



# Etheridge Shire Council

## CONFIRMED MINUTES

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GENERAL MEETING OF

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
GEORGETOWN

ON WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022

COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

A photograph of a modern building with a large glass facade, likely the Council Chambers in Georgetown. The building is surrounded by greenery and a paved area.

**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN**

**ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 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 Engineering Services  
Mrs Renee Bester, Executive Assistant

**APOLOGIES**

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.02am and welcomed all in attendance.

**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**

Nil

**APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES & CONGRATULATIONS**

Council wishes to send condolences to the family of Angeline McDonald and Hilary Geiger.

Congratulations to Emma and Dan Willis on the birth of their daughter, Margot.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

**Corrections:**

Nil

**RESOLUTION:**

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be confirmed.

**MOVED: Cr. Haase**

**SECONDED: Cr. Royes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.01**  
**5/0**



**BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Cr. Barns – Update on the pilot waste transfer station at Forsyth.

**CONSIDERATION OF OPEN REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

**Briefing Report**

RESOLUTION

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

**MOVED: Cr. Barns**

**SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.02DCS**  
**5/0**

**ATTENDANCE**

*Cr. Haase left the meeting at 9.40am and returned at 9.41am.*

**1**

**First Quarter 2022/23 Operational Plan Progress Report**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with s174(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, tabled for Council's reception is the Chief Executive Officer's first quarter (1 July – 30 September 2022) progress report on implementing Council's 2022/23 Operational Plan.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the first quarterly progress report on Council's progress toward implementing its 2022 / 23 Operational Plan.

**MOVED: Cr. Haase**

**SECONDED: Cr. Barns**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.03DCS**  
**5/0**

**2**

**Financial Performance (Actual v Budget) for the period 1 July 2021 to 31st October 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 October 2022, as presented.

**MOVED: Cr. Haase**

**SECONDED: Cr. Barns**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.04DCS**  
**5/0**

3

### Snap Send Solve

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a request from Council to investigate Snap, Send Solve, the following report has been prepared for Council's consideration.

#### RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to implement the normal version Snap, Send Solve as a further avenue for residents and members of the public to lodge customer requests and report faults. With a review process to be undertaken 6 months after implementation.

**MOVED: Cr. Royes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Barns**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.05DCS**  
**5/0**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Council adjourned the meeting for Morning Tea at 10.25am.*

#### **RESUMPTION**

*Council resumed the meeting at 10.59am.*

4

### Disputed Water Consumption Charges Policy

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Etheridge Shire Council (ESC) is committed to the reading and replacement of water meters in a correct and timely manner, with consideration for maintenance required by ratepayers. ESC will show due diligence in the application of water meter reading processes and the selection of various actions in the occurrence that a meter is faulty or showing an incorrect reading.

The purpose of this policy is to set out Council's principles in respect of faulty water meters and to provide a consistent and ethical approach to ensure water meter reads, where possible, are correct. If unobtainable, ESC will implement a policy that is fair and equitable in the occurrence of a disputed excessive water consumption charge. This policy applies to all owners of properties within Etheridge Shire Council that are connected or capable of being connected to a defined water connection area/service.

#### RESOLUTION

That Council adopt the proposed Disputed Water Consumption Charges Policy to assist with the management of faulty waters and / or meter reads.

**MOVED: Cr. Gallagher**

**SECONDED: Cr. Hughes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.06DCS**  
**5/0**

5

### Planning & Development in Mt Surprise

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from residents in Mt Surprise, expressing concern over planning and development matters and seeking Council's intervention to reduce impacts upon the township's amenity.



RESOLUTION

That Council undertake a town planning compliance study of Mt Surprise to identify land uses incompatible with Council's Planning Scheme and any non-compliant building works. In further, that the communities of Forsyth and Einasleigh will be taken through the same process when time permits.

**MOVED: Cr. Haase**

**SECONDED: Cr. Hughes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.07DCS**  
**5/0**

**ATTENDANCE**

*Cr. Haase has declared an interest for the next agenda item and has left the room without taking any further part in the conversation. Cr. Haase left the meeting at 11.06am.*

**6**

**150 Year Commemorative Wall**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Further to Council's previous consideration of this project, quotations have been invited from local contractors to build the 150yr brick wall in Green's Park as follows: -

- 1) Klinten Kuskoph (R&RConstuctions) - \$41,792.52
- 2) Steven Ryan (Bowie) - \$38,500

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to proceed with this project by engaging Steven Ryan to construct same and amend the budget at the next review to cover the additional construction costs.

**MOVED: Cr. Barnes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.08DCS**  
**2/4**

**Cr. Hughes used his casting vote. Cr. Royes and Cr. Barnes voted against.**

**ATTENDANCE**

*Cr. Haase returned to the meeting at 11.20am.*

*Mr. Andrew McKenzie left the meeting at 11.12am and returned at 11.14am.*

*Cr. Hughes has a declarable interest for the next agenda item and Crs. have unanimously decided that Cr. Hughes stays to participate and vote.*

**7**

**Request for Financial Assistance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following Council's adoption of the RADF Advisory Committee recommendation, Council has received an application from Mrs colleen Taylor for financial assistance for \$10,000 to go toward the cost of researching and publishing a local historical book titled "Unearthing Einasleigh & District Bygone Days".

RESOLUTION

That Council provide a one-off \$10,000 contribution to Mrs C Taylor toward the cost of researching and publishing 'Unearthing Einasleigh & District Bygone Days', as it is capturing and preserving valuable local history provided that Mrs Taylor: -

1. Acknowledge Council's contribution in the book's introduction and in all promotional opportunities; and
2. Provide Council with 5 copies of the publication (free of charge) for public display.

**MOVED: Cr. Haase**

**SECONDED: Cr. Royes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.09DCS**  
**5/0**

**ATTENDANCE**

*Cr. Hughes has a prescribed interest for the next agenda item and has left the room without taking any further part in the conversation. Cr. Hughes left the meeting at 11.28am*

*Cr. Royes has a declarable interest for this agenda item. The remaining Councilors have agreed that Cr. Royes can participate within discussion but cannot vote on this resolution.*

**8**

**In-kind Community Assistance Applications**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following Council's adoption of the 3 Community Assistance Grant Programs (In-kind, Sponsorship and Grants), applications for 2022/23 were invited from the public, closing Monday 4 October. Applications have been assessed against the selection criteria

**RESOLUTION**

1. That in accordance with the In-kind Support Policy, Council provide in-kind support to the organisations listed in the attached schedule on the condition the recipient organisations suitably acknowledge Council's support of their event.
2. That Council advise Etheridge Cares that it is unable to provide in-kind assistance until they have acquired their community bus and to reapply once they have acquired the bus.

**MOVED: Cr. Barnes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.10DCS**  
**3/0**

**ATTENDANCE**

*Cr. Hughes returned to the meeting at 11.47am.*

**CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

**RESOLUTION**

That Council go into closed session at 11.48am to discuss the requests for grant of discount and waiver of interest under section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012 which states that

- (1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.
- (2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.
- (3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss the grant of discount and waiver of interest.

**MOVED: Cr. Royes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.11**



**COMING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

RESOLUTION

That Council come out of closed session at 12.07pm.

**MOVED: Cr. Barns**

**SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.12**  
**5/0**

**1**

**Request for grant of discount on Rate Levy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a request from the owner of rate assessments 00297-00000-000, 00355-71300-000, 00441-00000-000 & 00441-70000-000, properties located at Kidston, for the late application of discount having missed payment by the due date. The owners have not offered any extraordinary reason for missing payment by the due date but are now seeking Council's discretion in granting discount.

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 130(10) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolve not to grant discount on rate assessments: -

- 00297-00000-000
- 00355-71300-000
- 00441-00000-000
- 00441-70000-000

**MOVED: Cr. Gallagher**

**SECONDED: Cr. Royes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.13DCS**  
**5/0**

**2**

**Request for grant of discount and waiver of interest**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from the owner of rate assessment 00097-00000-000, property located at 16 First Street, Forsyth, advising that they failed to receive their rates notice and have subsequently missed discount. They are now seeking Council's discretion in granting discount and waiving interest accrued.

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 130(10) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council determine to not grant discount on rate assessment 00097-00000-000, located at 16 First Street, Forsyth.

**MOVED: Cr. Royes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Hughes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.14DCS**  
**5/0**

**3**

**Request for grant of discount and waiver of interest**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from the owner of rate assessment 00355-05600-000, property located at Brooklands Road, Mount Surprise, advising that they failed to receive their rates notice and have subsequently missed discount. They are now seeking Council's discretion in granting discount.

RESOLUTION

That pursuant to section 130(10) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolve not to grant discount on rate assessment 00355-05600-000, located at Brooklands Road (previously 3 Crystal Lane), Mount Surprise.

**MOVED: Cr. Gallagher**

**SECONDED: Cr. Barnes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.15DCS**  
**5/0**

**CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

**1**

**Australia Day Award Special Committee**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Etheridge Shire Council invited the community to nominate individuals and/or groups who have made a significant contribution to their community and the Etheridge region for the 2023 Australia Day Awards. Nominations close on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

RESOLUTION

1. That in accordance with s264 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council constitute a Standing Committee to assess Australia Day nominations and recommend award recipients to Council; and
2. The Standing Committee be constituted by five (5) Members and a Committee Clerk (to provide administrative advice and assistance), as follows: -
  - Mayor, Cr Barry Hughes (Member and Chair)
  - Deputy Mayor, Cr Laurel Royes (Member)
  - Cr Joe Haase (Member)
  - Cr Cameron Barnes (Member)
  - Cr Tony Gallagher (Member)
  - Mr Ken Timms, or delegate (Committee Clerk)

**MOVED: Cr. Royes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Haase**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.16DCS**  
**5/0**

**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. Haase**

**SECONDED: Cr. Royes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.17DES**  
**5/0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Council adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12.30pm.*

**RESUMPTION**

*Council resumed the meeting at 1.08pm.*

**1**

**Road Maintenance Correspondence**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from Gilberton Station and Ballynure Station concerning road conditions and the ongoing DFRA works in zone 4.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Respond to the report and its contents to both correspondents acknowledging receipt of their letters and advising that the items raised will be considered and assessed.

**MOVED: Cr. Gallagher**

**SECONDED: Cr. Royes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.18DES**  
**4/0**

**ATTENDANCE**

*Cr. Haase left the meeting at 2.27pm and returned at 2.31pm.*

**CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**1**

**Unearthing Etheridge – The Master Plan & Tourism Directions Paper**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "[Unearthing Etheridge- The Master Plan](#)" and [Tourism Directions Paper](#) is a 10-year strategic planning document for Etheridge Shire which aims to position the Shire as a unique destination for domestic and international visitors seeking memorable experiences in the Australian Outback. In collaboration with Etheridge Shire Council, Griffith University researchers co-designed a process of community consultation to understand residents' aspirations for tourism development in the region.

RESOLUTION

That Council formally receive the Unearthing Etheridge: Tourism Directions Paper and Master Plan as presented.

**MOVED: Cr. Hughes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Barnes**

CARRIED  
RESOLUTION #22.11.19CEO  
5/0

**2**

**Public Notice of Meetings for 2023**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At least once in each year, Council must publish a notice of the days and times when its ordinary meetings will be held and furthermore Council must publish this notice on the local government’s website, and in other ways the local government considers appropriate in accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

RESOLUTION

That Council:  
Adopts the following meeting dates as presented for 2023 pursuant to and in accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and furthermore Council will publish the notice of meeting dates on Council’s website, in the inform newsletter and on display in the Council office.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Time</u>
January	Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
February	Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
March	Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
April	Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
May	Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
June	Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
July	Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
August	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
September	Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
October	Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
November	Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Georgetown	9:00am
December	Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Georgetown	9:00am

**MOVED: Cr. Gallagher**

**SECONDED: Cr. Haase**

CARRIED  
RESOLUTION #22.11.20CEO  
5/0

**3**

**Proposed Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council received correspondence with an enclosed proposal and flyer of a proposed “The Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Act 2021” which is to be tabled by Bob Katter in Federal Parliament. The Act would be a permanent solution to secure long term viability of Licence Post Offices and provide Banking Services to remote communities. The correspondence requested that Council pass a resolution in support of the new proposed establishment and forward the Letter of Support to Federal Representatives, Queensland State Representatives and to all Queensland Senators of all parties.

RESOLUTION



That Council provide a Letter of Support for the proposed Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Act 2021 to the appropriate parties.

**MOVED: Cr. Haase**

**SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.21CEO**  
**5/0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Council adjourned the meeting for a break at 2.50pm.*

**RESUMPTION**

*Council resumed the meeting at 2.56pm*

**4**

**Purchase of Topaz for Mineral Collection**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Chief Executive Officer has been approached by Mr John Towing who asked if Council would be interested in purchasing a selection of Topaz from his collection. The Topaz stones in question were found at O'Brien's Creek and McDonalds Creek in the Etheridge Shire in the 1970's. The collection has a total of 456 carats, and Mr Towing is asking \$55.00/carat, rounding the price for this collection at \$25,000.

**RESOLUTION**

That Council authorise the purchase of the Topaz collection from Mr John Towing and amend the budget accordingly. The purchase is subject to an independent certified valuation being obtained to validate the purchase price.

**MOVED: Cr. Royes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Haase**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.22CEO**  
**5/0**

**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. Hughes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Barnes**

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION #22.11.23CEO**  
**5/0**

**RESOLUTION**

That Council agrees in principle to support the development of the tourism proposal submitted by Finnegan's Rest subject to the necessary licences and approvals being put in place.

**MOVED: Cr. Hughes**

**SECONDED: Cr. Barnes**

CARRIED  
RESOLUTION #22.11.24CEO  
5/0

**ATTENDANCE**

Mr David Fletcher left the meeting at 4.49pm and returned at 4.52pm

**RESOLUTION**

Council resolve to approve Cr. Hughes to travel to Canberra to lobby funding for the Etheridge Agriculture Precinct as part of the RDATN Delegation.

**MOVED: Cr. Barns**

**SECONDED: Cr. Haase**

CARRIED  
RESOLUTION #22.11.25CEO  
5/0

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Cr Gallagher**

•

**Cr Barns**

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**Cr Haase**

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**Cr Royes**

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**Cr Hughes**

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**CONCLUSION**

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 5.28pm.

These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on the Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

*S. G. Hughes*  
MAYOR

*15.11.2022*  
DATE