

dorset
C O U N C I L

Minutes

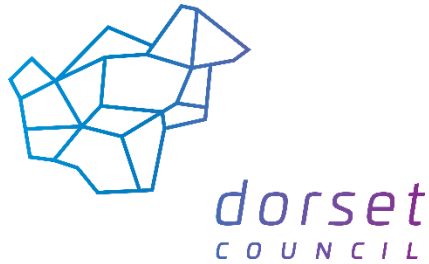
Annual General Meeting

15 March 2021

it's in the making

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Annual General Meeting Minutes 15 March 2021

The Meeting Opened: 6:00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

Crs Greg Howard (Mayor), Dale Jessup (Deputy Mayor), Leonie Stein, Jerrod Nichols, Wendy McLennan, Jan Hughes, Edwina Powell, Mervyn Chilcott

Council Officers:

General Manager: Tim Watson, Director – Community & Development: Rohan Willis, Director – Corporate Services: John Marik, Director – Works & Infrastructure: Dwaine Griffin, Finance Manager: Samantha Hunt

Electors of Dorset:

Lawrence Archer	Karl Willrath	Tony Scott (NE Advertiser)
Chloe Carey	Tracey Brown	Helen Shepherd
Gail Archer	Jacqui Moore	Ian Farley
Julie Farley	Elizabeth Hadley	Sarah Forsyth

Other:

Nil

Apologies:

Cr Murray Lade

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | MINUTES – 18 NOVEMBER 2019

Ref: DOC/19/12990

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Dorset Council Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2019, were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Dorset Council held on 16 December 2019, Minute No. 195/19.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Jessup | SECONDED: Cr Chilcott

For	20
Against	0
OUTCOME	Carried Unanimously

2. MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The Mayor, Councillor Greg Howard addressed the meeting in relation to the Council's achievements for the 2019/20 year in review and the Annual Report.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Ref: DOC/21/1482

The Dorset Council Annual Report 2019/20 has been publicly available from the Council Office or via the Council website since 24 February 2021. Council invited members of the community to provide submissions on the 2019/20 Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting. Written submissions were open until 4:00 pm, Wednesday 10 March 2021. The General Manager advises that 2 submissions were received and are listed below.

3.1 Submissions

Ross Watson, Scottsdale | 4 March 2021

Director – Corporate Services Mr John Marik in the Waste Management Strategy Final Report (Council Agenda Item 144/20) that an outcome of the waste strategy was a \$450,000 improvement in Council operational results per annum.

The 2020 Annual Report provides that \$1,341,000 was raised by way of Waste Management charges up from \$1,193,000 for 2019. The 2021 Budget provides that anticipated collection from Waste Management Charges to be \$1,348,000.

As can be seen there has been no reduction in charges commensurate with the savings reported.

I therefore submit that:

- 1. the identified savings should be returned to the ratepayers by reducing the waste management charges,*
- 2. future Annual Reports separately provide details of waste management expenses incurred, including depreciation, for the respective year.*

Officers Comments | Director – Corporate Services, John Marik:

(comments relating to 1. above)

1. When assessing waste charge income, Council combines the general rate and waste charges to ensure Council's cash flow requirements are appropriate to fund Council operations and the capital program. Council's general rate plus waste charges when combined are typically lower than other Northern Tasmanian Councils on a median house price basis.
2. Council's in-house waste management model today is very different to the out-sourced model prior to 2018/19 and is not comparable. This is due to significant improvement in service levels and an expansion of kerbside waste collection. Council has expanded kerbside collection to include Tomahawk, Port Hills and Gladstone.
3. When assessing revenues, Council Officers work 10 years out into the future in Council's Long Term Financial Plan to ensure cash generated is sufficient to maintain, renew and upgrade assets. Therefore, the assessment of financial information from a couple of years is too narrow a timeframe.

(comments relating to 2. above)

Council utilise model financial statements as specified by the Tasmanian Audit Office. The information alluded to here is something that is operational in nature and is more relevant to a management report and will not be included in Council's Annual Report.

Lawrence Archer, Bridport | 10 March 2021

In relation to matters in the annual report I lodge the following submissions.

- 1. The annual report shows there are 5 employees engaged on maintenance of the Derby bike trails. The financial burden of employee costs, materials, machinery and vehicles is not disclosed but must be substantial and is currently born by general ratepayers, the vast majority of whom do not use these facilities. Council should thoroughly investigate and seriously consider all possible options of applying user charges on trail riders to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers.*
- 2. The annual report also shows that the Council incurred a loss of \$913,000 on Aminya operations in the financial year. I submit that Council hold a public presentation to explain recent developments and provide detail of Council's financial involvement and ongoing financial support.*
- 3. Section 72.1 (cb) of the Local Government Act requires that the annual report contain "a statement of the total allowances and expenses paid to the mayor, deputy mayor and councillors;" Page 77 of the annual report shows the collective total paid to all elected members and not the allowances and expenses paid to each. This should have been reported on page 26 under "Legislative Reporting*

Requirements.” The Council should publish an update disclosing the required information.

Officers Comments | General Manager, Tim Watson:

(comments relating to 1. above)

The General Manager and Mayor have explained on numerous occasions that due to the size of the trail network, it is impractical to collect user charges from riders. Due to these impracticalities Council focuses its efforts on raising revenue through a variety of other means.

(comments relating to 2. above)

Council has publicly disclosed its financial exposure to the operational losses of the combined Aminya operation on multiple occasions. In addition, the Mayor and General Manager addressed a public meeting in 2016 which provided unanimous support for Council’s financial involvement in the rescue of aged care in the north east. The Mayor and North East Advertiser have regularly updated the community on the progress of the redevelopment and it is the General Manager’s understanding that the community is very supportive of Council’s involvement and contribution.

(comments relating to 3. above)

There is no requirement under the Act to disclose Councillor allowances and expenses on an individual basis. The relevant disclosure is made on Page 8 of the 2019/20 Annual Report in compliance with the requirements of Section 72 (1)(cb) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as this is the section of the report that pertains to Elected Members.

3.2 Questions

The Chair invited questions from the community in relation to the 2019/20 Annual Report.

Lawrence Archer, Bridport:

Doesn’t the Council discuss the submissions at all?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

No, there is no requirement for us to even answer them.

On page 23 of the Annual Report, under Tenders and Contracts, can you explain the last entry regarding the Bridport Caravan Park?

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

3.3 Motions

The Chair invited motions from the community in relation to the 2019/20 Annual Report.

Motion 1

MOVED: Lawrence Archer | SECONDED: Karl Willrath

That future Annual Reports separately provide details of waste management expenses incurred including depreciation for the respective year.

DECISION

For	3
Against	13
<i>Didn't Participate in Vote</i>	4
OUTCOME	Motion Lost

Motion 2

MOVED: Lawrence Archer | SECONDED: Gail Archer

That Council should thoroughly investigate and seriously consider all possible options of applying user charges on trail riders to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers.

DECISION

For	2
Against	13
<i>Didn't Participate in Vote</i>	5
OUTCOME	Motion Lost

Motion 3

MOVED: Lawrence Archer | SECONDED: Gail Archer

I submit that Council hold a public presentation to explain recent developments and provide detail of Council's financial involvement and ongoing financial support.

DECISION

For	4
Against	11
<i>Didn't Participate in Vote</i>	5
OUTCOME	Motion Lost

4. TIME MEETING CLOSED: 6:28 pm

Minutes Confirmed:

7 December 2021 Annual General Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. H. A.', written over a dotted line.

Mayor