



Etheridge Shire Council

CONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

HELD GEORGETOWN COUNCIL
CHAMBERS

ON WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

A photograph of a large, modern building, likely the council chambers, with a flagpole in front.

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN

ON WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022

COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

ATTENDANCE

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

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Andrew McKenzie, Director Corporate Services
Mr. David Fletcher, Director of Engineering Services
Miss Logan Bethel, Executive Assistant

APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.01am and welcomed all in attendance.

Council expressed their condolences on the recent passing of our Sovereign Leader her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and paid their respects with a minute's silence.

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."

PRAYER

"We ask that today you give us wisdom to make good decisions to benefit our communities. Help us see what will benefit our shire and give us hearts to serve others. Amen".

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Haase declared a prescribed interest for Item 5 in the Director Corporate Services Open Session Reports pertaining to a Child Play Area at the Georgetown Shire Hall, being Cr Haase spouse holding an executive position on the Georgetown Progress Association. Cr Haase will leave the room during discussions on this matter and will not vote.

Cr Hughes declared a declarable conflict of interest for a matter within Cr Barns General Business pertaining to a letter received from Mr Ian Croker regarding matters relating to Etheridge Cares, Cr Hughes spouse works for this organization therefore Cr Hughes will leave the room during discussions on this matter and will not vote.

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES & CONGRATULATIONS

Council would like to send their condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Kenny Cameron who recently passed away at the age of 91.

Council would like to send their condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Lindsay Callahan on his recent passing.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION

That Council suspend standing orders at 9.01am for LGAQ representatives to conduct EMU (Elected Members Update) training and for a delegation from Northern Recourse Management.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barns

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.01
5/0

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLUTION

That Council resume standing orders at 1.45pm.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.02
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 17th August 2022

Corrections:

Grammatical errors in Cr Royes Conflict of Interest declaration on page 2 of 8.

Reads:

"Cr declared a declarable Conflict of Interest for an Item in General Business regarding camping at a truck pad across from the Lynd Oasis Roadhouse. Cr Royes will leave the room during discussions on this matter and will not vote"

Correction:

"Cr Royes declared a declarable Conflict of Interest for an Item in General Business regarding camping at a truck pad across from the Lynd Oasis Roadhouse. Cr Royes will leave the room during discussions on this matter and will not vote"

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 17th August 2022 be confirmed.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.03
5/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Cr Royes

22.09.12- Requested an update on the progress of the Gilbert River Cemetery.

22.08.14- Requested an update on the progress of Rural Addressing.

Cr Gallagher

22.08.08, Requested an update on the Vanlee/Dagworth road realignment.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN REPORTS

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and receives the Director of Corporate and Community Services' Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Barns

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.04DCS
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Haase left the meeting at 2.10pm and returned 2.11pm.

1

Financial Report (Actual v Budget) for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 August 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires the Chief Executive Officer to present a Financial Report of its accounts to the Local Government at least monthly.

RESOLUTION

That Council pursuant Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, resolve to adopt the Monthly Financial Report the period ending 31st August 2022, as presented.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.05DCS
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr David Fletcher left the meeting at 2.21pm and returned 2.22pm.

2

Amendment to 2022/23 Schedule of Fees and Charges

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since adopting the Schedule of Fees and Charges at its June 2022 meeting, an inconsistency in the fees for Rate Searches section has been discovered that requires correction.

RESOLUTION

That Council adopt the attached amended 2022/23 Schedule of Fees and Charges.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED

3**Rates Review Policy**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Etheridge Shire Council (ESC) is committed to the collection of overdue rates and charges in a fair, equitable and timely manner, but with due consideration to financial hardship faced by ratepayers. The purpose of this policy is to set out Council's principles in regard to the management of debt, and to provide consistent and ethical recovery of outstanding Rates and Charges across Etheridge Shire in accordance with the parameters and requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

This policy applies to all owners of property within the Etheridge Shire Council who have outstanding rates and charges on any rateable property including any special rates and charges.

RESOLUTION

That Council adopt the proposed Rates Recovery Policy.

MOVED: Cr. Haase**SECONDED: Cr. Hughes**

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.07DCS
5/0

4**Rate Concession for Rate Category 6 Rural - Large scale Mixed Intensive Agriculture**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted its Budget on 20th July 2022. Resolution No. B.22.07.06 set the rate in the dollar for Council's differential general rate categories. It has been discovered that a transposition error occurred when setting the rate in the dollar for Rate Category 6 Rural - Large scale Mixed Intensive Agriculture. The resolution assigned a rate in the dollar of 03.668 cents in the dollar, when it should have been 0.3668. It has since been brought to light that the adopted rate in the dollar (03.668 cents in the dollar) stands, which leads to an unintended increase in rate revenue and the likelihood of Category 6 ratepayers suffering financial hardship as a result of the higher rate.

To remedy the error, Council has been advised to re-issue Rate Notices for Category 6 at the resolved cents in the dollar and grant a hardship concession for the difference between the levied rate to the intended rate (0.3668 cents in the dollar).

RESOLUTION

That Council: -

1. Note that the transpositional error contained in Resolution No. B.22.07.06 results in a significant, unintended increase in rate revenue for ratepayers falling within Rate Category 6 Rural - Large scale Mixed Intensive Agriculture,
2. Accept that the resolved rate for Rate Category 6 will impose financial hardship upon those ratepayers, and
3. In recognition of financial hardship, grant a rebate under Chapter 4, Part 10 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, to all ratepayers within Rate Category 6 Rural - Large scale Mixed Intensive Agriculture, returning Rate Category 6 ratepayers to the amount they ought to have been rated (0.3668 cents in the dollar) but for the misstatement of the Category 6 rate in Resolution No. B22.07.06.

MOVED: Cr. Haase**SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher**

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.08DCS
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Haase declared a prescribed interest for item 5 on the Agenda and left the room at 2.30pm.

5

Child Play Enclosure at Georgetown Shire Hall

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By way of letter, the Georgetown Progress Association have sought Council's support for the construction of a play enclosure at the Georgetown Shire Hall. It is proposed that the enclosure be built behind the toilet block, near the external stairs. The Progress Association further propose that the enclosure and play equipment be funded through grants.

RESOLUTION

That Council provide 'in-principle' support to the Georgetown Progress Association's proposal, and delegate this to the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to refine the concept.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.09DCS
4/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Haase returned to the meeting at 2.34pm.

6

Member for Regional Art Services Network Tropical North (RASN TN)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regional Art Services Network Tropical North (RASN TN) has requested that a representative from Etheridge Shire be member of the RASN TN Steering Committee.

RESOLUTION

That Council appoint Cr Barnes as its representative to Regional Art Services Network Tropical North.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.10DCS
5/0

7

Peace Park Event

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Peace Day is an international special day held on the 21 September each year. There has been interest from the community for Council to hold an event at this year's Peace Day and making it annual festival /event

featuring the Peace Park in Georgetown. The cost of such an event will need to be considered in Council's budget for 23/24 as it is not viable to do this year with so little notice.

RESOLUTION

That Council reconsider this matter when preparing its 23/24 Budget and that interested community members be advised of this.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barns

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.11DCS
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM REPORTS

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1

NQ Sportstar Award Nomination

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is a member of the North Queensland Sports Foundation. The Foundation hold an annual Sports Star Award. On behalf of the Foundation, Council promoted the Awards, calling for nominations to be lodged online by the 11th September. During the nomination period, 1 nomination was received for the Junior Sports Star of the Year (under the age of 18 years category).

Only one nomination can be put forward from a Council area per category. Accordingly, Council will need to ratify the nomination before the final closing date of 26th September 2022.

RESOLUTION

That Council ratify Nikki Bethel to be Etheridge Shire Council's nomination for the 2021 Junior Sport Star of the Year in recognition of her achievements in Touch Football and that Council nominate Michael Furber for the Alan Ticehurst Memorial Award for Service to NQ Sport for his many years of contribution to sporting events and clubs within the Shire.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.12DCS
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting at 2.53pm.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 2.58pm.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and receives the Director of Engineering Services' Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Barns

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.13DES
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr Ken Timms left the meeting at 3.04pm and returned at 3.05pm.

Mr Les Edmestone and Mr Tom Sanders from Shepherds Services entered the meeting at 3.18pm and left at 4.01pm.

Mr Andrew McKenzie left the meeting at 3.58pm and returned at 4.01pm.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1

Audit Committee Meeting Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Councils Audit Committee held a Committee Meeting on Monday 29th August 2022. A copy of the Meeting minutes is presented for Council consideration.

RESOLUTION

The Council receive the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on the 29th August 2022 and endorse the recommendation within.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.14DCEO
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr David Fletcher left the meeting at 4.06pm and returned at 4.07pm.

2

Etheridge Shire Council Emissions Profile

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council have been consulting with Mead Perry Group to develop Etheridge Shire Councils Emissions Profile. Mead Perry completed the report and have determined Council's total carbon emissions for the 2021 calendar year to be 6,914 tonnes.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the "Etheridge Shire Council - Emissions Profile Report" as presented and further request Management seek a proposal to undertake same for the whole Shire.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.15CEO

ATTENDANCE

Cr Haase left the meeting at 4.08pm and returned at 4.10pm.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM REPORTS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledges and receives the Chief Executive Officer's Briefing Report.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barns

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.16CEO
5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council conduct further investigation into the flooding event at the Georgetown Student Hostel and depending on the outcome of the investigation any remedial works required be considered at the next Budget Review.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.17DCS
4/1

ATTENDANCE

Cr Barns left the meeting at 4.27pm and returned at 4.28pm.

Cr Haase left the meeting at 5.03pm and returned at 5.04pm.

Cr Barns left the meeting 5.18pm and returned at 5.19pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Gallagher

Nil

Cr Barns

- Has the waste material from GDR West been directed to old dump?
- Can something be arranged for world Peace Day 21st Sept, at peace monument?
- Update about the Sawpit crossing, Bagstowe road section
- Update on the columbarium ashes box Einasleigh cemetery
- Update on the road user agreement Genex Kidston road section
- Durham township, what could council have in mind for it?
- Carpentaria bridge is it deemed suitable for wet season?
- Have costings been received for the straightening of Percyvale station access road section?
- Einasleigh/Bundock river crossings KDR, has council received any feedback from the RRTG of TMR about funding for upgrades?

ATTENDANCE

Cr Hughes declared a declarable interest for the following matter within Cr Barns General Business and left the meeting at 5.22pm.

CHAIR OF THE MEETING

In Mayor Hughes absence, Deputy Mayor Laurell Royes became chair of the meeting at 5.22pm.

- Letter from Ian Croker

RESOLUTION

That Council acknowledge the correspondence from Mr Ian Croker and request that a formal application be submitted through the Community Assistance Program.

MOVED: Cr. Barns

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #22.09.18DCS
4/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Hughes returned to the meeting at 5.29pm .

CHAIR OF THE MEETING

Mayor Hughes resumed as Chair of the meeting at 5.29pm.

Cr Haase

- Does Council have an Employee assistance program?
- Mosquitoes?
- Sports Centre lights, timing is off.

Cr Royes

- Council Xmas light display - Council /RADF Funded?
- Yards Einasleigh Common
- Water infrastructure Georgetown Rodeo (& Camp) Grounds
- NQ Sports Star Nomination

Cr Hughes

- Cattle entering the Georgetown township through unfenced section on the Etheridge River.

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 5.30pm.

These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on the Wednesday 12th October 2022.

B. G. Hughes
MAYOR

13.10.22
DATE