Lee/ Dagworth connecting road grading issue

Cr Haase

- Appointment of contract graders.

RESOLUTION

That as a matter of urgency, the wet hire policy be reviewed immediately and brought back to Council at the Workshop on the 24th for consideration

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #21.02.13.DES
5/0

- Requested information on the register and process for keeping and cataloguing history given by public to council.
- Brought up the matter of seating at Gregg Bethel Oval
- Suggested investigating current grants available for charging stations for electric vehicles
- Inquired about the completion of the report for prioritising major river crossings
- Opened discussion on the move by Telstra to force all customers into a direct debit payment method within a year and how this affects our residents and whether or not we can advocate for them.

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 5:37pm.

These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on the Wednesday the 17th March 2021.

B. S. Hughes
.....
MAYOR

19.3.21
.....
DATE

