

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 20 January 2015

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Evacuation and Safety:

At the commencement of the meeting the Mayor will advise that,

- Evacuation details and information are located on the wall to his left;
- In the unlikelihood of an emergency evacuation an alarm will sound and evacuation wardens will assist with the evacuation. When directed, everyone will be required to exit in an orderly fashion through the front doors and go directly to the evacuation point which is in the car-park at the side of the Town Hall.

Minutes of the general meeting of the Meander Valley Council held at the Council Chambers Meeting Room, 26 Lyall Street, Westbury, on Tuesday 20 January 2015 at 1.30pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Craig Perkins, Deputy Mayor Michael Kelly,

Councillors Tanya King, Ian Mackenzie, Andrew Connor, Bob Richardson, Rodney Synfield, Deb

White and Rodney Youd.

APOLOGIES: Greg Preece, General Manager, Matthew Millwood, Director

Works

IN ATTENDANCE: Rick Dunn, Acting General Manager

David Pyke, Director Governance & Community Services

Malcolm Salter, Director Corporate Services Martin Gill, Director Development Services Dino De Paoli, Director Infrastructure

Michael Pel, Acting Director Works Jonathan Harmey, Senior Accountant Lisa Doolan, Personal Assistant

227/2015 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Councillor Mackenzie moved and Councillor King seconded, "that the minutes of the Ordinary and Closed meeting of Council held on 9 December, 2014, be received and confirmed."

The motion was declared <u>CARRIED</u> with Councillors Perkins, Kelly, King, Mackenzie, Connor, Richardson, Synfield, White and Youd voting for the motion.

228/2015 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

Date :	Items discussed:
	• N/A

229/2015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

230/2015 TABLING OF PETITIONS:

A petition has been received from Hadspen residents raising concerns over an alleged breach of operating hours at the Red Feather Inn. The petition contains 23 signatures.

231/2015 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

232/2015 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE – January 2015

1.1 Mr Gerard Depuit

The following questions are for Council's Consideration

1.1.1) Regarding Domestic cats I would request the following actions:

Publicise cat owners responsibilities with special emphasis of their accountability to keep their cats within the confines of their own residential property and to detail actions that can legally be taken when their cats are left to stray on other properties by the owners of such properties.

As part of their obligations include compulsory micro chipping, desexing of cats and to forbid the sale of kittens unless registered breeders do so as part of their business.

Response by Martin Gill, Director Development Services Council officers will review the existing Cat Information page on the Meander Valley Council website.

http://www.meander.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=629

As a first step Council Officers will incorporate a link to the relevant cat management pages on the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and Environment.

http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/cat-management-in-tasmania

The current Cat Information website page will also be updated to include particular sections of the Cat Management Act 2009 which:

- set out owner responsibility for microchipping and desexing of cats.
- determine the extent to which land owners can protect their property from cats

1.1.2) Proliferation of Rabbits in the Deloraine Area

Regarding the proliferation of rabbits in the Deloraine area, specifically the surrounds of the Kingdom Hall on the western approach into Deloraine.

Council to initiate an eradication programme, whether by Council or another government agency, as this vermin is now encroaching on nearby properties and to advise residents of these properties as to what their legal status is regarding their options of exterminating this pest from their gardens.

Response by Martin Gill, Director Development Services

Council officers will contact the Invasive Species branch in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and Environment to ascertain if there are currently any rabbit management programs.

Council officers will discuss management options for land owners in urban areas and townships with the invasive species branch and provide this information through the website page, the Meander Valley Gazette and the Community news email distributed electronically by Meander Valley Council.

A good starting point for concerned residents is the information provided at the following Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and Environment website:

http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/invasive-animals/invasive-mammals/european-rabbits

Or residents can contact Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and Environment directly:

Invasive Species Enquiries Phone: 03 6777 2200

Email: invasivespecies@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

1.1.3) Invasion of non-native Species of Ducks and Geese – Meander River Precinct

Concerning the invasion of non-native species of ducks and geese in the Meander River precinct in Deloraine with the ever increasing consequence of fresh water contamination creating a potential health hazard, the negative and also hazardous impact on footpaths and a resultant offensive odour, as this vulnerable yet valuable asset needs to be vigorously promoted and protected.

Initiate an eradication programme with by Council or another government agency.

Response by Martin Gill, Director Development Services
The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and Environment do not categorise ducks and geese as invasive species.

In October 2014 Council officers undertook an assessment of the duck and geese numbers on the Deloraine river edge and deemed the numbers to be appropriate at the time, hence no culling was required.

Council will continue to monitor the numbers of birds to ensure that there are no adverse public effects.

2. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE – January 2015

Nil

233/2015 COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

1. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE – December 2014

Nil

2. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – January 2015

2.1 Cr A Connor – Blackstone Heights NBN

As some would know the fibre optic NBN is currently being rolled out in Blackstone Heights, unfortunately the NBN Company has deviated from its normal design standard and will instead use just a single connection into the suburb along the one road in/out of the suburb rather than two connections due to the cost of installing a second route for some 500m. Can Council obtain costings for a second connection into the suburb and lobby NBNCo or the Federal Government to ensure that this isolated suburb of over 100 residents will be properly served by Telecommunications particularly in times of emergencies.

Response by Dino De Paoli, Director Infrastructure

Following the issue of redundancy of supply of NBN services into Blackstone Heights being raised in November, the NBN's National Community Stakeholder Relations Manager has accepted an invitation to present to Councillors at the upcoming Council workshop on Tuesday 24th February, 2015. This workshop will provide an opportunity

for Councillors to be briefed on matters concerning current and future NBN works within the municipality, as well as seek clarification on specific issues affecting the Blackstone Heights area. Discussions at the workshop will assist Councillors and Council officers in determining whether lobbying of the NBN and/or Federal Government should be undertaken and the specific issues that need to be addressed. Previous and recent enquiries made to the NBN Co. to obtain information on typical construction costs have been unsuccessful due to commercial arrangements in place with suppliers to NBN Co., and the variation encountered across the range of new builds undertaken.

2.2 Cr B Richardson – Hawthorn Hedges

Councillors are no doubt aware of the significance of hawthorn hedges, particularly between Exton and Hagley. These hedges form an integral part of the landscape, which is commonly described as "more English then England".

It is understood that many of these mature hedges are heritage listed; in the view of many people many more should be (listed).

During recent weeks a significant proportion of those hedges between Exton and Hagley are exhibiting significant damage. About 600 mms= from the ground these hedges have browned, probably as the result of herbicide spraying.

1. Who, or what authority is responsible for roadside maintenance along Meander Valley Road between, Carrick and Exton?

Response by Matthew Millwood, Director Works Meander Valley Road roadside vegetation maintenance outside of the urban limits is managed by Department of State Growth (DoSG).

2. Can Council provide an explanation as to why such damage would be inflicted upon the hedges. I can think of two possible explanations: deliberate "vandalism" or carelessness. Are there further possibilities?

Response by Matthew Millwood, Director Works
Director Works has contacted the DoSG requesting advice to the browning of the
lower sections of the hawthorn hedges in the described locations. No response
to date has been received

3. Is the damage to the hawthorn hedges likely to be permanent?

Response by Matthew Millwood, Director Works Council Officers cannot provide comment on the likeliness of permanent damage to the hedge rows. This can only be assessed once DoSG have provided advice to Council in relation to the cause.

4. Are any of the properties fronting the affected spray – damaged areas either organically-certified, applying for organic certification, or have conservation covenants applying to them.

Response by Matthew Millwood, Director Works

There are no properties adjacent to the Meander Valley Road in the described locations that are currently organically certified or registered as a Tasmania Organic-Dynamic Producer (TOP). Council officers were unable to determine whether any properties are currently applying for organic certification. There are no conservation covenants within private property fronting Meander Valley Road between Deloraine and Hagley.

5. Will Council initiate an investigation into this incident and report to a future Council meeting how future such events can be prevented?

Response by Matthew Millwood, Director Works
Director Works will continue to seek response from DoSG in relation to this
matter but cannot provide any assurance that such events will not occur in the
future. Further information will be provided to Council when all relevant details
have been made available by DoSG.

2.3 Cr B Richardson – Upgrading of Facilities – Westbury Recreation Ground

Prior to the last State and Commonwealth parliamentary elections candidates were asked to comment upon funding contributions towards upgrading facilities at Westbury Recreation ground.

My recollection is that media reports indicated contributions of \$300,000 from the State Government (via Mr Shelton MHA) and that Mr Hutchinson, MHR indicated a positive stance towards a Federal contribution of up to \$500,000.

1. What has the response been from the State Government towards the project?

Response by Rick Dunn, Acting General Manager The Tasmanian Government has committed \$150 000 to the Westbury Recreation Ground Project in the 2015-2016 Financial Year."

2. Has Council sought funding from the Commonwealth Government towards this project? If so what has been the response?

Response by Rick Dunn, Acting General Manager Council sought financial support from a newly elected Australian Government of \$120 000 for the Westbury Recreation Ground Project. This request was presented to Lyons Candidates prior to the 2013 Federal Election and via Council's Priority Projects Lyons document. A commitment from the Australian Government to support Council's financial request has not been confirmed at this point.

2.4 Cr B Richardson – Roadside Maintenance – Meander Valley Road

It is now mid-January, 2015 and roadside maintenance on Meander Valley Road from Exton to Carrick (and probably beyond) has been minimal. Roadside rubbish along roadsides is only cleared by regular high winds!

Slashing of "overgrowth", including grass seems to have been non-existent, resulting in a fire hazard and producing unsightly entrances to towns such as Westbury. The interconnectors with the Bass Highway at Woodside and Birralee Road can only be described as being in a disgraceful condition.

1. Will Council contact the relevant State authority to fix the matter – NOW!!

Response by Matthew Millwood, Director Works
Director Works has contacted Department of State Growth (DoSG) requesting
advice regarding the vegetation growth on Meander Valley Road and the
schedule for roadside slashing within these locations. No response to date has
been received.

2.5 Cr D White – MVEC Inc 23rd Annual Report – Request for details to Supplement the Meander Valley Enterprise Centre Manager's Report

In the 2014 Meander Valley Enterprise Centre (MVEC) Annual Report, the Manager Mr Richard Millen reported on several areas of activity the MVEC had been involved in.

Can council officer's follow-up with MVEC on the questions I have asked below for additional information?

Response by Acting General Manager Rick Dunn Yes

Once the additional information has been provided, can this information be tabled at a 2015/2016 Council Workshop, prior to 2015/2016 budget deliberations for discussion?

Response by Acting General Manager Rick Dunn Yes

2.5.1 Paragraph 1 – Tourist Industry

Tourist Industry - TNT – "2014 has been about bringing the strategic direction of the Great Western Tiers Tourism Association into line with the objectives of Tourism Northern Tasmania (TNT). Visitor numbers to the GWT Visitor Centre were once again down on last year despite a 14% increase in overall visits to the state. A significant increase in Chinese tourists to our region has been experienced but this has been of little benefit to most local operators. The GWTTA reprinted its Visitor Guide for the period 2013/2014. Future promotional planning is likely to focus more closely on a digital interspersed with a mixture of media to take advantage of a similar strategy by TNT.

a) The Manager has stated that the objectives of GWTTA are aligned with those of TNT.

Question: What are these objectives?

b) The Manager has stated that visitor numbers to the GWT Visitor Centre were once again down on last year despite a 14% increase in overall visits to the state.

Question: By how much are numbers down?

c) The Manager stated that there has been a significant increase in Chinese tourists to our region.

Question: How many?

d) The Manager has stated future promotional planning is likely to focus more closely on a digital interspersed with a mixture of media.

Question: Will it or wont it?

e) The Manager stated we would take advantage of a similar strategy by TNT. **Question: Which strategy?**

2.5.2 Paragraph 2 – Deloraine on the Move

Through its Fightback! Campaign launched last year membership has grown to 190 (from a base of under 30). Although the campaign itself was a little disappointing it is planned to persist with it and to increase the promotional advertising effort. DOM has had a very active committee during the year and has many projects in the pipeline. It is planned to expand DOM over a wider geographical area and to incorporate the Westbury district. The next AGM for DOM is expected to formalise a change of name to Meander Valley On The Move and the hope is that membership may grow to over 250. The Product and Services Guide, part of the Fightback Campaign, has been a great success. The cost of printing this every year, however, is prohibitive. The committee plan to relaunch the DOM web site, making it more appropriate to a business association and incorporate a searchable data base which can include businesses from its wider geographic area.

a) The Manager stated that the Campaign for membership held last year was a little disappointing.

Question: How many gift vouchers were sold during campaign?

b) The Manager stated that DOM intends to increase the campaign with a promotional advertising effort.

Question: How and at what cost?

c) The Manager stated that DOM has had a very active committee.

Question: Who are they?

d) The Manager stated that the DOM committee has many projects in the pipeline.

Question: What are they?

e) The Manager stated that the DOM Committee plan to relaunch the DOM website making it more appropriate to a business association and incorporate a searchable data base which can include businesses form its wider geographic area.

Question: Will it or wont it?

2.5.3 Paragraph 3 – Rural Business Networking Group

Two network dinners have been held in 2014 -both sponsored by the guest speaker organisations (Activ8 me and NRM North). In both cases less than 20 participants attended.

a) The Manager stated that there were less than 20 participants.

Question: How many participants?

2.5.4 Paragraph 5 – Deloraine Digital Hub

We have now been hosting the Deloraine Digital Hub for 18 months. During this time we have met our KPIs and succeeded in persuading a number of clients that they need to purchase iPads. We are required to run 12 workshops every month and handle 40 one on one visitor sessions. The aim of the hub program is to demonstrate the power of the internet to people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience it.

The contract is not expected to be renewed at the end of 2014.

a) The Manager stated that we have met the KPI's

Question: What are the KPI's?

b) The Manager stated that they succeeded in persuading a number of clients to purchase iPads.

Question: How many?

c) The Manager stated that we are required to run 12 workshops every month and handle 40 one on one visitor sessions?

Question: Did these take place?

2.5.5 Concluding Paragraph

We continue to liaise with Council and are doing all possible to keep communication lines open and transparent. Combining the resources of Council, ERAG, MCEC, DOM and GWTTA for the greater good of the business community of Meander Valley is the predominant motivation.

a) The Manager stated that we are doing all possible to keep communication lines open and transparent.

Question: What is being done?

3. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE – January 2015

3.1 Cr R Synfield – Working Together

When did "Working Together" become our motto? (at least to year).

Question taken on notice.

3.2 Cr A Connor – Guidelines Governing Posting of Development Applications

Are there any guidelines governing the posting of Development Application notices on subject properties?

Sometimes they are placed in locations that are not easily accessible by foot (up steep banks) and at times they are left posted for weeks or months after the closing period for submissions.

Can this situation be examined and improved to make these notices more accessible and relevant to the benefit of residents.

Question taken on notice.

3.3 Cr A Connor - Amalgamations

When will this council discuss its position on amalgamations ahead of the meeting between Council representatives and the minister of Local Government on this subject?

Question taken on notice.

3.4 Cr B Richardson – Hobart City Council and LGAT

Some years ago Hobart City Council withdrew its membership of the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

Recently Mayor (I don't accept the concept of a "Lord Mayor" – it is anachronistic and outmoded) Sue Hickey advised that Hobart City Council would be re-joining LGAT.

My recollection of the media report was that Mayor Hickey considered it important to re-join LGAT because she, as HCC representative would be automatically on the LGAT committee which gave direct access to the Premier's "Council".

My further recollection is that waves were made within LGAT during HCC's self-impaired excommunication to remove HCC from that "Council" (or committee).

Question – Could Council comment upon that matter.

Question taken on notice.

3.5 Cr B Richardson – Public Comment upon the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Draft Management Plan

The weekend press of 17th January 2015 contained a public notice from the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage.

The Minister has invited public comment upon the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Draft Management Plan.

Representations can be made until Sunday, 22nd March 2015.

Question – Will Council form a Council sub-committee to consider the draft, given the Municipality's relationship, geographically to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area?

Question taken on notice.

234/2015 DEPUTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Nil

235/2015 NOTICE OF MOTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

236/2015 TASMANIAN BUILDING REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

1) Introduction

The purpose of this report is to gain Council endorsement of the Meander Valley Council submission to the Tasmanian Building Regulatory Framework Review.

2) Recommendation

It is recommended that Council endorse the submission to the Tasmanian Building Regulatory Framework Review in the form of the attached Response Paper following clarification of the Council position for the following:

- Recommendation 8,9, & 10
- Option 17

DECISION:

Cr Mackenzie moved and Cr Youd seconded "that Council:

Endorse the submission to the Tasmanian Building Regulatory Framework Review in the form of the attached Response Paper subject to the following:

- Supporting Option 11b
- Supporting Option 17a
- Supporting Option 31b
- Supporting all other recommendations 1-59 excluding 11a, 14, 17b and 17c, 18, 22, 24, 31a, 39, 40 and 42

The motion was declared <u>CARRIED</u> with Councillors Perkins, King, Mackenzie, White and Youd voting for the motion.

Cr Kelly, Cr Connor, Cr Richardson and Cr Synfield voting against motion.

<u>Comment – Cr Conn</u>or

Many of the suggested options in this review do little to simplify construction in Tasmania and cut so-called red tape.

New and increased fees, more levels of bureaucracy and less local involvement by councils do nothing to help residents with their projects and may even reduce safety levels.

This is yet another review that is being rammed through with minimal opportunity for consideration.

Industry deregulation is never done in the interest of the consumer and in this case it's removing yet another area of responsibility from council.

237/2015 ANNUAL PLAN – QUARTERLY REVIEW – DECEMBER 2014

1) Introduction

The purpose of this report is to consider the December quarterly review of the Annual Plan.

2) Recommendation

It is recommended that Council receive and note the Annual Plan review for the December 2014 quarter.

DECISION:

Cr White moved and Cr Connor seconded "that Council:

Receive and note the Annual Plan review for the December 2014 quarter.

The motion was declared <u>CARRIED</u> with Councillors Perkins, Kelly, King, Mackenzie, Connor, Richardson, Synfield, White and Youd voting for the motion.

238/2015 FINANCIAL REPORTS TO 31st DECEMBER 2014

1) Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present Council's financial reports up to 31 December 2014.

2) Recommendation

It is recommended that Council receive the following financial reports for the period ended 31 December 2014:

- i. Consolidated operating statement with accompanying operating statements for the key operational areas of Council.
- ii. Exceptions and trends report.
- iii. A detailed list of capital project expenditure to date.
- iv. A detailed list of capital resealing project expenditure to date.
- v. A detailed list of capital gravelling project expenditure to date.
- vi. A summary of rates outstanding, including a comparison with the level of outstanding rates for the same period last year.
- vii. Cash reconciliation & investments summary.

DECISION:

Cr Connor moved and Cr White seconded "that Council:

Receive the following financial reports for the period ended 31 December 2014:

- i. Consolidated operating statement with accompanying operating statements for the key operational areas of Council.
- ii. Exceptions and trends report.
- iii. A detailed list of capital project expenditure to date.
- iv. A detailed list of capital resealing project expenditure to date.
- v. A detailed list of capital gravelling project expenditure to date.
- vi. A summary of rates outstanding, including a comparison with the level of outstanding rates for the same period last year.
- vii. Cash reconciliation & investments summary.

The motion was declared <u>CARRIED</u> with Councillors Perkins, Kelly, King, Mackenzie, Connor, Richardson, Synfield, White and Youd voting for the motion.

239/2015 REVIEW OF BUDGETS FOR THE 2014-2015 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

1) Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on Capital Works projects budget variations, and seek Council approval for the reallocation of funding within the Capital Works Program where budget variations fall beyond the limit of the General Manager's financial delegation.

2) Recommendation

It is recommended that Council note the budget changes made by the General Manager under delegated authority and approve the following changes to the 2014-2015 Capital Works Program.

No.	Project Name	Original Budget	Variation	New Budget
6229	Roads: Marriott St, Westbury	\$223,000	-\$44,000	\$179,000
5259	Bridges: Lobster Creek Pool Rd, Caveside	\$280,000	-\$35,000	\$245,000
5290	Bridges: Mersey River Union Bridge Rd	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000
8710	Plant: 4.5 Tonne Truck (965)	\$49,000	-\$31,000	\$18,000
6512	Greater Western Tiers Visitor Information Centre - Bus Shelter	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
6550	Street Lighting Pole Replacements	\$0	\$16,000	\$16,000
8088	Las Vegas Reserve: Footpath on Jardine Cres	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000

DECISION:

Cr Mackenzie moved and Cr Richardson seconded "that Council:

Note the budget changes made by the General Manager under delegated authority and approve the following changes to the 2014-2015 Capital Works Program.

No.	Project Name	Original Budget	Variation	New Budget
6229	Roads: Marriott St, Westbury	\$223,000	-\$44,000	\$179,000
5259	Bridges: Lobster Creek Pool Rd, Caveside	\$280,000	-\$35,000	\$245,000
5290	Bridges: Mersey River Union Bridge Rd	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000
8710	Plant: 4.5 Tonne Truck (965)	\$49,000	-\$31,000	\$18,000
6512	Greater Western Tiers Visitor Information Centre - Bus Shelter	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
6550	Street Lighting Pole Replacements	\$0	\$16,000	\$16,000
8088	Las Vegas Reserve: Footpath on Jardine Cres	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000

The motion was declared <u>CARRIED</u> with Councillors Perkins, Kelly, King, Mackenzie, Richardson, Synfield, White and Youd voting for the motion.

Cr Connor voted against the motion.

<u>Comment - Cr Connor</u>

I do not support this motion because I am not convinced that the funds remaining for project 5118 (Council Chambers Audio Equipment) satisfy the requirements of the council motion on the subject unanimously passed at the May 2013 meeting. Specifically, that the project will deliver audio streaming of meetings to the Internet.

Councillor Mackenzie moved and Councillor King seconded "that, pursuant to Section 15(1) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations, Council close the meeting to the public."

240/2015 ITEMS FOR CLOSED SECTION OF THE MEETING:

GOV 2	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Nil	
Meeting close	d 2.44pm
CRAIG PERKIN	 S (MAYOR)