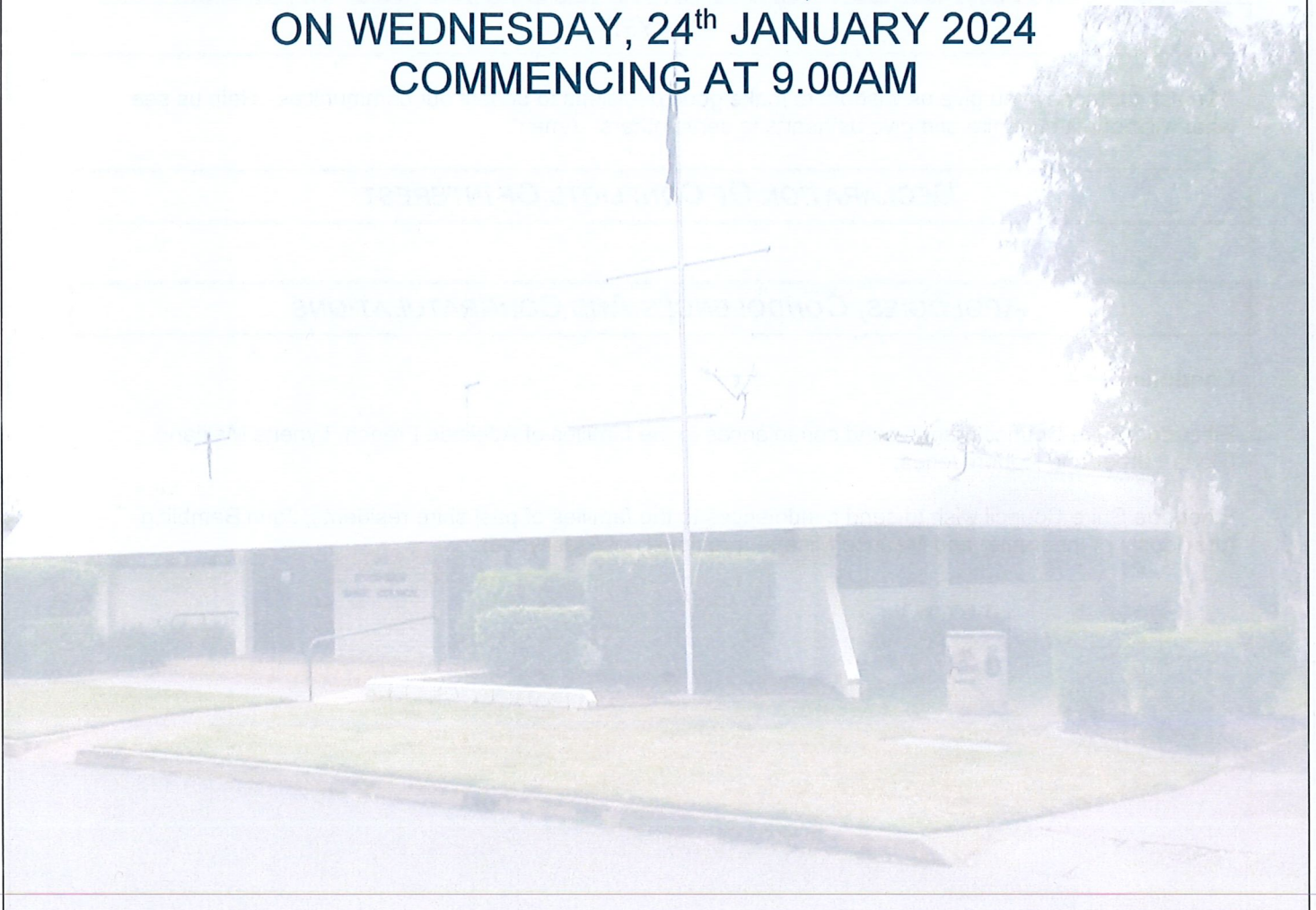




Etheridge Shire Council

CONFIRMED MINUTES

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



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.

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.

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. Barns

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 Forsayth 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

- 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?