



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Confirmed Minutes of
the Annual General Meeting of Council
held on Thursday 8th December 2016
in the Council Chambers, George Town
Commencing at 6.00pm

John Martin
GENERAL MANAGER

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 8th December 2016 in the Council Chambers, George Town commencing at 6.00 pm.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993, I hereby certify that the advice, information and recommendations contained within this Agenda have been given by a person who has the qualifications and / or experience necessary to give such advice, information and recommendations or such advice was obtained and taken into account in providing the general advice contained within the Agenda.



John Martin
GENERAL MANAGER

2nd December 2016

Local Government Act 1993, Division 3 – Annual General Meeting

72B. Annual General Meeting

1. A council must hold an Annual General Meeting on a date that –
 - a. Is not later than 15 December in each year; and
 - b. Is not before 14 days after the date of the first publication of a notice under subsection (2).
2. A council must publish a notice on at least 2 separate occasions in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area or other prescribed newspaper specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
3. If a quorum of the council is not present at an Annual General Meeting –
 - (a) the Annual General Meeting is to be reconvened and held within 14 days; and
 - (b) a notice is to be published in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area specifying the date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting.
4. Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.
5. A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.
6. A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.
7. The general manager is to keep minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

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AUDIO RECORDING OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The public is advised that the 2016 Annual General Meeting will be recorded on digital media to assist in the preparation of minutes, and to clarify any dispute or query relating to the minutes that may be raised.

The recording does not replace the written minutes and a transcript of the recording will not be prepared.

In accordance with the requirements of Council's Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy No. 40, members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council meetings.

1. Attendance

Cr Bridget Archer, Mayor (Chairperson)
Cr Tim Harris (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Chris Ashley
Cr Peter Parkes
Cr Greg Dawson
Cr Heather Barwick
Cr Tim Parish
Cr Doug Burt
Cr John Glisson

J. Cameron, A. Clarke, S. Neilsen, M. Dodge, G Neilsen, H. Dodge, J. Austin, G. Austin, D. Rainbow, V. Davis, D. Duggan, J. Reilly, G. O'Doherty, L. Wootton, D. Wootton, H. Siebert, S. Sherriff, C. Barraclough, M. Duggan, B. Gunst

2. Apologies

Nil.

3. Staff in Attendance

Mr John Martin, General Manager
Mr Kim Barker, Director Corporate Services
Mr Paul O'Grady, Manager Infrastructure & Engineering
Ms Anne Cameron, Manager Community Services
Ms Josie Higgins, Executive Officer (Governance)

4. Meeting Procedures

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council serves much the same purpose as an Annual General Meeting of the public sector, where the Board of Directors (Elected Members) gives an account of their stewardship over the affairs of the municipality for the financial year in review.

Annual meetings also provide an opportunity for residents (the shareholders) to question Council's performance for the year in review.

The Annual General Meeting is in essence a Council Meeting and will therefore be generally conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined below and the usual Council procedures for the conduct of its meetings.

- Attendees are asked to complete the Attendance Register.
- Only submissions, questions or motions relating to the Annual Report will be accepted.
- A person shall only speak on a matter or a motion once, with the mover of a motion having a brief right of reply not exceeding a period of 2 minutes.
- A motion must be seconded and passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands.
- Only electors in the George Town municipal area are entitled to vote at an AGM.
- A motion passed at the AGM will be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- Minutes of the AGM will be kept by the General Manager to accurately record the content of the meeting, attendances and apologies, any matter discussed, any motions moved and any questions asked and the answers provided by (whom).
- Questions which cannot be answered will be taken on notice and responded to in writing.
- The Chairperson's ruling is to be final.

The primary purpose of Council's Annual General Meeting is to give members of the municipality the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about Council's annual report. The Annual General Meeting also provides an opportunity for members of the municipality to put motions regarding the annual report which, if carried, will be considered by Council at its next ordinary meeting.

With that in mind, and in the interests of the meeting proceeding in an efficient and productive manner, I ask that all present please do their best to relate all discussions, questions and motions to the contents of the annual report.

The Annual General Meeting is focussed on the Council's annual report and the usual Council procedures apply for the conduct of meetings.

Accordingly, if anyone wishes to raise a matter which does not concern the annual report in the interests of time and the need to focus on the annual report, I may request that their matter be referred to council in writing for a response.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Mr Neilsen referred to page 8 of the unconfirmed minutes and stated that he could not find where the third motion down moved by him and seconded by Mr O'Doherty had gone to the next Council meeting for consideration.

The Chairperson took the question on notice as it did not relate to the minutes.

Moved: Cr Harris
Seconded: Cr Parish

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the George Town Council held on the 10th December 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6. Mayor's Report – 2015/2016 Annual Report

It is my great pleasure to present the 2015/16 Annual Report of the George Town Council.

The year in review has been an exciting and productive one for Council as we have continued to progress the challenges and opportunities identified in the preceding year.

Notably, the 2015/16 year saw the culmination of an extensive Strategic Planning process, guided by independent consultants, and involving many opportunities for community engagement.

Adopted in February 2016 the Strategic Plan provides an important framework to guide the Council forward and I believe it has captured the vision and aspirations that our community has identified very well.

The Plan provides a clear view of the community's goals, objectives, and priorities for the next 10 years. It underpins Council's Budget and Annual Plan, and consequently the development of operational plans and the Annual Report.

It is important to note however that the year in review has been assessed in accordance with the aims of the Strategic Plan 2012-17 and the new plan will be reported against in the forthcoming and subsequent periods.

In the lead up to the 2016 Federal election, Council considered it prudent to compile a working list of Strategic Priority Projects for the consideration of State and Federal funding authorities with an initial dozen or so projects proposed.

Three of those projects were successful in achieving Federal election commitments with the result of an unprecedented \$5.95million in funding towards important road upgrades in our municipality.

These projects are of a considerable scale and it is anticipated that they will be completed over the next two years and Council believes they provide significant opportunities for economic development and tourism in our region.

During the reporting period Council was successful in achieving Commonwealth funding for the upgrade of our Waste Transfer Station of \$350,000. This has provided an opportunity to reallocate funding to additional projects to enhance the liveability and amenity of our community such as the planned upgrade to the Regent Square play space.

Economic development continues to be an important focus for Council and we continue to work cooperatively with government, business and industry and our regional neighbours to further these objectives.

One of those initiatives during the year in review was the completion of the Bell Bay Investment Prospectus, a collaboration with the Office of The Coordinator General that highlights the advantages of investment in our industrial zone. The document was launched in China by Energy Minister Groom during a trade mission.

The year also saw some changes. Cr Richard Nicholls vacated his position and Cr Chris Ashley was consequently elected following a recount by the Electoral Commission.

I take this opportunity to thank Cr Nicholls for his service and contribution and wish him every future success and I welcome Cr Ashley to his new role.

Elected members have worked diligently and cooperatively during the year and I thank them for their continued enthusiasm.

My thanks also must go to the staff of the George Town Council, who always go above-and-beyond expectations to produce some quality outcomes for our community.

I particularly thank General Manager Mr John Martin who has worked tirelessly, and at times in challenging circumstances to lead a strong team of staff, to provide guidance to elected members and engage productively with business, industry and community groups.

In summary, 2015/16 has seen a high degree of planning and preparation with some very positive and exciting outcomes and opportunities and we move into 2016/17 with optimism and enthusiasm.

Bridget Archer
Mayor

7. General Manager's Report – 2015/2016 Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2015/16 outlines an extremely busy and productive year for George Town Council.

Council's operational and capital works program have continued to deliver high quality outcomes for our communities across the municipality. Council has worked extremely hard with our local community groups, service clubs and associations to deliver outcomes that we can all be proud of.

With the adoption of Council's Strategic Plan in February 2016 Council has continued to plan and provide important foundations for the future of the municipality.

Council has commenced a number of positive strategic development plans and projects for the future which include:

- Strategic Priorities Projects Document 2016
- Bell Bay Industrial Development Precinct Plan
- Hillwood Structure Plan
- George Town Coastal Management Plan
- George Town Sports Complex Development Master Plan
- Review of George Town's Existing Sports and Recreation Buildings 2016
- Waste Transfer Station Project
- Council Owned Land Review
- George Town Airport
- York Cove Concept Development Plan
- Windmill Point Recreation Area
- Regent Square Playground Area
- Long Term Financial Plan Review
- Asset Management Plans

Once finalised the preceding projects and plans will provide considerable impetus for project delivery and increased potential for beneficial community economic and social outcomes for the municipality.

Whilst Council's financial position remains sound, revaluations of Council's assets (increased depreciation of \$560,998) increased costs on materials and services (mainly roads, streets and grounds/parks/reserves maintenance) and additional other expenses (advertising, community grants, sponsorship, technology, water charges) have resulted in an underlying deficit of \$809,295. Other factors to influence Council's financial reporting are the prepayment of grants, disposal of property, plant and equipment, recognition of land under roads and loss of revaluation of assets.

Employee benefits were kept below budget and cost savings of \$153,830 were also generated across various areas of Council's operations. Council has already taken action on the 2016/17 budget to address the underlying deficit and aim to return to an underlying surplus in the next few years. Council still maintains a positive operating surplus ratio over the last 10 years.

7. General Manager's Report (Cont.)

Council's total expenditure for the year included \$11.2million for operational works and services plus capital expenditure of \$2.9million including \$1.71million for roads and bridges. Federal Assistance Grants (FAG's) and Roads to Recovery funding of \$1.6million remain important revenue sources for Council's works and services.

Council is currently reviewing its Long Term Financial Management and Asset Management Plans. These financial sustainability and viability reviews will consider community service level requirements, income levels (grants, rates, fees & charges), and expenditure levels (service costs, increased regulation/legislative requirements, service level standards) which will require a considerable level of cost/benefit analysis in various areas.

Council has also commenced a shared services/benchmarking review with all Northern Councils and the Local Government Division as part of the State Government's Local Government Reform agenda. Council is actively participating in regional and local economic development work with Northern Tasmanian Development and locally with the Bell Bay Economic Development Group and the George Town Chamber of Commerce.

Council employees throughout all of Council's departments have been reviewing many internal operational policies, codes, practices and processes to meet contemporary community service level requirements. This includes Council's industrial relations enterprise bargaining agreement, workplace health and safety, training and professional development, risk management, information technology, other human resource management matters and associated Australian Standards.

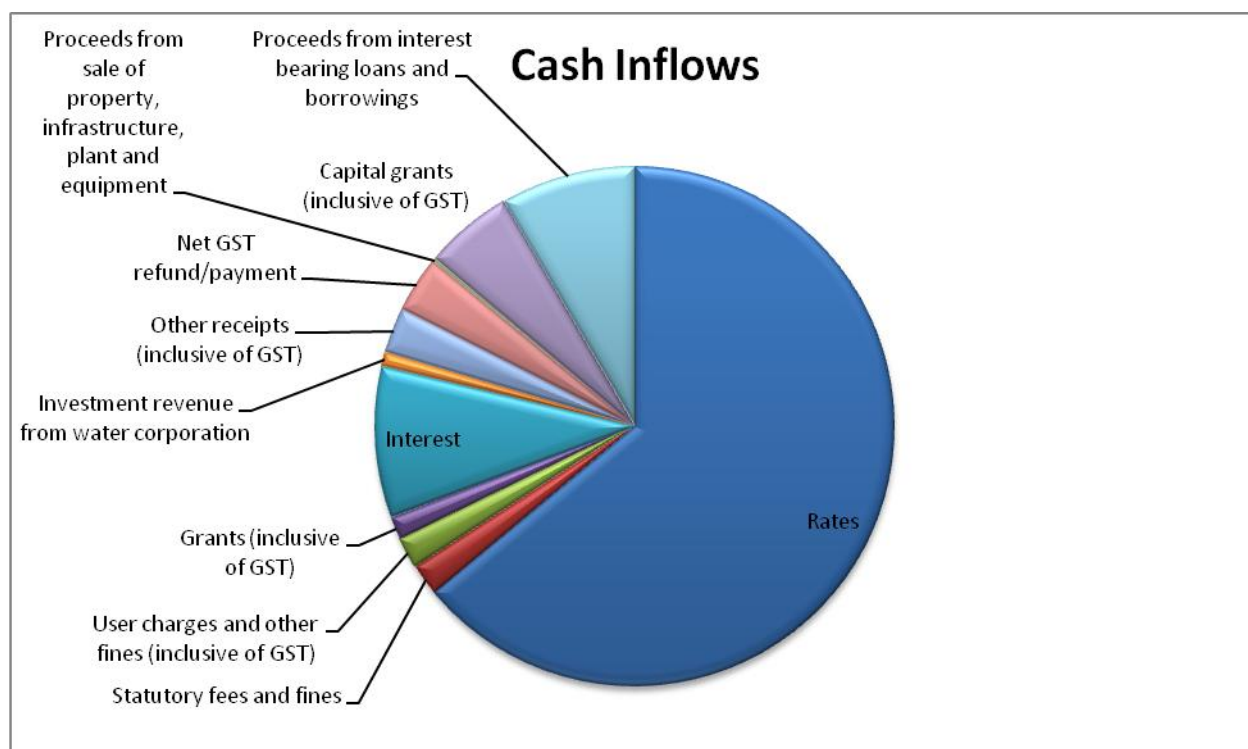
Council staff, Councillors and community members have also been particularly active in tourism initiatives, community events, youth, community safety, recreation, cultural and sporting activities and many other community services. The feedback received by community members and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. Councillors and staff are also working constructively in our smaller towns with local progress and community groups and members towards an improved level of community services.

We have a dedicated and enthusiastic management and staff who are working hard with our Mayor, Councillors and community members to promote a positive, proactive outlook and future for our municipality.

John Martin
General Manager

8. Financial Report – Director Corporate Services

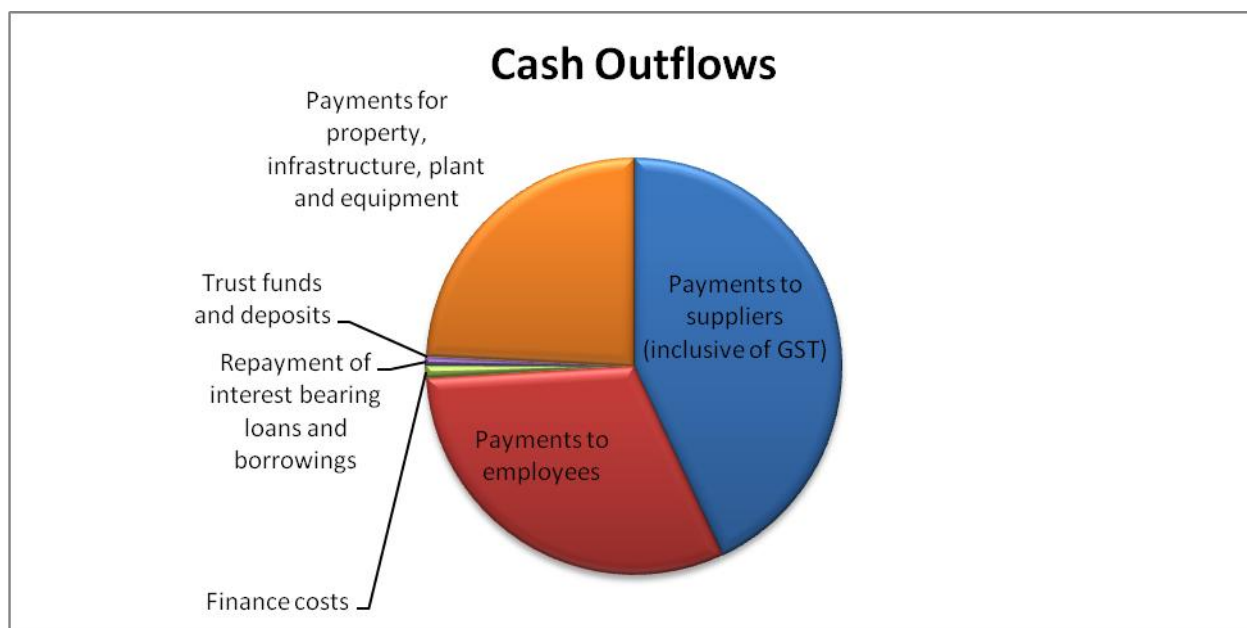
The Director Corporate Services provided an overview of Cash Inflows for the 2015/2016 reporting period.



Cash Inflows

	\$	
Rates	7,577,747	62.26%
Statutory fees and fines	231,977	1.91%
User charges and other fines (inclusive of GST)	164,064	1.35%
Grants (inclusive of GST)	1,114,003	9.15%
Interest	102,899	0.85%
Investment revenue from water corporation	336,884	2.77%
Other receipts (inclusive of GST)	413,184	3.39%
Net GST refund/payment	563,925	4.63%
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	24,480	0.20%
Capital grants (inclusive of GST)	649,697	5.34%
Proceeds from interest bearing loans and borrowings	993,000	8.16%
	<u>12,171,860</u>	100.00%

The Director Corporate Services provided an overview of Cash Outflows for the 2015/2016 reporting period.



Cash Outflows	\$	
Payments to suppliers (inclusive of GST)	5,132,016	42.99%
Payments to employees	3,711,903	31.09%
Finance costs	117,028	0.98%
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,890,613	24.21%
Trust funds and deposits	8,509	0.07%
Repayment of interest bearing loans and borrowings	77,782	0.65%
	11,937,850	100.00%

9. Submissions to the 2015/2016 Annual Report

The Chairperson invited Mr Neilsen to speak to his submission.

Mr Graeme Neilsen, George Town

Please find following a submission basically in subject form which I wish to comment on at the meeting and possibly ask a question or move a motion in relation to the subject addressed.

1. Announced "Cost Savings Generated" (page 37) and General Manager's commentary (page 8).
2. Contribution by former Councillor Richard Nichols (page 14).
3. Compliance with accuracy of statements in correspondence, public question time etc. and to ensure commentary in the public arena (eg press or social media) is accurate.
4. Resource sharing initiatives and reporting during 2015/16.
5. Support for the accurate keeping of written minutes and the longevity of audio recordings to preserve the Social History of our region.
6. Provision of key documentation to Elected Members.
7. Provision of General Manager's Report on non-operational matters in Public Agenda.
8. Incongruous attitude to OH&S issues in Council Meetings.
9. Capital Works program and sustainable reserves.
10. Financial sustainability.
11. Community Development Services – promotion and image of the municipality.
12. Lack of elected member initiated motions for discussion at public meetings during 2015/16.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Neilsen for his submission.

9. Submissions to the 2015/2016 Annual Report (Cont.)

Mrs Lorraine Wootton, Low Head

The Chairperson invited Mrs Wootton to speak to her submission.

RESPONSE TO GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL 2015 -16 - ANNUAL REPORT - NOV 2016

I draw attention to some inaccuracies and omissions in the reports on Pages 21 - 28 - Tourism and Cultural Events and Festivals.

1. In regard to the Watch House (P21):

When the Watch House first opened in 2004, the George Town & District Historical Society Inc entered into an agreement with the George Town Council to manage the day to day operation and use the front room as a Community History Room.

Des Wootton fulfilled the role of co-ordinator on behalf of the Society up until August 2015 with the assistance of numerous volunteers - some of whom were members of the Historical Society.

The Society relinquished its role under the terms of the agreement, when a replacement for Des' position could not be found. A few volunteers chose to 'retire' at this time, but most stayed on. For a variety of reasons, others decided to finish at a later date.

The majority of the current Watch House volunteers, are those who have continued on and most of them belong to the GT&DHS. Many of the current and former Watch House volunteers have/had served for many years - some up to 12 years.

The presentation afternoon tea for Des was attended by those WH volunteers who were able to be there - certainly not 'all members of the GT&DHS' or even all the volunteers.

Cultural Events and Festivals - Page 25 -28

2. The 2016 'Folk Festival' was the **25th Tamar Valley Folk Festival**, featuring the iconic Eric Bogle among headline acts, was an extremely successful event, breaking all records for attendance and attracting many people who had never been to a TVFF before - and they will be back! Performers commented on the wonderful venues, surroundings, organisation and local hospitality. With many staying locally for several days, this is a huge boost to the economy.

3. Omitted from the report is the inaugural **2015 FOUNDERS FESTIVAL** that was initiated by the George Town & District Historical Society Inc and supported by Lighthouse Regional Arts, the Bass & Flinders Centre, Rotary Club of George Town, Low Head Pilot Station Support Group, George Town Youth Markets and Tamar FM 95.3.

These groups collaborated to provide and promote a program of events (see below) to celebrate George Town and its unique Heritage throughout the 'anniversary months' of November and December, laying the foundation for expanded annual festivals to follow.

Minimal costs were incurred, and apart from a community grant to cover hall hire for the art exhibition, no sponsorship was sought and there was no cost to rate-payers.

Lighthouse Regional Arts' opening of 'ART WORKS - 50 Shades of Blue' was attended by 99 people and twice that many visited during the next week. LRA also curated two Watch House exhibitions - "In Our Neck of the Woods" from the local Photography Group and "A Prelude to 25 years of the Tamar Valley Folk Festival" which remained until after the festival itself.

The first instalment of the Historical Society's "In Their Own Words" presentation was also well-attended and both groups gained new members as a result of these activities.

Lorraine Wootton, Low Head. 2/12/2016

INAUGURAL FOUNDERS FESTIVAL - Nov - Dec 2015

1 Nov - 7 Dec - Watch House - GT Photography Group's **"IN OUR NECK OF THE WOODS"** exhibition open 10am - 4pm weekdays; 12 noon - 2pm weekends

1 Nov - 31 Dec - Pilot Station Museum - **"Hebe Reef" Exhibition** 10am - 4pm daily

Wed 4 Nov - The Grove - Rotary Club's **"Pasta, Plonk & Poetry Night" #**

Mon 16 Nov - The Grove 7.30pm - Keith McLachlan **"WAVERLEY WOOLLEN MILLS"**

Fri 20 Nov - Jim Mooney Gallery, Memorial Hall - Opening night - Lighthouse Regional Arts' annual local art exhibition **"ART WORKS - 50 Shades of BLUE!"** 6.30pm #

Sat 21 Nov - JM Gallery - **"ART WORKS - 50 Shades of BLUE!"** open 9am - 1pm

Sat 21 Nov - Graham Fairless Centre, Memorial Hall - **George Town Market**

Mon 23 - Fri 27 Nov - JM Gallery - **"ART WORKS - 50 Shades of BLUE!"** exhibition open to the public from 10am - 4pm

Thurs 26 Nov - Bass & Flinders Centre - GT&DHS's special presentation of our early history, entitled **"IN THEIR OWN WORDS"** - 7.30pm - all welcome #

Fri 27 Nov - Bass & Flinders Centre - **Nov Dinner & Film Night** (title tba) 6.30pm #

8 - 31 Dec - Watch House - **"A Prelude to 25th Tamar Valley Folk Festival"** exhib.

Sat 12 Dec - Graham Fairless Centre, Memorial Hall - **George Town Market**

Fri 18 Dec is **MACQUARIE DAY - Happy Birthday George Town!**

denotes booking / RSVP required for catering purposes - please contact Sec.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Wootton for her submission.

10. Questions to the 2015/2016 Annual Report

Cr Barwick

- Q1. Cr Barwick referred to Page 9 of the Agenda (Cash Outflows) and asked what the trust fund is for?

The Director Corporate Services advised that "Trust funds and deposit" is an account in Council's ledger where Council holds various deposits and funds for activities and events that are held in trust until those activities and events happen. For example, it could be a deposit on a tender and those monies come in and out of the trust fund all the time.

Mrs Rainbow, George Town

- Q1. Mrs Rainbow referred to Council's Strategic Plan goal 3 Community and Well Being as reported in the Annual Plan. Mrs Rainbow stated that there has been no release of crime statistics or crime prevention and no strategies are put forward either. Mrs Rainbow asked for more feedback from Council's Safety Committee and that public feedback be considered in an effort to achieve a workable outcome.

The Chairperson responded that Council does, through that Committee, from time to time make those type of representations to the Police representatives at the meetings and where there are issues directly raised with Council, Council also takes those opportunities to raise those with the Police. The Chairperson advised however beyond that, liaison on those matters are Police matters.

Mr Neilsen, George Town

- Q1. In what Resource Sharing initiatives are Council currently engaged?

The Chairperson referred the question to the General Manager who advised that there are some resource sharing comments made in the Annual Report on page 53. The General Manager also advised that resource sharing services are operational matters that are undertaken by Council management with neighbouring and other Councils. During 2015/2016 they included planning and building services, environmental health, animal management, plumbing, internal audit and Audit Panel Chairman. The General Manager stated that as mentioned before Council has also agreed to, and has just commenced, in a benchmarking/shared services review as part of the State Government's Local Government Reform agenda.

Mr Neilsen asked if there were any notable savings from this?

The General Manager responded that Council does not undertake resource sharing initiatives unless they are at least cost neutral or save money for Council.

Mr Mackrill, George Town

- Q1. Mr Mackrill reflected on the General Manager's report where he talks of positive initiatives and community events in a variety of areas in and around George Town. Mr Mackrill advised that he represents the George Town RSL and that the community would be well aware of what happened with the George Town RSL and stated that clearly if it had not been for the Council over the last 18 months George Town would not have had an RSL and certainly the support of Mayor, General Manager, Councillors and the staff to get the RSL where they are today would not have occurred. Mr Mackrill stated that everyone would agree there is a need for the RSL in George Town and those from the RSL certainly believed that is the case.

Mr Mackrill asked on the basis of what Council has done in the last twelve months, is it on the Council agenda to continue that support for the RSL. Mr Mackrill referred specifically to one of the RSL's plans for the future to upgrade the old Cenotaph area in Macquarie Street to become a focal point in George Town as the Max Harris Memorial Reserve, the avenue of honour as we come into George Town.

The Chairperson responded that whilst she could not pre-empt any decision Council may or may not make, notwithstanding a proposal coming forward, certainly Council is committed to working with community groups including the RSL for the betterment of the George Town community. The Chairperson stated that Council looked forward to new dialogue with RSL.

Mr Neilsen, George Town

Q2. The General Manager has announced in three (3) key operational areas yet the actual costs in these nominated areas have increased by \$453,000. Can you please explain how an increase in costs can be reported as a saving in those nominated areas?

Mr Neilsen spoke to his question.

The Chairperson referred the question to the General Manager who advised that what Council has attempted to do this year is in line with the recommendation Mr Neilsen made last year which, is to try and identify a few cost saving areas, which Council has done. The finances of the Council are quite considerable and go across quite a number of areas. As was mentioned last year and in following agenda reports to Council, costs savings are considered on a continual basis by Council as part of its budget processes and part of its financial reviews during the year by Council management. Councillors are always looking at working with management and identifying and requesting information about cost savings on a continual basis. The General Manager also stated that cost savings can be influenced by cost increases, a lot of cost increases in a number of areas, and they are often impacted by any number of events and influences beyond the control of Council like weather, floods etc. which have added increased costs to Council and others that Council's Director Corporate Services will outline.

The General Manager stated that the Council's Annual Report outlines in considerable detail, a lot of the areas of Council's operation which will give reasons for some of the increases in costs that have been made by this Council, for the benefit of the community. The General Manager referred the question to the Director Corporate Services to respond further to some of the specific points raised by Mr Neilsen.

The Director Corporate Services advised that the intent on page 37 was to provide some idea in relation to specific savings and it does stipulate that there is an increase in operational costs; that page provides a drill down on specific costs. The Director acknowledged that operating costs have increased by 10.4% and total gross employee benefits have increased by 11.1%. The Director advised that it needs to be understood that they are employee benefits not remuneration paid to employees. It is the cost of employing people which includes payroll tax, protective gear, workers compensation premiums and a whole range of other items. There are some key reasons for the increase in costs which include meeting the previous EBA's commitments, meeting service delivery requirements for standby and after hour services, on call services for example, animal control and essential maintenance; also meeting a full year's salary commitments in 2015/16 for positions that were only partly filled in 2014/15. The Director also advised that there is an increase in the value of leave provisions and there was one new position in parks and gardens. There are some termination payments included in that cost for a couple of staff who left and a small number of staff who took on additional duties and responsibilities and were rewarded salary increments as a result; there were some savings generated as well.

The Director stated that it was important to point out that looking into the future, a new EBA has been approved by employees and the Fair Work Commission and that does consider the impacts of employee benefits costs on Council's future financial sustainability and that should assist Council in the future in terms of measuring future financial sustainability, and also provides a fair and reasonable level of employee remuneration. The Director also advised that overall there was a 6.1% increase on last year in terms of materials and services. The key reasons for that include additional costs in relation to service delivery requirements which Council is obliged to respond to. These include road and infrastructure maintenance costs, increase due to servicing requirements for such things as line marking on roads, gravel and other road maintenance material and responses to seasonal and weather related maintenance. Grounds maintenance costs also increased significantly, one of those reasons was the additional amount of tree maintenance required, maintenance to playgrounds, replacement of parks signage and bins and repairs to vandalism and repairs to the structure of retaining walls; there were also some savings made in that area as well. In terms of other expenses, they also increased overall by about 8.22%. Some of those reasons relate to increased communication of Council activities, delivering more community grants and increasing cyber security and promotion for the local government area. The cost of advertising in relation to the Strategic Plan, Council meetings and decisions, Your Region articles, road closures and other Council activities has increased. The Director advised that it is a cost of increasing to keep the community informed. The community grants budget was also increased; security software was upgraded and some software licenses that were overlooked and not billed in previous years have been billed to Council this year. The Targa sponsorship also increased sponsorships under the other expenses area. There were some increases in telephone charges in part relating to employees who weren't here for the full year last year but they were this year; also the fact that there were some new mobile phones for teams that work remotely. As has been mentioned earlier TasWater charges did increase and there was some billing from TasWater that was overlooked in a previous year that Council has had to meet this year. The Director again advised that some savings were generated.

Mr O'Doherty, George Town

Q1. Mr O'Doherty advised that his question related to his previous questions asked at Council meetings to which he had not been able to get any answers in relation to the resurfacing of Franklin Street, between Main Road and Victoria Street. Mr O'Doherty referred to the cost of laying hot mix asphalt and the investigation that was to be undertaken by Council to determine why the pavement keeps breaking up and requiring continuing repairs to the road. Mr O'Doherty asked will a response to his previous questions which were taken on notice still be forthcoming to provide that information.

The Chairperson responded yes and referred the question to the General Manager. The General Manager advised that there would be some information coming. The General Manager also advised that he was in the process of putting a report together for all Councillors and information to the public which would eventually be placed on Council's website in relation to Franklin Street. This will update the current short report that is currently on the website. The General Manager stated that as Mr O'Doherty had mentioned there had been significant problems with the re-sheeting works, it was not a reconstruction job, which have been undertaken and which have failed in various sections. The General Manager advised that there is no question that this has been a difficult section of road with the heavy traffic volume but the testing that was undertaken was considered adequate at that time. At the same time we have had unprecedented unforeseen wet weather events which have not been seen here before. As you will see from the report once it is provided, testing was undertaken during, after and more is being done now with additional advice being sought from a highly qualified expert, the best in Tasmania in this field.

The General Manager also advised that despite the issues, it appeared to him that this was largely an operation matter and has been handled in a professional competent manner; the report when completed will speak for itself.

Q2. Mr O'Doherty referred again to Franklin Street and asked if somebody or an expert inspected the surface of the pavement before the asphalt was laid, if so was it a contractor or a member of staff. Mr O'Doherty stated that surely someone should have recognised if it was wet that the asphalt should never have been laid to start with.

The General Manager responded that as he had already mentioned there was testing done before, during and after the re-sheeting of the road which is continuing and expertise advice has been sought; testing has been done by independent authorities. As previously mentioned the General Manager advised that Council is in the process of getting a report together and that report will be made available to everybody.

11. Motions on the 2015/2016 Annual Report

Moved: Mr Austin
Seconded: Mr O'Doherty

That this meeting recommends that elected members instructs the General Manager to take the necessary measures to ensure that the average salaries of the employees of the George Town Council does not exceed the average of the Tasmanian Local Government Employee Costs and to ensure that the measures being taken are regularly reported in the monthly agenda and the final result of that instruction is reported in the 2016 – 2017 Annual Report.

During discussion of the above motion, the Chairperson called a Point of Order against Cr Harris in accordance with r.23(1)(b) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 "a councillor speaking is being interrupted or distracted".

Cr Glisson left the meeting at 7.19pm and returned at 7.19pm.

CARRIED

Moved: Mr Neilsen
Seconded: Mrs Neilsen

That this meeting express concern that any elected member can be lawfully removed from the office of representing ratepayers whilst being denied natural justice or procedural fairness.

CARRIED

Cr Barwick left the meeting at 7.30pm.

Moved: Mr Austin
Seconded: Mr Neilsen

That this meeting recommends that the George Town Council considers the early adoption of the remuneration related disclosure requirements of AASB 124 – Related Parties Disclosure – as well as disclosing information relating to remuneration of each member of key management personnel consistent with the illustrated example in the Local Government Financial Statements for 30 June 2015.

CARRIED

Moved: Mr Neilsen
Seconded: Mrs Rainbow

Given that Resource sharing is a key platform for general improved financial sustainability of Councils that this meeting recommends regular reporting of Resource Sharing initiatives in both monthly agendas and Annual Reports.

CARRIED

Moved: Mr O'Doherty
Seconded: Mr Austin

That Councillors desist from denigrating or attacking members of the community who quite genuinely come to meetings to put forward their points of view.

CARRIED

12. Meeting Closure

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.53 pm.

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Cr Bridget Archer
Mayor