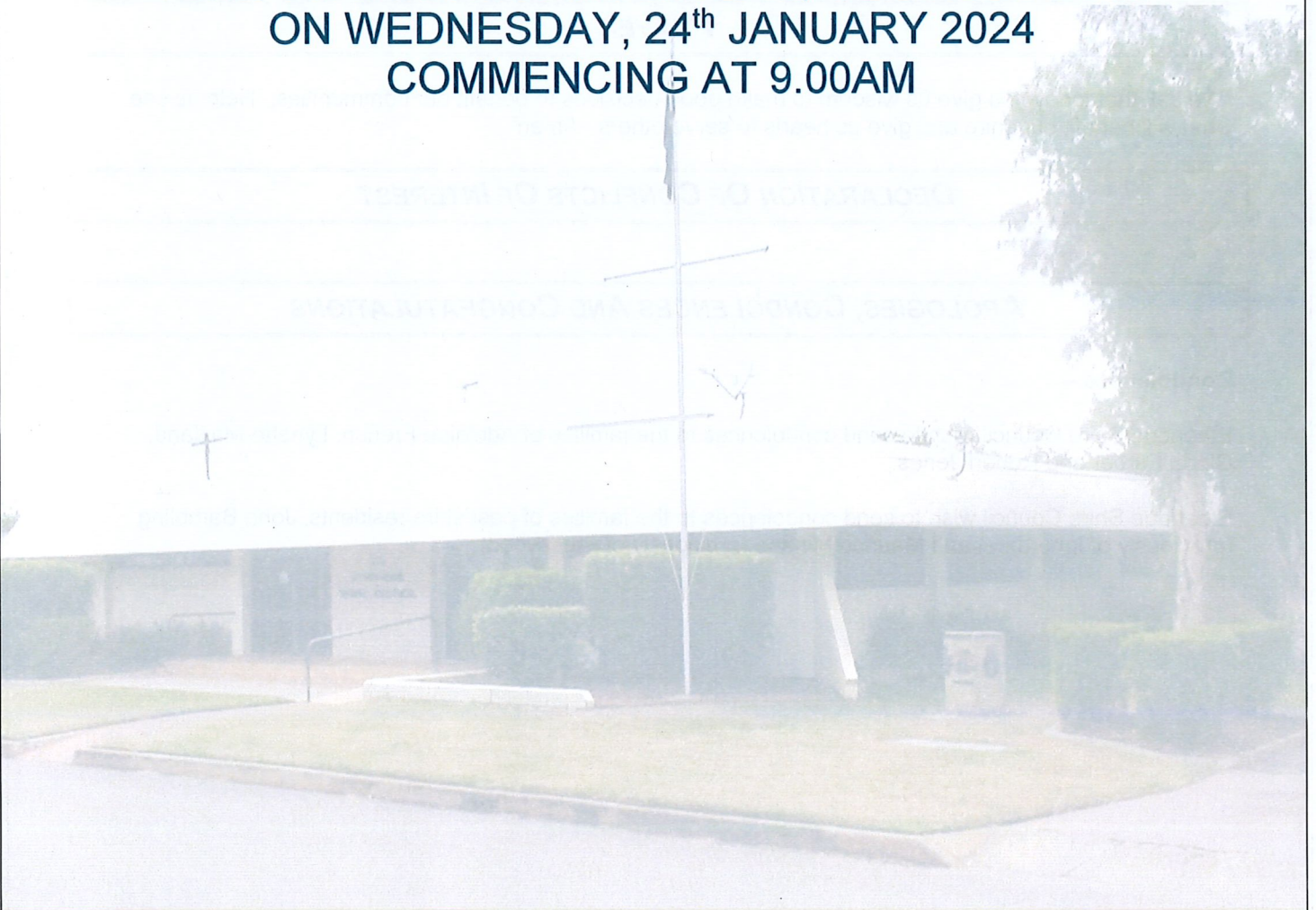




Etheridge Shire Council

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM



**ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2024
COMMENCING AT 9.00AM**

ATTENDANCE

Cr. Barry Hughes
Cr. Laurell Royes
Cr. Joe Haase
Cr. Tony Gallagher
Cr. Cameron Barns

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr. Ken Timms, Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Renee Bester, Executive Assistant

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.06 am 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

APOLOGIES, CONDOLENCES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Condolences –

Etheridge Shire Council wish to send condolences to the families of Adelaide French, Lynette Maitland, Gloria Furber and Robert Jones.

Etheridge Shire Council wish to send condolences to the families of past shire residents, John Bambling (previously of Innorunie) and Maurice Minane (previously of Prestwood).

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 13th December 2023

Corrections:

- Business Arising – CEO Update 23.11.24, 23.11.25, 23.7.21 should be Cr Royes.

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 13th December 2023 be confirmed.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.01
5/0

BUSINESS ARISING FROM GENERAL MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Royes

#23.12.09 – QAO Management Response.

#23.12.14 – Student Hostel Management. To be discussed in DCS report

#23.12.28 – Road register

#23.11.24 & 23.11.25 – Have we got the quotes for the Columbarium Wall & The Lynd Medical Center.

#23.07.21 – Negotiations over land. To be removed.

Cr Barnes

#23.12.25 – Update to Transfer Station. To be discussed in DES Briefing Report

#23.12.27 – Stockproof fencing for airports. To be discussed in DES report.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor Hughes left the meeting at 9.31am and returned at 9.34am.

Ken Timms left the meeting at 9.32am and returned at 9.35am.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director Corporate Services

1. Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.02
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting for Morning Tea at 10.00am.

ATTENDANCE

Laurie Hawker entered the meeting at 10.04am.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10.24am.

2. Financial Performance (Actual vs. Budget) for the period 1 July 2022 to 31st December 2023

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 December 2023, as presented.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.03
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Ken Timms left the meeting at 10.28am and returned to the meeting room at 10.30am.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION ADDENDUM REPORTS

Director of Corporate Services

3. 2023/24 Budget Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under s104 of the Local Government Act 2009, Council must have an annual budget as part of its suite of financial planning documents. Councils budget was adopted on 26th July 2023 and complied with the requirements of s169 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

A review of Council's budget has been completed for the period 1 July 2023 to December 2023. It is proposed that Council amend its budget to address issues that have emerged since its adoption. Section 170(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 allows Council to amend its budget anytime before the end of the financial year.

RESOLUTION

That in accordance with s170(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council amend in 20/24 Budget as per the attached list of proposed amendments.

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.04
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Laurie Hawker left the meeting at 11.19am.

4. *Second Quarter 2023/24 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 second quarter (1st October – 31 December 2023) progress report on implementing Council's 2023/24 Operational Plan.

RESOLUTION

That Council receive the second quarterly progress report on Council's progress toward implementing its 2023 / 24 Operational Plan.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Haase

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.05
5/0

5. *QAO Management Letter on the conduct of Council 2022/23 Audit*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the conclusion of each annual financial reporting cycle, Queensland Audit Office writes to Councils' Mayors to provide a report on the conduct of their audit of the local authority's annual general purpose financial statements. Mayor, Cr Hughes received QAO's report on Friday, 15th December 2023. In accordance with s213 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the report is tabled for Council's receipt.

RESOLUTION

That in accordance with s211 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council receive the Queensland Audit Office Report dated 5th December 2023 and refer the report to Council's Internal Audit Committee for further review.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.06
5/0

RESOLUTION

That Council go into closed session at 11.34am to discuss (d) rating concessions 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 sale of land.

MOVED: Cr. Barnes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.07
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Barry Hughes left the meeting at 11.55am and returned at 11.57am.
Ken Timms left the meeting at 11.56am and returned at 11.58am.
Cr Barnes left the meeting at 11.58 am and returned at 12.02pm.
Cr Gallagher left the meeting at 11.58 am and returned at 12.01pm.
Raju Ranjit entered the meeting at 12.00pm

RESOLUTION

Council resolve to come out of closed session at 12.35 am.

MOVED: Cr. Barnes

SECONDED: Cr. Royes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.08
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

Director Of Corporate Services

6. Request to waive interest and grant discount on overdue rates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council was advised of a transfer of ownership of assessment 00265-27000-000 via Department of Resources Transaction Report received 2nd September 2023. Letters were sent to property owners on the 10th November 2023 to advise owners their assessments had overdue balances. As a result, we have received an enquiry asking for grant of discount and waiving of accrued interest due to the timing of levies being posted to vendors on 1st September 2023, and report being received from Department of Resources on 2nd September 2023. The outstanding rates owed less discount and accrued interest have been paid.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to write-off accrued interest and grant discount on assessment 00265-27000-000.

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.09
5/0

7. 2024 Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting Minutes

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 2024 Australia Day Awards. Nominations close on Friday, 17th November 2023. Nominations were tabled at the Australia Day Awards Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th December 2023.

RESOLUTION

Council resolve to:

1. In accordance with s264 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, receive the minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, 13th December 2023 as presented from the Standing Committee assessing Australia Day nominations and recommendations of award recipients.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.10
5/0

Director Of Engineering Services

8. Construction of Washdown Bay in Georgetown

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The quotations were assessed based on the experience, previous performance, and prices. Council invited ten contractors from Local buy and external contractors but received only from NCH Civil construction .

The NCH Civil construction is currently working on the drainage project in Einasleigh and Forsyth and performing satisfactorily.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolves to accept the quote provided by NCH Civil Construction to construct a Washdown Bay in Georgetown to the value of \$ 284,977.90 Ex. GST.

MOVED: Cr. Haase

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.11
4/1

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting for Lunch at 12.40pm.

ATTENDANCE

Raju Ranjit left the meeting at 12.46am.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 1.26pm.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Director of Engineering Services

9. Director of Engineering Services Briefing Report

RESOLUTION

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

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.12
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

10. Amendments to the model meeting procedures (MMP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2009* prescribes that all Councils must adopt the model meeting procedures (MMP) or incorporate them into existing standing orders for meeting procedures. Council has been advised by the Department that the MMP were amended in November 2023. Amendments are of minor nature, designed to ensure better consistency with the LGA.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to adopt the following documents:
- Amended Model Meeting Procedures – November 2023

MOVED: Cr. Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr. Hughes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.13
5/0

11. Gulf Savannah Development (GSD) Membership 2023-24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from Gulf Savannah Development Inc. (GSD) regarding 2023-2024 Membership. GSD offer a range of benefits including services and support to Etheridge Shire Council to progress economic development within the Shire and across the Gulf Savannah Region.

RESOLUTION

That Council resolve to the reestablishment of its membership with Gulf Savannah Development Inc for the Gulf Council level during 2023-2024.

MOVED: Cr. Hughes

SECONDED: Cr. Barns

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.14
5/0

12. Review of Council Policies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council are currently undertaking a Policy Review to ensure of their governance compliance. As part of this review, Council have developed and/or reviewed policies and suggested appropriate changes.

Council have developed a Caretaker Period Policy (ESC – C052) as best practice to inform and provide guidance to Councillors and employees of appropriate standards and responsibilities during the mandatory caretaker period prior to and during quadrennial Local Government elections.

In addition, a review of the following Statutory and Council Policies has been completed with any changes noted:

- ESC – S001 – Councillors Reimbursement of Expenses Provision of Facilities Policy
- ESC – S008 – Entertainment and Hospitality Expenditure Policy
- ESC – S012 – Community Engagement Policy

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- ESC – S047 – Grants to Community Organisations Policy
- ESC – C050 – In Kind Support to Community Organisations Policy
- ESC – C049 – Sponsorship to Community Organisations Policy

RESOLUTION

That Council note the completion of the review into the following policies, and re-adopt the reviewed version:

- ESC – S001 – Councillors Reimbursement of Expenses Provision of Facilities Policy
- ESC – S008 – Entertainment and Hospitality Expenditure Policy
- ESC – S012 – Community Engagement Policy
- ESC – S047 – Grants to Community Organisations Policy
- ESC – C050 – In Kind Support to Community Organisations Policy
- ESC – C049 – Sponsorship to Community Organisations Policy

MOVED: Cr. Royes

SECONDED: Cr. Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION #24.01.15
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Barns left the meeting room at 2.11pm and returned at 2.13pm.
Mayor Hughes left the meeting room at 2.11pm and returned at 2.13pm.
Ken Timms left the meeting at 2.11pm and returned at 2.18pm.
Ash Ryan entered the meeting at 2.33pm and left at 2.37pm.
Ash Ryan entered the meeting at 2.46pm and left at 2.48pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Gallagher - Can the depth marker be replaced on the Delaney crossing? It has now been missing for 12 months.

Cr Barns - Upgrade to the Gregory Development Road. Is council now in a greater position to be able to advocate even stronger for the argument to Department and Government, an upgrade to the Gregory Development road as an alternate highway road route given the total isolation of the half the Etheridge and Gulf Shires due to the Routh Bridge collapse and flooding? Does it give this argument more weight, in addition to being a service access of GENEX power in Kidston? What are ways we can further advocate to strengthen this proposal. The bridge collapse has shown a weak spot in our northern network that HAS to be rectified immediately.

Cr Barns - Can council provide emergency ways and means to ensure that essential road freight/mail/medical supplies and communication service links be maintained? Can these be identified and incorporated in disaster management as a contingency protocol, is it in councils purview?

Cr Barns - Disaster Management Plan/s- Has there been any identified issues arise in the recent period primarily due to flooding? Ie, leadership, process, etc that need to be addressed.

Cr Barns - Airfreight/air service for our towns. Has there been any interest or scope for any commercial service to feel the need to land on our strips?

Cr Barns - Flood monitoring systems. During the wet season period, is there a way to have them take snapshots in shorter time intervals to the periods that are currently observed? This helps affect decisions of those who are intending to make the journeys in the wet.

Cr Barns - Flood markers at Delaney and other Shire crossings. Does council road crews assess their placement and age/condition/suitability of them all before the wet each year?

Cr Royes - Urgent reevaluation of the First Street Forsayth Drainage Contract/Scope

Cr Royes - Issues with Einasleigh Drainage project

Cr Royes - Einasleigh Public facilities maintenance (toilets)

Cr Royes - The Lynd Community Shed - access (usability)

Cr Royes - Daily Road Condition Report - social media (Council)

ATTENDANCE

Renee Bester left the meeting room at 3.47pm and returned at 3.50pm.

Cr Haase left the meeting room at 3.50pm and returned at 3.52pm.

Ken Timms left the meeting room at 3.54pm and returned at 3.57pm.

Mayor Hughes left the meeting room at 3.57pm and returned at 3.59pm.

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 4.00pm. These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024.

B. G. Hughes 30.1.24.
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MAYOR DATE