



Meander Valley Council
Working Together

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 12 September 2023

Time 3.00pm

Location Council Chambers
26 Lyall Street
Westbury, Tasmania

Phone (03) 6393 5300

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Meeting Open - Attendance & Apologies

Meeting opened at 3:02 pm.

Chairperson Mayor Wayne Johnston

Councillors present Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron
Councillor Lochie Dornauf
Councillor Ben Dudman
Councillor Kevin House
Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader
Councillor Rodney Synfield
Councillor John Temple

Apologies Nil

Officers present	Jonathan Harmey	General Manager
	Wezley Frankcombe	Manager Governance & Performance (Minute-Taker)
	Dino De Paoli	Director Infrastructure Services
	Justin Marshall	Acting Director Corporate Services
	Matthew Millwood	Director Works
	Krista Palfreyman	Director Development & Regulatory Services
	Brenton Josey	Acting Team Leader Town Planning

Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron left the meeting at 3:02 pm.

Acknowledgment of Country

The Chairperson acknowledged the Pallitore and Panninher past peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather for the Council Meeting, paid respects to elders past and present and extended those respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples present.

Confirmation of Minutes

Motion Receive and confirm minutes of the last Ordinary Council Meeting held 8 August 2023.

Moved Councillor Lochie Dornauf

Seconded Councillor Kevin House

Votes for Mayor Wayne Johnston
Councillor Lochie Dornauf
Councillor Ben Dudman
Councillor Kevin House
Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader
Councillor Rodney Synfield
Councillor John Temple

Votes against Nil

Abstained Nil

To abstain from voting at a Council Meeting is to vote in the negative: *Local Government (Meeting Procedure) Regulations 2015: s28.*

Motion carried by simple majority

Minute reference: 223/2023

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Minute reference: 224/2023

Council Workshop Report

Topics Discussed – 22 August 2023

External Presentation: Mineral Resources Tasmania - Exploration Licence Application

Roxford Road Bridge Renewal

External Presentation: Reconciliation Tasmania

LGAT General Meeting Motions

Wildwood Landcare Group Committee Representation

Deloraine Caravan Park Area Update

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area: Deer Control Project

Items for Noting

Capital Works: Subdivision Contribution and Project Requests

NTDC Priority Projects Submission

Minute reference: 225/2023

Mayor & Councillor Report

Councillor Official Activities and Engagements Since Last Meeting

8 August 2023

Meeting: Carrick Hall Committee Meeting

Attended by:

Cr House

Cr Synfield

9 August 2023

Meeting: Short Walks Reference Group

Attended by:

Cr Dudman

Cr Loader

10 August 2023

Meeting: Civic Reception for the Tasmanian Governor

Attended by:

Mayor Johnston

Deputy Mayor Cameron

Cr Dornauf

Cr Dudman

Cr House

Cr Kelly

Cr Temple

Cr Loader

Meeting: Civic Homeless Walk in Launceston

Cr Dudman

Cr House

12 August 2023

Community Event: Young Farmers Award

Attended by:

Mayor Johnston

Cr Dudman

Community Event: Launceston City Football Club Sponsors Day

Cr Dudman

15 August 2023

Community Event: Cuppa with a Cop at Prospect Marketplace

Attended by:

Deputy Mayor Cameron

Cr House

19 August 2023

Community Event: Big Freeze for MND

Attended by:

Cr House

28 August 2023

Meeting: Westbury St Partick's Festival

Cr Loader

29 August 2023

Community Event: Melbourne Cup, Visitors Centre

Attended by:

Mayor Johnston

Cr Loader

Community Event: Westbury Primary School Assembly

Cr Dudman

1 September 2023

Community Event: Wheels4Work Trivia Night

Attended by:

Cr Dudman

Community Event: Cuppa with a Cop at Deloraine

Cr Loader

Community Event: Lift Local

Cr Loader

Cr Synfield

6 September 2023

Community Event: Blackstone Heights Community News Association

Attended by:

Cr Synfield

Cr Loader

Meeting: Great Western Tiers Tourism Association

Cr Loader

Meeting: Westbury Backyard Bandicoots

Cr Loader

8 September 2023

Community Event: Westbury Community Tea

Attended by:

Cr Dudman

Councillor Announcements & Acknowledgements

Nil

Minute reference: 226/2023

Petitions

Nil.

Minute reference: 227/2023

Community Representations

Nil requests received.

Community representations are an opportunity for community members or groups to request up to three minutes to address Council on a topic of particular interest.

Requests received at least fourteen days prior to a Council Meeting will be considered by the Chairperson. For further information, contact the Office of the General Manager on (03) 6393 5317 or email ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au.

Minute reference: 228/2023

Public Question Time

This Month's Public Questions With Notice

Question 1: *Tanya King, Westbury (received via email)*

Could Council please advise when Jones Street South, and South Street will be sealed, commensurate with the development, and increased traffic movements as a direct result of the subdivision of the property?

Dino De Paoli, Director Infrastructure Services advised Council's forward works program does not include capital works for the bitumen sealing of Jones Street South or South Street. Council last considered the sealing of gravel roads in Westbury in 2018, however, did not support any funding at that point in time.

Question 2: *Craig Zimitat, Deloraine (received via website)*

In February 2023, the Integrity Commission Tasmania released a report on systemic misconduct risks in recruiting local government employees in Tasmania, as identified in an investigation into alleged misconduct in eight recruitments at one Tasmanian council. The recruitments investigated by the Commission showed a lack of proper recruitment policy and procedure. The report focused on four systemic issues identified in the investigation: (i) the lack of requirement to apply the merit principle, (ii) an absence of model policies and procedures, including relating to direct appointments, (iii) inadequate record keeping practices, and (iv) poor understanding, identification and management of conflicts of interest.

Since that report, what steps have the General Manager and Councillors of Meander Valley Council taken to ensure the community has confidence in the integrity of its recruitment and appointment processes?

Mayor Wayne Johnston advised that Council is aware of the Integrity Commission report. The report recommends that the Minister for Local Government and Planning develop a model recruitment policy for Tasmanian councils and we will consider this model policy when received. Councillors fully considered all options when appointing the new General Manager. Advice was provided to Councillors on behalf of the Director of Local Government. Council is required to make appointments of the general manager in accordance with sections 61 and 61A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as amended by the Tasmanian Government from time to time. The general manager of Council makes appointments in accordance with section 63 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as amended by the Tasmanian Government from time to time. Council has an internal Recruitment Policy and Recruitment Process to guide employee appointments

by the general manager. No changes to the Recruitment Policy and Recruitment Process have been made since February 2023.

Question 3: *Annette Camino, Hagley (received via email and website)*

Any updates on the installation of the Westbury Dump Point?

Dino De Paoli, Director Infrastructure Services advised there are no updates since the correspondence provided to Mrs Camino dated 11 July 2023 which was "We are currently undertaking a process to prioritize completion of projects carried forward from last financial year as well as the new projects adopted by Council, however, I have requested my team to progress with work on the dump point as soon as possible. Note as per previous advice from Council, we will also make contact with the CMCA once we are ready to commence." Council officers are working through a period of high workload at the present time.

Minute reference: 229/2023

This Month's Public Questions Without Notice

Question 1: *Debbie Smith*

a) How can Meander Valley Council guarantee there will be no nepotism or cronyism during the selection of a lessee for the Deloraine Caravan Park ?

b) will council commit to a fair and transparent process to tender for the operation of the caravan park, given that there has been interest demonstrated by multiple parties?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised For a long time Council has had the Deloraine caravan park along the riverbank between the Pool and the Wildwood area. Council renegotiated lease from state government at the end of last year, we have already made those arrangements. The Apex club of Deloraine is the current manager of the site, they do not have a current lease but they do have a constructive lease where the conditions of their lease have finished but they have continued to maintain the site in accordance with what would have been the conditions.

Council have not made a decision on the way forward, we have had a discussion at 3 workshops that I have been involved with and more recently we had a discussion at the July Council workshop, which Deloraine House sent an email, to which I replied, and we had a meeting in early August about another matter. Subsequently we had a discussion at the August workshop and discussion with the operators, we met with them onsite

and discussed how they have been managing the site, the lease arrangements, and their intentions for the future. Council have invited the operators to have a discussion with the Councillors, Council will form a decision in the future and that will either be in open or closed Council before entering into any lease, we haven't made a decision on a way forward, I have relayed Deloraine Houses interest in the site to the Councillors.

Question 1: *Tanya King of Westbury*

What due diligence have council conducted with regard to the Apex club's operation for the caravan park, and in particular what financial documentation has been submitted by Apex to Council?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised Apex haven't submitted financial documentation to Council in recent times, that's not to say that they haven't earlier in their management of the site, in recent history, in the last 10 years they wouldn't have submitted their financial reporting however I actually raised that point with the Apex club when I recently caught up with them on site and there response to that was as a public organisation their financial information is publicly available.

Question 1: *Tanya King of Westbury*

What date did zoning change and in particular when the specific area plan for Westbury was implemented?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised the question is taken on notice.

Minute reference: 230/2023

Councillor Question Time

This Month's Councillor Questions With Notice

Question 1: Councillor John Temple

Question without notice at past Council Meeting (August 2023) taken on notice

Has any correspondence been received in relation to the letter we wrote to the state government relating to Swapping proposed prison for a stadium?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised an email was sent with a letter to The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Premier of Tasmania on 16 May 2023 regarding council decision 110/2023 formed on 9 May 2023. We do not have a record of a response to the letter.

Minute reference: 231/2023

This Month's Councillor Questions Without Notice

Question 1: Councillor Loader

Is it possible to have a timeline as to when we can expect the Westbury dump point? and has a site been chosen?

Mayor Wayne Johnston advised that the question is taken on notice.

Question 2: Councillor Dudman

I would like some clarification regarding Tanya's question, the General Manager said financial documentation has not been submitted from the constructive lease, is it a requirement that the financials be provided to us as the Lessor?

General Manager Jonathan Harmey advised that from my reading, the lease from 1986 has reporting obligations that we haven't been provided, there were discussions about a new lease between 2002 – 2005 where the conditions were different, but it was never finalised.

Question 3: *Councillor Temple*

Has there been any further updates regarding the Northern Regional Prison Project since our last meeting?

General Manager Jonathan Harmey advised that we have not received any correspondence relating the State Governments proposed prison project.

Minute reference: 232/2023

Infrastructure Services

Proposed Road Names - Country Club Estate, Prospect Vale

Report Author Marthie Bester
Administration Officer Infrastructure Services

Authorised by Dino De Paoli

Motion That Council approves, pursuant to Section 11 of the *Place Names Act 2020*, the proposed 13 new road names for the Country Club Estate subdivision as listed in Table 1 below.

Moved Councillor Lochie Dornauf

Seconded Councillor Kevin House

Votes for Mayor Wayne Johnston
Councillor Lochie Dornauf
Councillor Ben Dudman
Councillor Kevin House
Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader
Councillor Rodney Synfield
Councillor John Temple

Votes against Nil

Abstained Nil
To abstain from voting at a Council Meeting is to vote in the negative: *Local Government Act 2015: s28*.

Motion carried by simple majority

Minute reference: 233/2023

Infrastructure Services

Review of 2023-24 Capital Works Program Budgets

Report Author Dino De Paoli
Director Infrastructure Services

Authorised by Dino De Paoli

Motion That Council approves:

1. The receipt of grant funding contributions from Phase 4 of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) of \$1,378,667 for allocation to current and proposed capital works projects; and
2. In line with Section 82(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, budget variation to capital grant revenue for 2023-24 of \$689,334 reflecting 50% of the LRCI grants due upon signing.
3. In line with Section 82(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, budget variations to the Capital Works Program for 2023-24, in Attachment 1 titled "Proposed Capital Works Project Adjustments", noting an overall increase in the value of the program by \$1,411,500.

Moved Councillor Ben Dudman

Seconded Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Votes for Mayor Wayne Johnston
Councillor Lochie Dornauf
Councillor Ben Dudman
Councillor Kevin House
Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Votes against Councillor Rodney Synfield

Councillor John Temple

Abstained Nil

To abstain from voting at a Council Meeting is to vote in the negative: *Local Government (Meeting Procedure) Regulations 2015: s28.*

Motion carried by absolute majority

Minute reference: 234/2023

Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron returned to the meeting at 3:21 pm.

Motion to Close Meeting

Motion Close the meeting to the public for discussion of matters in the list of agenda items below.

See Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: s15(1).

Moved Councillor Michael Kelly

Seconded Councillor Ben Dudman

Votes for Mayor Wayne Johnston
Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron
Councillor Lochie Dornauf
Councillor Ben Dudman
Councillor Kevin House
Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader
Councillor Rodney Synfield
Councillor John Temple

Votes against Nil

Motion carried by absolute majority

Minute reference: 235/2023

Closed Session Agenda

Confirmation of Closed Minutes

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: s34(2)*.

Minute reference: 236/2023

Leave of Absence Applications

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: s15(2)(h)*.

Minute reference: 237/2023

Audit Panel Membership

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: s15(2)(d) regarding contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

Minute reference: 238/2023

Contract No. 251 – 2022-23 - Mount Leslie Road, Prospect Vale - Extension of Existing Road

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: s15(2)(d) regarding contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

Minute reference: 239/2023

Contract No. 252 – 2023-24 Asphalt and Bituminous Sealing of Roads

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: s15(2)(d) regarding contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

Minute reference: 240/2023

Release of Public Information

Motion The following decisions taken by Council in Closed Session are to be released for the public's information:

1. Council approved tenders for Contract 251 and Contract 252.

Moved Councillor Michael Kelly

Seconded Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron

Votes for Mayor Wayne Johnston
Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron
Councillor Lochie Dornauf
Councillor Ben Dudman
Councillor Kevin House
Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader
Councillor Rodney Synfield
Councillor John Temple

Votes against Nil

Abstained Nil

To abstain from voting at a Council Meeting is to vote in the negative: *Local Government (Meeting Procedure) Regulations 2015: s28.*

Motion carried by simple majority

Minute reference: 241/2023

Meeting End

Meeting closed at 3:48 pm.

.....
Mayor Wayne Johnston



Chairperson