



Meander Valley Council
Working Together

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 14 May 2024


Time 3.01pm

Location Council Chambers
26 Lyall Street
Westbury, Tasmania

Telephone (03) 6393 5300

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Opening of Meeting - Attendance and Apologies

Meeting opened at 3:01pm.

Chairperson Mayor Wayne Johnston

Councillors Present Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron
Councillor Ben Dudman
Councillor Kevin House
Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Anne-Marie Loader
Councillor Rodney Synfield
Councillor John Temple
Councillor Daniel Smedley

Apologies Nil

Officers Present	Jonathan Harmey	General Manager
	Wezley Frankcombe	Manager Governance and Performance
	David Murray	Director Infrastructure Services
	Craig Davis	Director Corporate Services
	Matthew Millwood	Director Works
	Krista Palfreyman	Director Development and Regulatory Services
	Madeline McKinnell	Team Leader Environmental Health
	John Chrispijn	Project Manager Waste Services
	Linda Butler	Team Leader Project Delivery
	Wade Heatley	Team Leader Compliance and Regulation
	Anthea Rooney	Governance Officer

Acknowledgment of Country

I begin today by acknowledging the Pallitore and Panninher past peoples, the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we gather today and I pay my respects to Elders past and present. I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

Confirmation of Minutes

Motion That Council receives and confirms the Minutes of the last Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 April 2024.

Moved Councillor Ben Dudman

Seconded Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield, Councillor John Temple and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Nil

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 056/2024

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mayor Wayne Johnston

Agenda Item Governance – Agenda Item 12.1 – Attendance at Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly

Closed Council – Agenda Item 3.1 – Leave of Absence Applications

Action Mayor elected to leave Chambers during discussion and voting on the listed Agenda Items.

Council Workshop Report

Topics Discussed – 23 April 2024

Bus Tour Capital Works Program

Councillors visited identified Capital Works Program proposals in Carrick, Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights.

2024-25 Environmental Health Fees

Councillors reviewed recommended environmental health fees and charges for the 2024-25 financial year.

2024-25 Dog Registration Fees

Councillors reviewed recommended dog registration fees and charges for the 2024-25 financial year.

Cat Management – Community Education

Councillors were provided with an overview of proposed upcoming community education program regarding responsible cat ownership.

Depot – Tender Pricing and Approved Budget

Councillors received an update and provided direction regarding the depot project.

External Presentation – Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program

Councillors received a presentation from NRM North on the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers program.

Deloraine Waste Transfer Station Design Update

Councillors received an update on the Deloraine Waste Transfer Station design elements.

Deloraine Racecourse Precinct Masterplan Consultation

Councillors received an update on the final Racecourse Masterplan and proposed timeframe for community promotion.

Project Overview – Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights Structure Plan

Councillors received a briefing on the Prospect Vale – Blackstone Heights Structure Plan Review prior to public consultation.

Advertising Sale of Public Land

Councillors received an update on the proposed process and timeline for advertising the intention to dispose of public land.

Budget Adjustments – Capital Works Program Projects

Councillors provided input and direction into the preferred options for a budget adjustment for the completed road reseal program.

2024-25 Capital Works Program

Councillors were presented with the draft of the 2024-25 Capital Works Program prior to presentation at a Council Meeting.

Councillor Loader – Food Security

Councillors discussed food security and homelessness in the Meander Valley municipality.

Councillor Temple – Cultural Exchange/Economic Development – Proposed Project

Councillors continued discussion on a proposed new project.

Items for Noting

Review of Policy No. 13: Subdivision Servicing

Mayor and Councillors' Reports

Councillors' Official Activities and Engagements Since Last Meeting

Mayor Wayne Johnston

Attended the following events:

- 18 April 2024 – Meander Valley Council Combined Staff Meeting
- 22 April 2024 – TasWater Meeting
- 25 April 2024 – Presented at the Deloraine ANZAC Day Services
- 11 May 2024 – SES Dinner

Councillor Ben Dudman

Attended the following events:

- 25 April 2024 – Presented at the Westbury ANZAC Day Service

Councillor Kevin House

Attended the following events:

- 12 April 2024 – Westbury Shamrocks Dinner
- 16 April 2024 – Carrick Hall Committee Meeting
- 25 April 2024 – Presented at the Carrick and attended the Deloraine ANZAC Day Services

Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Attended the following events:

- 16 April 2024 – Mole Creek Progress Association Meeting
- 22 April 2024 – Westbury St Patrick Day Festival Meeting
- 24 April 2024 – Great Western Tiers Tourism Association Meeting
- 25 April 2024 – Presented at the Carrick and Mole Creek ANZAC Day Services
- 29 April 2024 – Mole Creek Swimming Pool Committee Meeting
- 1 May 2024 – Blackstone Heights Community News Group Meeting
- 8 May 2024 – Learning and Development Framework Community Consultation

Councillor Rodney Synfield

Attended the following events:

- 25 April 2024 - Attended the Deloraine ANZAC Day Service

Councillor John Temple

Attended the following events:

- 25 April 2024 - Presented at the Hagley ANZAC Day Service

Councillor Daniel Smedley

Attended the following events:

- 25 April 2024 - Presented at the Carrick ANZAC Day Service

Councillors' Announcements and Acknowledgements

Mayor Wayne Johnston acknowledged the Meander Valley Rescue Unit's 40th Annual Report of the local SES branch and provided highlights of the report noting that it is a valuable organisation operating in the Meander Valley municipality by highly skilled volunteers.

Councillor Anne-Marie Loader noted communications received from the Westbury and Hagley RV Parks has highlighted the success of the new RV dump points.

Councillor Ben Dudman noted the contributions and work of the Rural Youth Tasmania group in the staging of AGFEST 2024.

Councillor Kevin House advised of the success of the recent Carrick ANZAC Day Service and thanked those who participated and attended, noting that the event is becoming very popular and attendance is rising.

Public Question Time

Public Questions With Notice

Questions

Liam Harrex – Blackstone Heights Capital Works Program – Submitted via email on 19 April 2024

1. In March 2023, I was advised that Councillor Loader, with the support of Councillors Dudman and House, had put forward a capital works request to expedite the footpath program in Blackstone Heights. Can the Council please provide an update on the progress of expanding the footpath network in Blackstone Heights, particularly in Kelsey, Longvista and Panorama Roads to the existing path network?

Matthew Millwood, Director Works, advised that, subject to Council approval, the Council's Officers have included footpath design and construction projects for the Blackstone Heights area in the Draft 2024-25 Capital Works Program. The 2024-25 Capital Works Program will be considered at the June 2024 Council Meeting.

Public Questions Without Notice

Questions

Steve Gregory - Meander Valley VOICES Workshops

1. With regard to the Council's VOICES Workshops, how many people attended the first Workshop at Deloraine, how many of the 20,000 municipal residents contributed to the planning activity, what analysis does the Council take from that participation of approximately 200 residents, is there a post-activity report that the Council produces from the activity to identify lessons for future consideration and has there been any survey conducted amongst those who did attend to provide feedback on the process?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised that around 25 people attended the first Workshop, around 150 community members attended the Meander Valley VOICES Workshops, around 30 residents participated via survey feedback and the Council participated in over 100 one-on-one meetings with residents.

With regard to the analysis being undertaken by the Council following the Workshops - the Council's Officers are currently working on a summary and it will be provided back to Workshop participants, then a Draft Community Strategic Plan will be approved by Council where residents will again have the chance for further input prior to the Plan being finalised.

2. Why did only 200 people contribute to the Workshops - is it the Council's on-line website Communication Strategy that is causing a problem?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised that information referred to in the question is currently available on-line via the Council's website at meander.tas.gov.au - under Community Events - Community Consultation - Meander Valley VOICES Consultation [The Council has received many comments from community members on matters relating to the Council and these will be considered during future consultation].

3. With reference to the Eastern Play Spaces Strategy - is there a strategy for the eastern part of the Meander Valley, is there one for Westbury and how does it link in to what is the township strategy for Westbury?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised that on the Council's website - Your Council - Development Plans and Supporting Documents, there are a number of documents referring to aspects of your question, including a Westbury Outline Development Plan. The Westbury Streetscape Project, which is an important community project, is available via the Council's website and FaceBook pages for reference. The Council will consider Play Space Strategies for other areas of the municipality in the future.

Questions

Helen Hutchinson - Homelessness in the Meander Valley

1. [With regard to homelessness in the municipality] and given the extreme difficulty of renting accommodation in Meander Valley, the social and personal risks of living in tents and cars and the increasing climate risks of extreme cold, rainy or hot weather, will the Meander Valley Council change the number of days' residence at the Deloraine Campground to allow permanent accommodation and provide toilets, showers and laundry facilities for those living there?

Jonathan Harmey, General Manager advised that State Government legislation currently restricts the temporary nature of accommodation and the number of days available for length of stay, therefore, it is probably not an option for the Council to investigate at the present time, regardless whether the Council would invest money into this. The Council is aware of homelessness in the Meander Valley and Councillors have discussed the issue on a number of occasions. Social housing and support services, such as health, are generally a State Government responsibility, however, the Council actively encourages other support agencies to assist in this area.

Mayor Wayne Johnston noted that Councillors, as community leaders, have regularly discussed how the Council can assist with this issue and if an outside agency steps forward to take the lead in this space, the Council would again discuss the issue in terms of how the Council could assist and help. The Council is open to any suggestions that are forwarded to combat this problem.

2. Will the Meander Valley Council investigate building council accommodation for the homeless, instead of expensive upgrades to local football grounds, perhaps with input from community organisations such as Deloraine House or Meander House who are on the frontline of this social crisis?

Mayor Wayne Johnston responded by saying that *if there are community groups or organisations prepared to come forward, the Council will consider avenues of assistance.*

Councillor Question Time

Councillors' Questions With Notice

No Councillors' Questions With Notice were received for this Meeting

Councillors' Questions Without Notice

No Councillors' Questions Without Notice were Taken on Notice for the next Meeting and all Councillors' Questions Without Notice asked at the Meeting were responded to at the Meeting

Development and Regulatory Services

2024-25 Dog Registration Fees

Report Author Wade Hateley
Team Leader Compliance and Regulation

Authorised By Krista Palfreyman
Director Development and Regulatory Services

Motion That Council, pursuant to section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, adopts dog registration fees and charges for the 2024-25 financial year as provided in Table 2.

Moved Councillor Ben Dudman

Seconded Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 057/2024

Development and Regulatory Services

2024-25 Environmental Health Fees

Report Author Madeline McKinnell
Team Leader Environmental Health

Authorised By Krista Palfreyman
Director Development and Regulatory Services

Motion That Council, pursuant to section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, adopts the environmental health fees and charges for 2024-25 financial year as provided in Table 2.

Moved Councillor Kevin House

Seconded Councillor Ben Dudman

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 058/2024

Corporate Services

Audit Panel Minutes - 26 March 2024

Report Author Craig Davies
Director Corporate Services

Authorised By Jonathan Harmey
General Manager

Motion That Council receives the Minutes of the Audit Panel Meeting, held on 26 March 2024 provided in Attachment 1.

Moved Councillor Kevin House

Seconded Councillor Ben Dudman

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 059/2024

Infrastructure Services

Bass Highway Sign Ownership State Government

Report Author Linda Butler
Team Leader Project Delivery

Authorised By David Murray
Director Infrastructure Services

Motion That Council declines the request from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Parks and Wildlife Service) to transfer responsibility for the land surrounding the visitor information bay located on Crown Land on the western approach to Deloraine on the Bass Highway.

Moved Councillor Ben Dudman

Seconded Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Motion carried by absolute majority

Resolution: 060/2024

Infrastructure Services

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-33

Report Author Linda Butler
Team Leader Project Delivery

Authorised By David Murray
Director Infrastructure Services

Motion That Council approves the *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-33* as provided in Attachment 1.

Moved Councillor Ben Dudman

Seconded Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 061/2024

Governance

Attendance at Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly

Report Author Jonathan Harmey
General Manager

Mayor Wayne Johnston left the Meeting at 3:51pm

Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron assumed the Chair at 3:51pm

Motion That Council approves the Mayor's attendance at the 2024 Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly with related costs for attendance met by the Council's operating budget.

Moved Councillor Michael Kelly

Seconded Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Votes For Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Absent Mayor Wayne Johnston

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 062/2024

Mayor Wayne Johnston returned to the meeting at 3:52pm

Mayor Wayne Johnston resumed the Chair at 3:51pm

Governance

Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Membership Agreement

Report Author Jonathan Harmey
General Manager

Motion That Council:

1. confirms Meander Valley Council's continuation as a member of the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2028 (Attachment 1); and
2. approves the General Manager to negotiate the terms and conditions as necessary and execute the membership agreement.

Moved Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Seconded Councillor Rodney Synfield

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 063/2024

Governance

Western Tiers Film Society Gifted Assets

Report Author Jonathan Harmey
General Manager

Motion That Council agrees to take over the assets proposed to be gifted from the Western Tiers Film Society, in accordance with Meander Valley Council Policy No. 78: New and Gifted Assets.

Moved Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Seconded Councillor Ben Dudman

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Councillor John Temple

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 064/2024

Motion to Close Meeting

Motion That Council closes the Meeting to the public for discussion of matters in the list of Agenda Items below.
See Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: section 15(1).

Moved Councillor Ben Dudman

Seconded Councillor Kevin House

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Nil

Motion carried by absolute majority

Resolution: 065/2023

Closed Session Agenda

Confirmation of Closed Minutes

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: section 34(2).

Leave of Absence Applications

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: section 15(2)(h).

Recyclables Material Recovery Facility Operation Arrangement

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: section 15(2)(d) regarding contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

2024-25 Capital Works Program

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: section 15(2)(d) regarding contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

Contact No. 258 – 2023-24 Construction of New Works Depot, Roxford Avenue, Westbury

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: section 15(2)(d) regarding contracts, and tenders, for the supply of goods and services and their terms, conditions, approval and renewal.

Release of Public Information

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*: section 15(8).

Release of Public Information

Motion That Council authorises the General Manager to release information relating to Contract No. 258 – 2023-24 Construction of New Works Depot, Roxford Avenue, Westbury.

Moved Councillor Anne-Marie Loader

Seconded Councillor Ben Dudman

Votes For Mayor Wayne Johnston, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Cameron, Councillor Ben Dudman, Councillor Kevin House, Councillor Michael Kelly, Councillor Anne-Marie Loader, Councillor Rodney Synfield and Councillor Daniel Smedley

Votes Against Nil

Motion carried by simple majority

Resolution: 074/2024

Meeting End

The Meeting closed at 4:58pm.

.....
Mayor Wayne Johnston
Chairperson