



CONFIRMED MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF
ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD
ST GEORGE STREET, GEORGETOWN
ON WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2016,
COMMENCING AT 8.00AM

ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT GEORGETOWN

ON WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2017

COMMENCING AT 8.00AM

ATTENDANCE

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

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr David Munro, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Ms Anna Christensen, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 8am 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.

APOLOGIES AND CONDOLENCES

Cr Bethel was not present during the opening of the meeting and did not arrive until 8:37am.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

General Meeting – Wednesday 14 December 2016

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at Georgetown on Wednesday 14 December 2016 be confirmed.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1921
4/0

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Discussions regarding reports from Director of Corporate and Community Services, Engineering Services, Childcare Centre and Terrestrial Centre.

Action Taken List from previous meetings.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES OPEN REPORTS

GMES1.

Areas Required For Road Purposes By Department Of Transport And Main Roads

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from the Department of Transport and Main Roads seeking approval for the transfer of area on the Gulf Development Road (Croydon to Georgetown) for road purposes.

The areas are 10.46 hectares from Lot 19 Crown Plan GB104 and approximately 3000 square metres from Lot 21 on SP148787.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to offer no objection to the transfer of 10.46 hectares from Lot 19 Crown Plan GB104 and approximately 300 square metres from Lot 21 on SP148787.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1922
4/0

6. CONSIDERATION OF CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES OPEN REPORTS

GMCCS1.

Financial Performance (Actual v Budget) for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

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 December 2016.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1923
4/0

GMCCS2.

Application for the Conversion of GHPL 0/237820 described as Lot 66 on SP258871

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from the Department of Natural Resources & Mines who has received an application from the current lessee to convert the existing Grazing Homestead Perpetual lease (0/237820) to a freeholding lease.

The Department is seeking Councils views and or requirements regarding this application.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to offer no objections for the conversion of the Grazing Homestead perpetual Lease (GHPL) 0/237820 described as Lot 66 on SP258871 to a freehold subject to the existing use remaining for grazing purposes which is consistent with the rural zoning as described within Council’s Planning Scheme.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1924
4/0

GMCCS3.

Councillor Remuneration 2017|18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal review the rate of pay applicable to Councillors in each category of Council. Having decided on a maximum amount of remuneration for each category before 1 December each year, the Tribunal must prepare a remuneration schedule and a report within 14 days. A copy of the schedule and report must be provided to the Minister, and the schedule must be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Councils must pay the maximum amount of remuneration to councillors unless, by resolution within 90 days of the gazettal of a new schedule, they decide on another amount which cannot exceed the maximum decided by the Tribunal. This means that Council has adopted the remuneration schedules for the incoming Council.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to accept the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal Schedule of Rates for Councilor’s remuneration effective from 1st July 2017 in accordance with Section 247 of the Local Government Act 2009 and furthermore that Council resolve to identify, that the General Meetings and Budget (workshop) Meetings are those “identified “meetings where the presence of all councillors is expected to attend to receive the meeting fee component of the remuneration level set out in the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal’s remuneration schedule below.

	Salary 1 July 16 to 30/6/17	Salary 1 July 17 to 30/6/18	Difference	%increase /decrease
Mayor	\$99,638	\$101,631	\$1,993	2.00%
Deputy Mayor	\$57,483	\$58,633	\$1,150	2.00%
Councillors	(see Note 2) \$49,819	(see Note 2) \$50,815	\$ 996	2.00%

Note 2

For councillors in Category 1 councils, a base payment of \$33,877 is payable for the 12 months commencing on 1 July 2017. A meeting fee of \$1,411.50 per calendar month (or \$651.46 per fortnight) is payable for attendance at, and participation in, scheduled meetings of council subject to certification by the mayor and/or chief executive officer of the council. Mayors and deputy mayors in category 1 councils are to receive the full annual remuneration level shown.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1925
4/0

GMCCS4.

Etheridge Shire Council – Revenue Policy / Revenue Statement (Rates)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received correspondence from the Gulf Cattleman’s Association Inc requesting Council to consider changing its Rating Policy in the way Council levies its Rates & Charges to the rural sector to a more manageable arrangement while maintaining discounts during periods of drought.

At present Council issues notices on a yearly basis and are generally issued within the month of August to better take into account the financial cycle of the local economy and in addition, Council has provided a 15% discount on all General Rates and Utility Charges, if payment is made within 30 clear days from the date of issue of the notice.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to review its Rating Methodology as part of the 2017/18 Budget process and furthermore will take into consideration the issues raised by the Gulf Cattleman’s Association.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1926
4/0

GMCCS5.

Community Consultation Dates for 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has agreed to continue to travel as a collective group to each of the townships and other community areas on a monthly basis to provide general updates on what is happening within the Shire plus to seek feedback from the community on how Council can better deliver upon its services and to hear any concerns from our community.

Community Consultation days are open to the general public and will be held within different locations on the first Wednesday of each month or unless re-scheduled to an alternative date within the month due to other commitments.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to adopt the following dates for Council’s Community Consultation Days for 2017;

Date	Town / Location	Venue	Time
1 st February 2017	Georgetown	Georgetown Community Hall	9.00am
1 st March 2017	Forsayth	CWA Hall – Forsayth	9.00am
5 th April 2017	Einasleigh	Possum Ray Memorial Hall – Einasleigh	9.00am
3 rd May 2017	Oak Park	Oak Park Race Course	10.30am
7 th June 2017	Mt Surprise	Mt Surprise Community Hall	9.00am
5 th July 2017	Lynd Junction	Oasis Service Centre	10.30am
2 nd August 2017	Georgetown	Georgetown Community Hall	9.00am

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6 th September 2017	Forsayth	CWA Hall – Forsayth	9.00am
4 th October 2017	Einasleigh	Possum Ray Memorial Hall – Einasleigh	9.00am
1 st November 2017	Oak Park	Oak Park Race Course	10.30am
6 th December 2017	Mt Surprise	Mt Surprise Community Hall	9.00am

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1927
4/0

GMCCS6.

Appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer – S.195 of the Local Government Act 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 195 of the Local Government Act 2009, Council must appoint a qualified person to act as the chief executive officer during any period, or all periods, when the chief executive officer is absent from duty or cannot, for another reason, perform the chief executive officer's responsibilities.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to accept the resignation letter effective from the 27th January 2017 of the Chief Executive Officer and furthermore that Council thank the Chief Executive Officer for his services and contributions to the Etheridge Shire over the past 2 ½ years and wish the Chief Executive Officer all the very best in his new position with Mt Isa City Council and furthermore Council resolve to appoint the Director of Corporate & Community Services as Acting Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 195 of the Local Government Act 2009 from the 27th January 2017.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1928
4/0

ATTENDANCE

Cr Bethel attended the meeting at 8:37am.

GMCCS7.

FNQROC Strategic Operational Options

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Council (FNQROC) formed in the 1980's and obtained its first employee in 2001. Since this time the number, type and scope of projects have significantly increased.

Currently FNQROC has 14 technical committees and a total of 5 full time positions. Because of this long-term growth, FNQROC has become a trusted brand to tackle regional operational issues or opportunities for Councils. This growth and trust can also be a burden in terms of the number of projects we are being asked to champion both from member Councils and external parties such as LGAQ and State agencies.

FNQROC need to ensure the projects undertaken within FNQROC are strategic and support Councils into the future.

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FNQROC have just completed their first Strategic Directions Plan (2012-2017) and it is now an appropriate time to look forward and re-establish the Strategic Operational Priorities of our member Councils within the confines of their current resources.

The FNQROC Coordinators have spoken one on one with staff and or workshopped these questions with their technical committees. The ideas that have come forward are exciting and push boundaries.

This discussion paper lists:

- a. Those things FNQROC believe should continue as ‘business as usual’*
- b. Opportunities which related directly to current technical committees, and*
- c. Opportunities which currently do not have a ‘home’ within a technical committee.*

The Regional Roads and Transport Group has not been included in this discussion paper as it is self-funding and is a requirement for Councils to access the \$5.7M in Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme funds.

The attached discussion paper is a collection of initiatives put forward for the FNQROC Boards consideration and prioritisation. This matter was discussed at the last FNQROC meeting dated 12th December 2016, with focussed discussion to occur at the February meeting to set the FNQROC’s operational direction over the next 5 years.

FNQROC’s member Councils have until the 3 February 2017 to provide a response back to FNQROC. This information is important to ensure we continue to deliver services/support where it is needed; this will ensure we keep providing a high return on investment for you.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to provide feedback to FNQROC prior to the 3 February 2017 to ensure that Council receives a high return on its investment into this Organisation of Councils.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1929
5/0

GMCCS8.

Etheridge Shire Council – Advertising Expenditure Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Regulation 2012 states that each Local Government must have in place a policy about the local government’s spending on advertising (an advertising expenditure policy).

Council has an existing policy on advertising expenditure which is compliant with the Local Government Regulation 2012. It is always good governance to review existing policies to ensure that the policy is deliverable and easy to implement plus to investigate any changes that may need to be made to the existing policy.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Adopt the “Advertising Expenditure Policy” in accordance with Section 197 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

MOVED: Cr Bethel

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1930
5/0

GMCCS9.

Etheridge Shire Council – Entertainment & Hospitality Expenditure Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Regulation 2012 states that each local government must have in place a policy about the local government's spending on entertainment and hospitality expenditure. Council has an existing policy on entertainment and hospitality expenditure which is compliant under the Local Government Regulation 2012.

It is always good governance to review existing policies to ensure that the policy is deliverable and easy to implement plus allows management to investigate any changes that may need to be made to the existing policy.

RESOLUTION:

*That Council:
Adopt the "Entertainment and Hospitality Expenditure Policy" in accordance with Section 196 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.*

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1931
5/0

GMCCS10.

Etheridge Shire Council – Grants & Donations to Community Organisations Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Regulation 2012 states that each local government must have in place a policy about the local government's spending on grants and donations to community organisations.

Council has an existing policy on grants and donations to community organisations which is compliant with the Local Government Regulation 2012. It is always good governance to review existing policies to ensure that the policy is deliverable and easy to implement plus to investigate any changes that may need to be made to the existing policy.

RESOLUTION:

*That Council:
Adopt the "Grants & Donations to Community Organisations Policy" in accordance with Section 195 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.*

MOVED: Cr Bethel

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1932
5/0

GMCCS14.

2017 Local Government Financial Sustainability Summit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Financial Sustainability Summit 2017 is being held in Cairns on the 29th and 30th of March. The Summit has released a program and registrations are now open.

The Summit will include insights into the industry through master classes, key note speakers and Council knowledge sharing.

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Approve the attendance of the Director of Corporate and Community Services, David Munro, to the 2017 Local Government Financial Sustainability Summit to be held in Cairns in March.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1933
5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for a small break at 9:00am and resumed the meeting at 9:04am.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOTION:

That Council suspends standing orders at 9:05am.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1934
5/0

CLOSURE OF MEETING

MOTION:

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

- *Legal Matter – Section 275 (1) (f)*
- *Tender ESC2016-006 (Supply & Trade of Zero Turn Mower) - Section 275 (1) (e)*
- *Tender ESC2016-005 (Georgetown Water Supply Design & Construction of Reservoir) - Section 275 (1) (e)*
- *Sub-Dividing Reserve Land at the Georgetown Airstrip - Section 275 (1) (h)*
- *Gilbert River Irrigation Scheme - Section 275 (1) (h)*
- *Recruitment of Director of Engineering Services - Section 275 (1) (a)*
- *National Stronger Regions Fund – Round 3 (Charleston Dam Project) - Section 275 (1) (e).*

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1935
5/0

ATTENDANCE

Anna Christensen left the meeting at 9:05am and did not return until 11:20am.

Cr Bethel left the meeting at 10:35am and returned at 10:45am.

Cr Devlin left the meeting at 10:50am and returned at 10:52am.

David Munro left the meeting at 11:00am and returned at 11:20am.

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

MOTION:

That Council resumes standing orders at 11:33am.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1936
5/0

6. CONSIDERATION OF CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES CLOSED REPORTS

GMCCS11.

Legal Matter

RESOLUTION:

*That Council:
Resolve to endorse the actions taken by the Acting Chief Executive Officer as directed by Council as at Friday 6th January 2017.*

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1937
4/1

GMCCS12.

Tender ESC2016-006 (Supply & Trade of Zero Turn Mower)

RESOLUTION:

*That Council:
Resolve to award Tender ESC2016-006 to Honeycombes Sales and Service Pty Ltd for the supply of one (1) Zero Turn Mower and furthermore that Council place Unit No.3071 out to sale by tender.*

MOVED: Cr Bethel

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1938
5/0

GMCCS13.

Tender ESC2016-005 (Georgetown Water Supply Design & Construction of Reservoir)

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to award Tender ESC2016-005 to Pensar Utilities Pty Ltd for the Georgetown Water Supply Design & Construction of Reservoir.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1939
5/0

GMCCS15.

Sub-Dividing Reserve Land at the Georgetown Airstrip

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to sub-divide a portion of the reserve (approximately 1.75ha) on the southern side of the reserve adjoining Aerodrome Road to create several allotments for lease by the community for a use consistent with an airstrip.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1940
4/0

Cr Devlin left the room at 9:30am and did not participate in the discussion on GMCCS15; Cr Devlin returned at 9:35am. Cr Devlin did not vote on this matter due to a perceived conflict of interest.

Cr Gallagher resumed as Chair during discussion on GMCCS15. Cr Devlin resumed from Cr Gallagher after discussion.

GMCCS16.

Gilbert River Irrigation Scheme

RESOLUTION:

That Council:

Resolve to adopt the current business model and form the Gilbert River Irrigation Scheme under Section 263 & 264 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and furthermore that Council commence the engagement of a suitably qualified contract Project Manager to assist Council develop the project in readiness for the infrastructure grant funding under the Federal & State Governments and furthermore that this contract Project Manager undertake the necessary works to have this project shovel ready within 12 months of commencement of their duties and furthermore that Council amend its Organisational Structure to include this position.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1941
4/0

Cr Bethel abstained from voting on this matter due to a perceived conflict of interest.

GMCCS17.

Recruitment of Director of Engineering Services

RESOLUTION:

*That Council:
Notes and receives the Officers report.*

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Barnes

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1942
5/0

GMCCS18.

National Stronger Regions Fund – Round 3 (Charleston Dam Project)

RESOLUTION:

*That Council:
Notes and receives the Officers report and furthermore that Council delegate authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer to provide the Department of Infrastructure with an amended agreement detailing the various stages in more depth and provide the Department with new and amended pricing for each phase of the project as certain elements originally supported by Council have been adjusted or amended.*

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Bethel

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1943
5/0

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Gallagher

- Access of Shield Creek Road

RESOLUTION:

That Council requests the Acting Chief Executive Officer respond to the Keough's regarding the Shield Creek Road Access.

MOVED: Cr Gallagher

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1944
5/0

Cr Barnes

- Acknowledgement of the Chief Executive Officer's service to Council
- Dam that was included in the 2015/16 Budget to catch backwash

RESOLUTION:

That Council thank the Chief Executive Officer for his services and contributions to the Etheridge Shire over the past 2 ½ years and congratulates him on his new position as Chief Executive Officer of Mt Isa City Council and furthermore Council would like to wish the Kitzelmann family all the very best for the future.

MOVED: Cr Barnes

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1945
5/0

Cr Bethel

- Maintenance/poisoning of grass and weeds on the side of Main Roads

Cr Attwood

- Enquiry on the progress of the Gorge Creek Road
- Issues surrounding drainage in Mt Surprise
- Maintenance/beautification of the grave on the side of the road near Mt Surprise
- Cr Attwood's application for representation on the board of directors for the Cairns Hinterland Hospital

RESOLUTION:

That Council refer the issue of pooling water at the southern side of Garland Street on the eastern side of Mt Surprise to the Engineering Department for a possible resolution.

MOVED: Cr Attwood

SECONDED: Cr Gallagher

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1946
5/0

Cr Devlin

- Update on the movements of the Gilbert River Irrigation Project, Hann Highway and the Charleston Dam
- Forsayth Radio Issues
- Discussions around installation of 4KZ Radio
- Employment of a PA to the Mayor

RESOLUTION:

That Council resolve to delegate authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer to commence the recruitment for a Personal Assistant to the Mayor and furthermore that Council amends the organisation structure to incorporate this position.

MOVED: Cr Bethel

SECONDED: Cr Attwood

CARRIED
RESOLUTION NO.2016/GM1947
5/0

CONCLUSION

There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 12:49pm.

These minutes will be confirmed by Council at the General Meeting held on the Wednesday 15 February 2017.

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MAYOR

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