



MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, 23 May 2023

Council Chambers,
Civic Centre, Stuart Highway, Katherine

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT **THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD ON THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE FIRST NATIONS** PEOPLE OF THE KATHERINE TOWNSHIP AND SURROUNDING COUNCIL COMMUNITIES. WE RECOGNISE THE FIRST NATIONS CULTURE AS ONE OF THE LONGEST SURVIVING CULTURES IN THE WORLD AND WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ELDERS BOTH PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

2 OPENING PRAYER

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

Mayor Elisabeth Clark declared the meeting open at 12.00pm

4 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Councillor Maddy Bower – via video conferencing
- Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn
- Councillor Amanda Kingdon
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath

OFFICERS

- Mr Brendan Pearce – A/Chief Executive Officer and Director Infrastructure and Environment
- Ms Rosemary Jennings – Director Community Services
- Mr Avtar Singh – Director of Corporate Services
- Amanda Haigh – Governance and Executive Officer (minute taker)
- Staff - 2

PUBLIC

6

4.1 APOLOGIES

The Mayor acknowledged Ingrid Stonhill, CEO as an appology.

4.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS

NIL

6 PRESENTATIONS FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES

NIL

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held On 26 April 2023

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-049-2023

Moved: Councillor Trembath

Seconded: Councillor Kingdon

That the minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 April 2023 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 5/0

Amendment to minutes – Fay Miller state funeral will be held on 26 May 2023 and include in general business National Sorry/ Healing Day will be held on 26 May 2023.

Request for update on Night Owl program taken on notice.

Centenary of Katherine 2026 Advisory Committee membership being finalised and first meeting scheduling in July 2023.

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE AND NOTE THE UPDATE FOR BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS AS AT 12 MAY 2023.

ITEM NOT DISCUSSED

9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

9.1 MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-050-2023

Moved: Councillor Kingdon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Coburn

1. That Council receive and note the Mayoral activities for the period to April 2023.

CARRIED 5/0

Update on old Foodladder site – council has not made a decision on the future of the site, the site visit identified the concrete under the shed is dangerous and the toilets have white ants through them. Council will engage an expert to assess the site structures before making any decision.

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-051-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn**Seconded:** Councillor Kingdon

1. That Council receive and note the Correspondence and Documents:
 - (a) Letter – Member for Arnhem – Thankyou – 3 May 2023

CARRIED 5/0

Cr Bower affirmed her involvement at the event as a community member.

11 PETITIONS

NIL

12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (MATTERS REFERRED TO THE AGENDA)

NIL

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

14.1 WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-052-2023

Moved: Councillor Bower**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

1. That Council approves the Whistleblower Policy Version 1.

CARRIED 5/0

The policy is a new policy required under the *ICAC Act 2017*. Elements of councils approach to protect and support staff in reporting improper conduct are covered in various other council corporate policies for staff.

14.2 SALE AND DISPOSAL OF LAND POLICY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-053-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Trembath

1. That Council approves the Sale and Disposal of Land Policy – V2.

CARRIED 5/0

The policy relates to land owned by council and is required under the *Local Government Act 2019*.

14.3 POLICY - GIFTS AND BENEFITS CEO AND STAFF

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-054-2023

Moved: Councillor Kingdon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Coburn

1. That Council approve the Gift and Benefits – CEO and Staff Policy Version 1.

CARRIED 5/0

14.4 GAZETTE NOTICE - KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL AMENDMENT BY-LAWS 2023

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-055-2023

Moved: Councillor Bower

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Coburn

1. That Council receive and note the Government Gazette No. S27 dated 27 April 2023 for the *Katherine Town Council Amendment By-laws 2023* by the Minister for Local Government.

CARRIED 5/0

14.5 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-056-2023

Moved: Councillor Kingdon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Coburn

1. That Council endorse the Finance Report for the Month of April 2023

CARRIED 5/0

14.6 MONTHLY REPORT OF CORPORATE SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-057-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Trembath

1. That Council receive and note the Corporate Services Report for the month of April 2023

CARRIED 5/0

Incident type - animal mostly relates to dogs, and accessibility relates to a request for open pathway at hot springs for pram access.

Reminder that Waste wheelie bins are the property of council and owners are responsible to keep them in good condition.

14.7 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-058-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Bower

1. That Council receive and note the Community Services Department report for the Month of April 2023.

CARRIED 5/0

Patron count increase relates to number of programs and full capacity.

14.8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-059-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Bower

That the Operations report of the Infrastructure and Environment Department for the month of April 2023 be received and noted.

CARRIED 5/0

Noted the sports pavilion is finally open.

Thanks to Lendlease for commitment to install drinking fountains. Locations align with power and water connections.

Excitement for the kerbside recycling trial. Inside bin lids will be instructions on what products can be recycled. Council logo requested to be included on the bins. The bins are part of the trial, which may mean after the trial they are removed and used at different locations.

15 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

15.1 SPORTS GROUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-060-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Trembath

1. That Council receive and note the minutes from the Sports Ground Advisory Committee held on 8 February 2023.
2. That Council receive and note the minutes from the Sports Ground Advisory Committee held on 18 April 2023.

CARRIED 5/0

Acknowledge that council has received funding for fence replacement along Stuart highway. Other projects include completing fencing between oval 1 and 2, landscaping around amenities and lighting on oval 2.

15.2 KATHERINE SHOW GROUNDS AND MULTI-PURPOSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-061-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Kingdon

1. That Council receive and note the minutes from the Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-purpose Advisory Committee held on 8 March 2023.
2. That Council receive and note the minutes, and consider the recommendations from the Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-purpose Advisory Committee held on 2 May 2023.

CARRIED 5/0

Amendments to 2 May 2023 minutes requested – date change from 6 December to 2 May, replace Mayor with Chair under Welcome and remove minute taker under attendance against Amanda Kingdon.

16 ELECTED MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

OCM-062-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Bower

1. That Council receive and note the Elected Member activities for April 2023.

CARRIED 5/0

17 LATE AGENDA

Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Bower raised seating including shade/ covered areas required in the main street and taxi ranks to make more inviting.

National Healing Day will be held at Katherine Museum on Friday 26 May 2023 at 10.30am showcasing stories and organisation services.

Cr Coburn expressed concern for seating in main street. He will be attending the GTNT awards ceremony on Friday evening.

Cr Trembath pointed out that removing trucks from main street would make it safer.

Cr Kingdon expressed that the noise of trucks is a health concern for those living on highway, raising the need for a truck diversion. The need for seating at taxi ranks is a must.

Smith Family is holding an event for Reconciliation Day at 9.30 am on Thursday.

Food Van Collective next on 1 June.

Army Band will be playing at the Town Square on Saturday 7 to 9 pm.

Laneway closures will commence in 3 weeks time, due to the delay of materials the project has taken time to commence.

19 CLOSURE MEETING TO PUBLIC

Members, Council has resolved to use Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act to discuss and resolve confidential Issues which come before it.

Section 99(2) gives power to council to close a meeting for public, which means that all members all public and press will be asked to leave the Council chambers, to discuss specific Issues in relation to matters referred to in regulations 51 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.

I now move a motion that the following items (and items list follows no confidential reason) to close the meeting to public.

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

MOTION

Moved: Mayor Clark

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019*:

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - a, ci and civ of the *Local Government Act 2019*, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual, information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person and information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interest of the council or some other person.

20.2 CONFIDENTIAL ACTION UPDATE

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - a of the *Local Government Act 2019*, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.

20.3 PREVIOUS MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - ciii of the *Local Government Act 2019*, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

Your Worship, I wish to second that the meeting be closed to public to discuss issues relating to matters as stipulated in Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and regulations 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

The meeting was closed at 12.56pm.

21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

Open meeting was resumed at 1.05pm.

That Council move the following confidential motion to open minutes:

20.3 VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2023-2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OCM-046-2023

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn

Seconded: Councillor Bower

1. That Council:

- (a) Approve the Visitor Information Centre Partnership Agreement with Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade for a period of two (2) years – 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025
- (b) Authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to Affix the Common Seal

CARRIED 5/0

22 NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

That the next meeting of the Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 27 June 2023.

23 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 1.06pm.