



CONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD
ST GEORGE STREET, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018,
COMMENCING AT 8.00AM

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT GEORGETOWN

ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018

COMMENCING AT 8.00AM

ATTENDANCE

Crs W Devlin, T Gallagher, W Attwood, T Barnes and W Bethel

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr Norm Garsden, Chief Executive Officer
Mr David Munro, Director of Corporate and Community Services
Mr Michael Brookes, Works Manager
Ms Anna Christensen, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

GALLERY

Mr Owen Hitchings
Mr Tim Baxter
Mrs Alice Ree
Mr Mark Ree
Mr Ray Blain
Mr Ian Carroll
Mr Noel Patterson

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 8:03am and welcomed all in attendance.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Ewamian People - the traditional custodians of this land where we meet for the General Meeting. We pay our respects to the Ewamian People, especially the Elders, past and present and acknowledge their traditional customs and lores and recognize their continuing connection to this Country.

We look forward to a long and continuing relationship with the Ewamian People and value any opportunities in strengthening relationships and partnerships through collaboration by respecting their Country.

DECLARATIONS

Cr Gallagher declared a conflict of interest on GMCCS2 – Gilbert River Irrigation Project due to members of his family living on property situated along the Gilbert River.

Cr Bethel declared a material personal interest on GMCCS2 – Gilbert River Irrigation Project due to his ownership of land situated along the Gilbert River and his family owning land situated along the Gilbert River.

APOLOGIES AND CONDOLENCES

Council would like to pass on their sincere condolences to the family of Gerry Collins.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting – Wednesday 21 March 2018

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 21 March 2018 be confirmed.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2279
5/0

Business arising from Minutes – Wednesday 21 March 2018

Norm Garsden

- GMCCS10 – Requested feedback on possible options for applications for grants and subsidies in the next Financial Year to assist in planning

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Discussions regarding reports from Corporate Services, Engineering Services, Childcare and Terrestrial Centre and Action Taken List from previous meetings.

Business arising from the Information Bulletin

Cr Barnes

- Discussed the dog attacks on the weekend and Council Local Laws surrounding animal control

Cr Gallagher

- Queried whether there has been any feedback on the Gorge Creek Weir from relevant Departments
- Brought up the Developing Northern Australia Conference
- Queried when the fogging machine will be utilised

Cr Attwood

- Requested the driver reviver signs either side of Undara can be taken down due to deterioration

Norm Garsden

- Discussed the Information Bulletin with Councillors and various correspondence in the 'Points of Interest' area
- Council discussed the ideas received in the suggestion box and Council was in agreeance that the suggestion of involving School Children in Council to gain an understanding of Local Government is a positive idea

Cr Devlin

- Brought up the ongoing issue of weeds in the township being spread, particularly Goats Head and Bindi Eye.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOTION:

That Council suspends standing orders at 8:30am.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2017/GM2280
5/0

DEPUTATION

Mr Mark Ree addressed Council regarding the statements made by Councillors in the recent Inform issue and the road conditions on station access and other road networks in the Shire.

ATTENDANCE

Mr Ian Carroll and Mr Noel Patterson entered the gallery at 8:43am.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOTION:

That Council resumes standing orders at 8:43am.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2017/GM2281
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr Rolfe Ellem, Gilbert River Project Officer, attended the meeting at 8:50am to address Council on GMCCS2.

CONSIDERATION OF OPEN SESSION REPORTS

GMCCS1.

Expression of Interest – Industrial Land in Georgetown

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council at its meeting of 20 December 2017 sought an expression of interest in Industrial land located 3km west of Georgetown. Following consultation with Councillors, the expression of interest was extended to residential land on the basis that: if we attract industry then we will need residential stock to house workers.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to request an extension of time on the purchase from the *Department of Natural Resources & Mines of a portion of the unused Road Reserve along the Gulf Development Road which adjoins Lot 7 on GB70, Lot 9 on GB75 & Lot 99 on SP206971 and furthermore that Council requests the Chief Executive Officer to readvertise for Expressions of Interest on land.*

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2282
5/0

MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

Cr Bethel declared a material personal interest on GMCCS2 and left the room at 8:56am. Cr Bethel was not present for discussions on GMCCS2 and did not vote on this matter. Cr Bethel returned to the meeting after voting at 9:17am.

ATTENDANCE

Mr Mark Ree left the gallery at 8:56am and returned at 9:17am.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Gallagher declared a conflict of interest on GMCCS2. Cr Gallagher was present during discussions on GMCCS2 and participated in the discussion and vote on this matter.

GMCCS2.

Gilbert River Irrigation Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An application has been submitted to the MIPP2 funding round to acquire funds to formulate a business case for the Gilbert River Irrigation Project.

The Developing Northern Australia Conference organisers have accepted Council's abstract for a 30 minute oral presentation at the conference to be held on June 18-19 this year in Alice Springs.

A meeting with the Queensland Coordinator General's Office confirmed that Coordinated Project status is the most appropriate way to negotiate the revised vegetation management laws affecting the Gilbert River Irrigation Project.

Additional meetings with:

- ***Mark Furner MP, Queensland Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.***
- ***Stirling Hinchcliffe MP, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.***
- ***Robbie Katter MP.***

The Mayor, CEO and Project Officer attended the NT Farmers Kununurra Food Futures Roadshow.

The Project Officer and Corporate Services Manager initiated a discussion with Andrew Kerr from Preston Law specifically to discuss the existing ILUA arrangements with the Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation and their implications for the Gilbert River Irrigation Project.

The Project Officer also sat in on a meeting with Jann Kraase, Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Committee.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Continue to support the project and furthermore endorse the submission for MIPP Round 2.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2283
4/0

Cr Bethel did not vote on GMCCS2 due to a material personal interest.

ATTENDANCE

Mr Rolfe Ellem, Gilbert River Project Officer, left the meeting at 9:17am.

Mr Mark Ree returned to the gallery at 9:17am.

Cr Bethel returned to the meeting at 9:17am.

GMCCS3.

Vacant Land – Agistment Purposes (Georgetown)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has approved the use of several unoccupied vacant allotments within the Georgetown Township for the purpose of agistment based on applications received from members of the public over the past years. Council is in receipt of an application from a resident of the community seeking the approval to lease an area for the sole purpose of agistment of horses.

This report identifies current land under agistment plus any vacant land that Council has available and deemed suitable for the purpose of agistment.

RESOLUTION

That Council:

Notes and receives the Officer's report and furthermore approves the lease (via a Permit to Occupy) for a 12 month term subject to the following conditions:

- 1. the area will need to be fenced with a stock proof fence;*
- 2. the area will need to be maintained in accordance with Council's Pest Management Plan;*
- 3. the purpose of the "Permit to Occupy" is for grazing;*
- 4. no other use will be permitted;*
- 5. any infrastructure placed on the defined area within part of Lot 7 on SP206970 must not be of a permanent nature;*
- 6. if the subject allotment is developed by council in the future then the Permit of Occupy will be terminated with council providing sufficient time for the holder of the Permit to Occupy to remove any infrastructure and to relocate any livestock on the defined area;*
- 7. term of the Permit to Occupy – 1 year with an option to renew at expiry.*
- 8. The Permit is non-transferrable to another party*

MOVED: Cr Bethel

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2284
5/0

GMCCS4.

Application for upgrade of tenure over part of Term Lease 239881, described as part of Lot 2 on SP242983, locality of Forsayth (Airstrip Purpose)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Natural Resources & Mines has received an application for an upgrade of tenure over part of Term Lease 239881. The current purpose and use of the land is pastoral purposes and the applicant is making application to change the purpose for the use of the land to airstrip purposes.

The Department has requested our views and or requirements of Council regarding this upgrade of Tenure.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to advise the Department of Natural Resources & Mines that Council supports the application for the applicant to create a designated parcel for airstrip purposes within Lot 2 on SP242983 subject to the following conditions:

- 1. That the designated parcel for airstrip purposes is consistent with drawing CNS18/001P;*
- 2. That the applicant is required to formally submit the appropriate documentation to the Department of Natural Resources & Mines to formally close the road known as "Howlong Station Road" from the intersection of Agate Creek Road to the Howlong Station and provide evidence to Council that this has been completed.*

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2285
5/0

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOTION:

That Council suspends standing orders at 9:30am

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2017/GM2286
5/0

DEPUTATION

Mr Ray Blain addressed Council regarding GMCCS5 – Newcastle Range -Point of Interest and his intentions to work with Council, the Department of Main Roads and Queensland Police Service to ensure road safety becomes a priority on the Gulf Development Road.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOTION:

That Council resumes standing orders at 9:40am.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2017/GM2287
5/0

GMCCS5.

Newcastle Range – Point of Interest

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from the Queensland Police Service requesting to have a point of interest installed on Newcastle Range in memory of Senior Constable Casey Blain.

Queensland Police Service advise that they have been in contact with relevant departments regarding this matter and are seeking Council's approval and advice on selecting the name of the point of interest from options given from Casey's family.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

- Approve the installment of a Point of Interest on Newcastle Range as described by the Queensland Police Service, subject to:
 - gaining all necessary approvals by the Department of Transport and Main Roads; and
 - the installation being undertaken at no cost to Council; and
- Agree to name the Point of Interest 'Casey's Rest' in memory of Senior Constable Casey Blain.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2288
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourn for morning tea at 9:40am.

RESUMPTION

Council resumed the meeting at 10:00am.

ATTENDANCE

Mr Michael Brookes, Works Manager, did not return to the meeting after morning tea.

GMCCS6.

Forsyth Anzac Day Ceremony

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Communities are currently in preparation for the final year of Anzac Day Centenary celebrations.

Council has once again received correspondence from Senior Constable Ian Carroll regarding a request for financial assistance for this year's celebrations in Forsyth.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Approve the payment of goods or services for the Forsyth Anzac Day Celebrations for 2018 up to the amount of \$500 and furthermore that these funds be utilized from the Community Assistance Fund.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2289
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr Tim Baxter left the gallery at 10:19am.

GMCCS7.

Financial Performance (Actual v Budget) for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

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 March 2018.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2290
5/0

GMCCS8.

Etheridge Shire Council – Revenue Policy 2018|2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A local government must prepare a revenue policy each financial year, and the Revenue Policy must state -

(a) The principles that the local government intends to apply in the financial year for -

- (i) Levying of rates and charges; and*
- (ii) Granting concessions for rates and charges; and*
- (iii) Recovering overdue rates and charges; and*
- (iv) Cost-recovery fees*

(b) If the local government intends to grant concessions for rates and charges - the purpose for the concessions, and

(c) The extent to which physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development are to be funded by charges for the development, and

(d) The amount of each reserve to be kept in the operating fund and the way in which the local government intends to ensure funding is available to support the purpose of each reserve.

The revenue policy may state guidelines that may be used for preparing the local government's Revenue Statement.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Adopt the 2018/2019 Revenue Policy in accordance with and pursuant to Section 193 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2291
5/0

GMCCS9.

Community Infrastructure Grant Application – Oak Park Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Infrastructure Grant Policy is developed with a philosophy of partnership, whereby council provides a grant to encourage, engage and support groups within the community to make a positive and ongoing contribution to the region.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework which guides the administration of council's Community Infrastructure Grant Policy in a manner that is aligned to council's corporate strategic priorities and in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Community Infrastructure Grant aims to provide financial assistance to community organisation that wish to pursue the purchase, improvement, renovation or development of infrastructure which respond to local community needs and to make a positive contribution to community life in the Etheridge Shire region.

Council has received an amended application from the Oak Park Community for the installation of solar power to their existing facilities to assist in the reduction of their energy costs.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to transfer \$10,000 from the "Shire Community Infrastructure Reserve" to assist the Oak Park Community in the supply and installation of Solar Power to their existing infrastructure located at the Oak Park Race Reserve and furthermore request that acknowledgement of the Council's contributions to the installation are displayed at the Race Track.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2292
5/0

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOTION:

That Council suspends standing orders at 10:29am.

MOVED: Cr Bethel

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2017/GM2293
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr Tim Baxter returned to the gallery at 10:43am.

DEPUTATION

Mr Tim Baxter addressed Council regarding water treating methods being utilized around Australia.

Mr Tim Baxter and Mr Owen Hitchings left the gallery at 10:44am.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

MOTION:

That in accordance with Section 275(1) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the meeting be closed to the public to discuss the following matters;

- *GMCCS10 - Organisational Structure;*
- *GMCCS11 – Tender ESC2018-003 (Einasleigh Town Maintenance Contract).*

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2294
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Mr Norm Garsden, Chief Executive Officer, left the meeting at 10:44 am and returned at 10:46am.

Ms Anna Christensen, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer, left the meeting at 10:45am and returned at 11:18am.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

MOTION:

That Council re-open the meeting to the public at 11:19am.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2295
5/0

CONSIDERATION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

GMCCS10.

Organisational Structure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council at its meeting of 21 June 2017 endorsed a revised Organisational Structure, to reflect the needs of its undertakings, for further staff engagement and consultation. Since then, the Manager, Building, Planning and Community Facilities has retired and the Director of Engineering resigned.

A review and gap analysis of the skill sets required to support the Council's objectives identified in the Corporate Plan has led to a re-think of the Organisational structure. The Director of Corporate and Community Services has proposed that a new position be created to replace the Manager, Building, Planning and Community Facilities position with responsibility for Governance, Grants, compliance and Risk Management; Building approvals being either outsourced or discontinued and other Development Approvals being managed by the Director of Corporate and Community Services, with assistance from external consultants where necessary.

RESOLUTION:

*That Council:
Adopt the organisational structure attached to the report by the Director of Corporate and Community Services, pursuant to section 196 of the Local Government Act 2009.*

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2296
5/0

GMCCS11.

Tender ESC2018-003 (Einasleigh Town Maintenance Contract)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council received notice from the incumbent Town Maintenance Contractor that they were handing in their notice and would terminate the contract obligations as at 28th March 2018. Therefore based on this notice to terminate, Council called for the Request for Tender on the 10th March 2018 with a closing date being 6th April 2018.

The Einasleigh Town Maintenance Contractor shall be responsible for the following areas:-

- *The maintenance of the grounds and gardens at all Council properties within Einasleigh.*
- *Control of noxious and other weeds on all Council properties within Einasleigh.*
- *Tree/shrub pruning on all Council properties with in Einasleigh as necessary*
- *Local animal control within the town of Einasleigh*
- *Monitoring and minor repairs to the Town Fence*
- *Monitoring and tidiness of the Refuse Tip*
- *Monitoring and minor maintenance of the Einasleigh Airstrip*
- *Distribution of the Inform newsletter & other Council produced publications*

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to award Tender ESC2018-003 (Einasleigh Town Maintenance Contract) to Tenderer A for a period of 24 months with an extension period of 12 months subject to mutual agreement.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2297
5/0

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Gallagher

Nil

Cr Barnes

- Discussed the continuous water leak at the Hospital
- Requested an enforcement of animal control and review of animal control procedures due to the dog attack on the weekend
- Queried when the widening of Haldane Street was occurring

Cr Bethel

- Discussed the poisoning and eradication of Neem Trees and requested a report from the Chief Executive Officer on this issue

Cr Attwood

- Discussed the Drought Assistance Fund and whether the Shire is eligible for more funds despite being a non-drought declared area

Cr Devlin

- Request that the Gilbert River Project Officer apply for the first stage of the Regional Growth Fund with the Regional Development Australia
- Discussed his intentions on applying to become a part of the Regional Development Australia Committee along with Cr Attwood on who is applying on behalf of the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group
- Requested a that a preferred supplier list of contractors be used to carry out Emergent Works as required on station roads

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Gives authority to the Chief Executive Officer to select the most appropriate contractors from the preferred supplier list to conduct emergent works.

MOVED: Cr Devlin

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2018/GM2298
4/0

Cr Bethel did not vote due to a declared conflict of interest.

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 11:35am.

These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on the Wednesday 16th May 2018.

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MAYOR

...../...../.....
DATE