



dorset
C O U N C I L

Minutes

Council Meeting

24 April 2023

it's in the making

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Council Meeting Minutes 24 April 2023

Meeting Opened: 6:00 pm

Present: Crs Greg Howard (Mayor), Dale Jessup (Deputy Mayor), Edwina Powell, Mervyn Chilcott, Kahlia Simmons, Leonie Stein, Anna Coxen, Jerrod Nichols, Beth Donoghue

General Manager: John Marik

Apologies: Assistant General Manager/Director – Community & Development: Rohan Willis, Finance Manager: Allison Saunders

Item 42/23 **Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – 20 March 2023**
Ref: DOC/23/3390

The Chair reported that he had viewed the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 20 March 2023 finds them to be a true record and recommends that they be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Powell | **SECONDED:** Cr Chilcott

That the Minutes of Proceedings of the Dorset Council Ordinary Meeting held on 20 March 2023 having been circulated to all Councillors, be confirmed as a true record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 43/23 **Confirmation of Agenda**

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Jessup | **SECONDED:** Cr Donoghue

That Council confirm the Agenda and order of business for the 24 April 2023 Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* and Council's adopted Code of Conduct, the Mayor requests Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have a pecuniary interest (any pecuniary interest or pecuniary detriment) or conflict of interest in any item on the Agenda.

INTEREST DECLARED

Nil

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Councillors and the community with a briefing on matters of interest dealt with during the past month by Council's Management Team.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Stein | SECONDED: Cr Jessup

That the Management Team Briefing Report be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 April | Briefing Workshop

Nil

The following questions were **taken on notice** from members of the public at the 20 March Council Meeting:

Terry Smith, Derby

(In relation to Cascade Dam Road)

Does Council have any estimate of the amount of Council work hours and public money it is prepared to throw at this ever problematic road safety exempt white elephant of a Council road?

Response from General Manager, John Marik

Council received a grant of \$400,000 through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund to undertake safety upgrades to the Cascade Dam Road. While I cannot provide you with exact work hours expended on the project due to the voluminous nature of this request, Council has expended approximately \$240,000 to date, with approximately \$160,000 for hotmix and seal repairs yet to be expended.

Jo Ambrosi (property owner in Derby but reside on the mainland)

In regards to waste management, I've noticed that Nigel's Plumbing comes and empties all the on-site waste management systems in the area. When I costed companies to empty waste from my septic tank, it was 15% more expensive than the local company. Is Council getting a good rate from this contractor?

Response from General Manager, John Marik

Council is getting value for money from the current contractor. Council require a service that operates on very short notice due to the fluctuating visitation numbers at Derby and the impact on septic systems. The local contractor was approached to tender and declined the offer. Council have also approached other contractors to tender for this service, however they were either unsuitable or could not meet the tender requirements.

The following questions were received on notice from a member of the public:

Karl Willrath | Scottsdale – 13 April 2023

Last month I placed two questions on notice through the Dorset Council contact page of which I received an acknowledgement for the questions within minutes, I am now of the understanding that this acknowledgement was a generated response and the questions did not actually get through to a human so they could be dealt with at the March meeting. Thus, my first question of three for the 24 April 2023 meeting is:

- 1. Does Dorset Council currently use artificial-intelligence (AI) e.g. ChatGPT or are they thinking of getting some?*

Response from General Manager, John Marik:

Council currently do not broadly use artificial intelligence, however, I am personally investigating how artificial intelligence may be incorporated into Council operations in the future.

My second question of three for the 24 April 2023 meeting is:

- 2. Does Mayor Howard think it would be prudent of him to make a public apology to Mr Vincent Teichmann for comments made by the Mayor in regards to Mr Teichmann at the 16 Jan 2023 and the March 20 2023 meetings and follow up with a genuine attempt to make sure this apology is accepted and the situation is resolved?*

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

No.

At the June 28 2021 meeting I asked the following question: "In the three financial years before GM Watson recommended Mayor Howard be supplied with a fully funded vehicle, how many kilometres did Mayor Howard claim for in each given year"? of which I received the following response from GM Tim Watson - "The request is voluminous and the allocation of staff resources cannot be justified".

- 3. As there was a perceived bias by GM Tim Watson in this matter, if I were to ask GM John Marik the same question that I posed on 28 June 2021 would he be able to answer it with facts and figures?*

Response from General Manager, John Marik

Yes, Council can supply the facts and figures to your question, see below. I will qualify the below kilometre claims made by the Mayor. The Mayor historically only claimed for trips outside of the Dorset municipality which are estimated at approximately 25% of actual kilometres travelled whilst undertaking Council duties. The Council supplied Pajero had an odometer reading of 105,000kms at October 2022.

Response from Finance Manager, Allison Saunders:

Mayor Greg Howard submitted travel reimbursement claims for the following:

Mitsubishi Pajero purchased 31/10/2019:

2020 FY until purchase (4 months) – 3,133 km

2019 FY: 7,965 km

2018 FY: 8,189 km

2017 FY: 14,460 km

2016 FY: 7,935 km

Total km's: 41,682

The following questions were received without notice from members of the public:

Mary Schramm, Ringarooma

Could Council consider undertaking an active revegetation program on the hills surrounding the Ringarooma River Bridge after the hills were left bare post road reconstruction works completed by Council four or five years ago?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

As previously advised, there is a considerable amount of rock in those road batters which is highly unlikely to grow any vegetation, however there has been considerable native vegetation regrowth on parts, with parts still exposed but the hills are not eroding severely. It would be money that Council would be spending without any real benefit I would of thought.

Vincent Teichmann, Pioneer

I have a question for the General Manager on what Dorset Council's procedures are if Dorset Council receives any complaints about Derby shuttle drivers professional driving?

Response from General Manager, John Marik:

Council don't have a written policy / procedure, but Officers would refer the complainant to Tasmania Police.

What records are there of any complaints received by Dorset Council regarding any Derby shuttle drivers?

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

What evidence was submitted to support any complaint, how was such evidence handled and who was it passed on to, and when / how can I obtain a copy of any such evidence?

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Mary Schramm, Ringarooma

Is Council aware that considerable revegetation activity is taking place alongside the reconstructed sections of the Sideling, and would Council consider enquiring whether similar procedures could be applied to the bare, ugly and crumbling hillsides on either side to the approaches to the Ringarooma bridge?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

Erosion is minimal in that particular area. The processes being undertaken on the Sideling are expensive and State Government has a budget of \$120 million for the upgrade. You might not like the look of it but there is no environmental damage resulting from the area not being specifically revegetated.

Item 49/23 Deputations

Nil

Item 50/23 Councillor Question Time

The following questions were received without notice from Councillors:

Councillor Anna Coxen:

In the Bridreport there was an article about the rice grass in Trent Water at Bridport that was apparently eradicated a few years ago but there were signs there had been new growth. Can we work with Crown or NRM North to create a solution for this or express that we want to find a solution for the health of the river?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

Trent Water is totally controlled by MAST or Parks. Those sorts of issues are normally dealt with through the Bridport Coastal Care group run by Lou Brooker, of which there is a meeting this week or early next week. I'll mention it at the meeting and if there is an issue, they'll raise it with Parks.

Councillor Mervyn Chilcott:

The Sideling is progressing slowly, is there going to be any passing lanes?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

There are supposed to be pull off lanes for slow moving vehicles on those two large corners halfway up the Sideling above the top horseshoe, whether that eventuates I'm unsure. I understand that the piece near the turn off to Whish-Wilsons Road where the big thumb used to be, there was a pull off there that quite a few trucks used to utilise, they've fenced that in, which

is disappointing. There has been a number of enquiries and complaints to the Department of State Growth regarding this.

Once the Sideling is completed back to Minstone Road, what facility is Council allowing for b-doubles to enter into the improved road – are they likely to be going up King Street?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

Yes.

At one stage Carey's Road was discussed for possible improvement and use, is this still a possibility?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

That was discussed, however to improve the road to b-double standard would be at least an \$8-10 million project. At this stage, heavy vehicles instead of going up George Street they'll be going up King Street.

Can we revisit our Public Liability for Halls Policy in the district again? We're bragging that all our halls are free, well they're not free at all because you're looking at a couple of thousand in public liability and for a small group, it puts them at a disadvantage.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Councillor Leonie Stein:

In regards to Bridport Highway/Flinders Highway, the volume of big trucks that are using it, is there any way we can approach the State Government for them to revisit passing lanes on that highway?

Response from Mayor Greg Howard:

We can ask the question. There are some long straights along there that do allow for passing. Is that more important than the Waterhouse Road, for instance, which is actually quite dangerous to drive? Once the Sideling is finished in three or four years there will be a reduction in b-doubles.

Councillor Edwina Powell:

Regarding revegetation, there used to be a beautification committee with members of the public that looked at what the needs were in each town in terms of putting trees, shrubs or ground cover in. Is there any room for us to be able to look at how we could invite that same kind of public contribution and look at ways of addressing things like beautification of the towns?

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Item 51/23

Notices of Motion by Councillors

Nil

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to update Council and the community on progress of the 2022/23 Annual Plan as at 31 March 2023.

Recommendation

1. That Council defer Activity No. 5 (Council’s Enterprise System integration) of the Priority Action Plan provided within Council’s 2022/23 Annual Plan for completion during 2023/24.
 2. That the attached 2022/23 Annual Plan - March Quarterly Update be received and noted.
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DECISION

MOVED: Cr Stein | SECONDED: Cr Chilcott

1. That Council defer Activity No. 5 (Council’s Enterprise System integration) of the Priority Action Plan provided within Council’s 2022/23 Annual Plan for completion during 2023/24.
2. That the attached 2022/23 Annual Plan - March Quarterly Update be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is for Council to nominate a person for the position of Chair for the Blue Derby Operations Committee.

Recommendation

That Council appoint the General Manager as the Chair of the Blue Derby Operations Committee for a period of one year.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Jessup | SECONDED: Cr Simmons

That Council appoint the General Manager as the Chair of the Blue Derby Operations Committee for a period of one year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is for Council to nominate a person for the position of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.

Recommendation

That Council appoint John Marik as the Dorset Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for a term of 3 years.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Chilcott | SECONDED: Cr Powell

That Council appoint John Marik as the Dorset Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator for a term of 3 years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Time Meeting Closed: 6:50 pm

Minutes Confirmed: 15 May 2023

Minute No: 59/23



Mayor