



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on **Tuesday 17 December 2024**

in the Council Chambers,
16-18 Anne Street, George Town,

commenced at **1:00 pm.**

All documents presented, and recordings (audio) of this meeting are made available to the public in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

The public are requested to pre-register if attending this meeting of Council.

Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER

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Meeting Commenced at 1:00 pm

Acknowledgement of Country

George Town Council acknowledges the palawa people from the litarimirina tribe from Port Dalrymple as the traditional custodians of the land.

We honour and give thanks for the caring of country, seas and skies of kinimathatakinta and surrounds.

We pay respect to the elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hope of pakana people in lutruwita.

AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public is advised that it is **Council Policy** to record the proceedings of meetings of Council on digital media to assist in the preparation of Minutes, and to clarify any queries relating to the Minutes that is raised during a subsequent meeting under the section "Confirmation of Minutes".

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

All meetings of the Council shall be digitally recorded as provided for by Regulation 33 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 except for the proceedings of meetings or parts of meetings closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 15(2).

In accordance with the requirements of Council's Audio Recording of Council Meetings Policy GTC 1, members of the public are not permitted to make audio recordings of Council meetings.

The community are requested to pre-register to attend this meeting of Council.

All documents presented, and recordings (audio) of this meeting are made available to the public in accordance with the above Act and Notice, and the standard applicable provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

1 PRESENT

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser, Chairperson
Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson
Cr Winston Archer
Cr Heather Ashley
Cr Heather Barwick
Cr Tim Harris
Cr Simone Lowe
Cr Winston Mason
Cr Jason Orr

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

General Manager - Mr Shane Power

1.2 IN ATTENDANCE

Acting General Manager - Mr A McCarthy
Director Corporate & Community - Mrs C Hyde
Director Operational Performance, Strategy & Engagement - Mr R Dunn
Senior Executive Support and Governance Officer - Ms L Dickenson

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 NOVEMBER 2024

Minute No. 178/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Harris
Seconded: Cr Lowe

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 26 November 2024 numbered 164/24 to 173/24 as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

VOTING

For: Cr Kieser, Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Barwick, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe,
Cr Mason and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 9 / 0

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME PROCEDURE

[Refer to Minute No. 243/16. The period set aside for public question time will be at least 15 minutes. Questions given on notice will be addressed first. Once questions on notice have been addressed, persons who have registered their interest to ask a question will be called to do so in the order in which they have registered. Persons attending Council meetings will have the opportunity to register their interest to ask a question without notice prior to the commencement of the meeting. Council staff will be on hand to assist with this process.]

Participants cannot ask more than 2 questions in a row with a maximum of 2 minutes per question. If a person has more than (2) questions, they will be placed at the 'end of the queue' and may, if time permits, ask their further questions once all other persons have had an opportunity to ask questions. Persons who have not registered their interest to ask a question will be given an opportunity to do so following all those who have registered. All questions must be directed to the Chairperson.

For further information on Council's Public Question Time Rules and Procedure, please refer to George Town Council Public Question Time Policy GTC13.

Questions asked and answers provided may be summarised in the Minutes of the meeting.

Council requests that members of the public pre-register to attend meetings of Council.

5.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

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5.3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Commenced at: 1.05 pm.

Concluded at: 1.58 pm.

Mr G. Neilsen

Q1. I ask that you cast your mind back to last year (and possibly earlier) when negotiations were on going between potential developers and Council re what would be the largest private residential subdivision proposal in the history of the township area of George Town.

I refer to a 116 lot subdivision proposal off Victoria Street adjacent on the western side to the South George Town Primary School.

My question to you is:

Did you ever meet with the proponents or their representatives of this subdivision and were you privy to any arrangements or discussions to re-imburse from the Public Open Space levy to the developer for any stormwater mains in Victoria Street or road extensions in South Street prior to the application being developed to come before Council for approval?

The Chair advised Mr Neilsen that he has an imperfect recollection going back that far, but will do my best effort to answer your question. The Chair stated that he has certainly met with the developers. As to the timeframe whether it precedes or after their development request, not entirely sure, but the Chair had met with them. In terms of the negotiations with their specific contributions, that is entirely operational and the Chair would not have been involved.

Mr Neilsen then asked "You weren't aware of an arrangement to reimburse the developers from public open space"?

The Chair responded and said that he was not involved.

Mr Neilsen asked are you absolutely sure of that?

The Chair responded to the best of my memory.

Q2. This question is directed to the General Manager.

In following up certain matters in regard to the approval process for the aforementioned subdivision plus my concerns that Council may have breached a key provision of the Local Government Act I ask:

Why did you advise me via email on two separate occasions the following? First "Council is not aware of any requirements to re-imburse any past, current or future developers"; and

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Secondly "Council has not made any arrangements for re-imbusement as it is not aware of any requirement to do so".

Clearly both of these advices are misleading as the conditions recommended and approved by elected members state clearly that Council will re-imburse the developer from Public Open Space contributions.

The Chair advised Mr Neilsen that the question directed to the General Manager will be taken on notice.

Ms F. Hills

Q1. Ms Hills asked why can't the inside pool and gym area be stage 2? Why cant we have stage 1 as the outdoor pool and the kids area?

The Chair responded that it was a good question.

Ms Hills continued with stating we have had the current pool for 40 years and has serviced the community well. In her opinion, why not revamp that first, and then stage 2 is down the track then do the indoor pool?

The Chair thanked Ms Hills for attending.

Ms Hills continued with that it is not a very good time as she was here on her lunchbreak as well as the Port Dalrymple School is having their awards presentation today with 150 families there that would have loved to come here today. But they are there and not here to support me. I do have nearly 300 signatures to say this is what they want to.

The Chair said that he looked forward to receiving your petition as part of this meeting.

The Chair continued to answer the question, firstly the George Town community have provided very clear feedback on what they wanted Council to do.

Who was that?

Council had an extensive piece of research which informed the Sport and Recreation Strategy.

The strategy that has gone on for years which has never actually ...

The Chair advised Ms Hills that this is not a debating forum. There was an extensive piece of work that was well supported and well participated in with approximately 400 people participated in and the number one ask was 365 days access to a swimming facility and secondly a gymnasium. Those are the highest priority items under this strategy that Council is trying to fulfill. You are right the existing pool is well loved and I am fond of it as well.

Have you seen how many kids are at the pool today,

Not this week.

Well this week?

The Chair stated that he would like to finish what he is saying.

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Cr Barwick started speaking.

The Chair said one at a time.

Ms Hills continued to speak over the Chair.

The Chair provided Ms Hills with her first warning. This is not a debating forum and to let the Chair finish what he has to say.

Ms Hills stated that she is passionate and not against you.

The Chair said that I know you are not.

Ms Hill stated she is passionate and I think it is fantastic.

The Chair responded to Ms Hill that this is your second warning.

The Chair provided Cr Barwick with her first warning.

The Chair asked if he could finish what he is saying. So the key thing is that this is a different strategy to the existing pool. The existing pool has served us well while we had an overwhelmingly young cohort population. Our demographics are changing quite profoundly. So in order for us to get a broader utilisation that benefits the broadest cross section of our population. The pool as it is presented today will do very well for our community.

Have you watched the video?

The Chair stated he had and to let him finish. So as to the timing, in all the PR correspondence, this is the key ask and this is the part that we are doing first. In terms of how you engage your buildings, the two things compliment each other because the two facilities will be under one roof. Council has been clear in saying that it is our full intention to do Stage 2 which covers some of these outdoor elements. It is too early to talk about those elements as Council does not have funding. There is an advocacy document on what Council is requesting funding for presented to the meeting today and the number one thing on our advocacy plan is fundraising for outdoor play areas for the kids. This is just a timing thing.

Our kids are gonna be 10 before they even benefit.

No not at all, so remember the pool is operational in 2026. It is one season that the pool is out of use. One season only.

January 26th or October 26th?

It will be open October 2026 for the summer season. The Chair continued to speak that this is a timing thing?

Ms Hills continued to speak over the Chair.

The Chair stated that this entire facility is a family friendly facility.

Ms Hills swore.

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The Chair asked Ms Hills to take a seat stating you are done.

Cr Barwick said that she believed that under the Act you do not have the right to warn.

The Chair stated that Cr Barwick was incorrect.

Ms D. Mitchell

Q1. How long and where is the money coming from for stage 2, it has been two years in the works trying to get the funding for the new pool and it's still near 2 years before the first stage is complete.

The Chair thanked Ms Mitchell for her question. The short answer is Council does not have a clear answer for that today. Council is actively working on it, but I don't have an answer for the community at this stage.

The Chair is quietly confident that Council will be able to fundraise for that in the near future but until I have a definitive answer, Council does not have an answer at this point of time.

Council has a successful track record in raising funds for our community and absolutely confident that Council will do the same for this project.

Q2. Why have the therapy pool first, where the children will walk or run past possibly knocking over older or disabled people?

The Chair deferred the question to the Acting General Manager.

The Acting General Manager responded with the locations of the program pool on contemporary buildings is to get as close as you can to the accessible parking spaces. You try to make the centre as successful as possible, noting that the people that use the programs pool are more likely to have access issues, whether they are in wheelchairs or walking frames, or they could be returning from injuries. So the main aim is to try to minimise the distance from the carpark and also the location to the changing room with the hoist for people in wheelchairs. So you try and locate as close as you can to the warm water therapy pool, and in particular the ramp that goes down into the warm water therapy pool.

The Chair added that when you do swimming carnivals, there is actually a second entrance around the site.

Ms Mitchell said that was the next question she was going to ask.

The Chair stated that we can bring buses in and we can demount the kids from the buses straight to the 25 metre pool so they bypass any regular therapy pool users via the main entrance.

Ms S. Egan

Q1. Is the pool going to be open the hours we have them now or going to be open all day for people to use?

The Chair thanked Ms Egan for question, and answered the question with the two facilities operating side by side with common staffing, it will actually allow Council to have much larger operating hours than we currently have. Of course, it is a negotiation over time, you

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adjust the staffing and the opening hours based on community demand. It terms of our operational expectations, Council believe that it will probably be open longer than what we currently do today.

Q2. The main pool, the 25 metre pool, will this be utilised for kids as well, or is that going to be the five lanes of swimming all the time? How will that operate and would the therapy pool allow children to be utilised in that pool as well? How deep is the actual therapy pool?

Through the Chair, the Acting General Manager advised that in relation to the configuration of the 25 metre pool, Council is proposing five 2.5 metre lanes so that is the general width. They can vary between 2 and 2.5 metres in aquatic centres, but Council is proposing 2.5 metres. What Council will do for carnivals, we will be able to rearrange ore configure the lap line so that there are six 2 metre lanes which are perfectly fine when there is one person swimming.

In relation to the pool depth, Council is proposing to have the pool go from 1 metre to 1.5 metres. What is different than you probably would have seen in Tasmania, but is more frequent on the mainland, is that will be a cross fall, so there will be one lane at one metre depth to assist with learn to swim programs. So there will be a transition across the pool to 1.5 metres in depth on the deep end of the pool. Traditionally in Tasmania pools tend to have a deep end and a shallow end which is problematic when you are trying to do learn to swim programs and other types of activities like aqua aerobics. So by doing the crossfall, you are going to have a deeper lane and also some shallower lanes that will be more flexible and more user groups to be able to have access to it.

The Chair reiterated that in short, the main pool is about lap swimmers and general play as well programs like learn to swim and will be able to accommodate those various users. As the Acting General Manager mentioned, when there are carnivals, the pool can be reconfigured to have six lanes or possibly more. I think six lanes at this stage. With the therapy pool, the same logic applies, it is not exclusively for any one thing. It is all about trying to get the best utilisation from the broadest possible cross section of our community. Obviously it is for the elderly or for all users who need the water therapy for ie. injury rehabilitation through occupational therapists. That is one of the key value propositions of the centre. So it is really about as many different users as we can.

The Acting General Manager, additional comments to the Mayors, said the 25 metre pool, will have a fast lane, then a medium lane and slow lane. Depending on how many lap swimmers there are, you will configure and allocate the lanes as you need. During the summer, when there are busy periods and lots of children around, you generally have at least two lanes that would be there for recreational water play activities. In relation to the programs pool most likely have a shallow end and a deep end. So where there is a ramp that goes into the programs pool, so that will start near the entrance site and that will go down into the swallow end of the pool. Council still have to fully resolve it, but will most likely be 1.1 metres and the deep end will be between 1.3 - 1.5 metres.

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Trying to get the depth right in the programs pool is a challenge given the user groups are all at varying heights, but we're just trying to get that right.

Ms Mitchel asked so with the therapy pool is not is use for therapy, then could that be opened up for the general public?

The Chair advised that yes it can be opened up for the general public.

Mr G Mitchell

Q1. Why could not the pool be modified? You told me an engineer told you not to spend anymore money on it.

The Chair agreed that one engineer has said this.

Mr Mitchell then went on to ask have you asked any other?

Through the Chair to the Acting General Manager. As the pool stands today, it does require a lot of maintenance and is reaching its end of useful life. The engineering report suggests that it has reached it end of life.

Mr Mitchell asked what's the reason? They said don't spend anymore money on it. Why? It is only 40 years old.

The Chair advised Mr Mitchell to make sure you give the staff a chance to answer your questions, it is only courtesy.

The Acting General Manager continued ... the pool report confirms that it does leak like a lot of pools of that generation and age and Council does spend money each year on maintenance to fix those leaks. The thing is when you look at the grant we had and you are going to try and build a facility that is intergenerational, trying to retro fit into the pool and doing significant works into the future, I don't think that this would be achievable.

The Chair added that this is a profoundly different strategy to the existing pool. The Chair noted that the pool has done this community very well, but what the community is going to get is an entirely different proposition. You will be able to swim everyday of the year, there will be a general sports facility; there will be occupational therapy or allied health services rooms for visiting practitioners to work with people who need occupational therapists to assist in the heated pool. A large component of our community will benefit.

Mr Mitchell stated that they do occupational stuff up at the school.

The Chair stated that this is not a debate. It is a very different value proposition, you cannot retro fit one to make it look like the other is the short answer.

Mr Mitchell asked why can't we get a 50 metre pool?

The Chair asked indoor or outdoor?

Mr Mitchel stated he did not mind.

The Chair responded to Mr Mitchell that remember from our point of view, Council have done research, and received feedback. The two highest objectives of that was research were deliver a 365 days indoor pool and deliver a gym health club facility. So those are the

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two things we're pursuing. If Council were successful in raising enough funds in Phase 2 then Council can have a look at all the other options, but I think outdoor play for youngsters is in my personal view the top priority of Phase 2.

If we can host another pool, a longer pool, I'd love to be able to do that. But it has to be within our budget.

Ms L. Mitchell

Q1. Ms Mitchell said that the Chair said that stage 2 is a top priority for younger children. I have a two year old son who is learning to swim, can I take him into the inside pool, can he run around in that pool without me getting in?

That Chair said yes he can but do you want to be specific about that?

The Acting General Manager requested the question to be asked again.

My two year old son, I am allowed to let him run around in the pool by himself without me getting in?

The Acting General Manager advised that with a 2 1/2 year old, under the guidelines for safe pool operations you would need to be in the pool with the child.

Ms Mitchell asked that she can get in the heated pool with the aquatic fitness and swim around with her son?

The Chair responded with "yes".

Ms Mitchell asked while the classes are happening?

The Chair clarified his response, that the pool will be configured depending on the activities. For example, the 25 metre pool ...

Ms Mitchell asked that this is a metre and a half deep?

The Chair responded that it is a metre deep in the shallowest lane and that lane will be used for learn to swim classes and our young programs. So you may commonly see two things happening in parallel at anytime. For example two of the deeper lanes configured for the swimmers doing laps and the shallow lanes configured for learn to swim or for just pure playtime where you can swim with your son.

Ms Mitchell stated that he can run around with his friends.

The Chair continued you can be in the water with your son, everyone can have the whole family and have fun in the pool.

Ms Mitchell stated that she will sit on the grass with my picnic and let him run around.

The Chair said that is a good point you raise. I know a lot of people like sitting on the grass embankment outside, there will be grassed embankment area when the product is delivered to the community. You will still be able to go there on a warm summer day, sit out there with a picnic blanket ...

Ms Mitchell stated that I know we won't have a mushroom pool.

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The Chair continued that there will be facilities so that you can sit out there as a family and do family things, but you will have to come inside and swim as a family ..

Ms Mitchell said that is stage 2.

The Chair responded that this will be part of Stage 1. You will have the outdoor grassed embankment area where you will be able to sit as a family and come inside and swim as a family. Stage 2, again only if there is funding, when we deliver it, there will be outdoor facilities for recreational water play for the family.

I personally feel like that should be priority for stage 1. The outside area is a priority.

The Chair advised that a large component of these meetings is about Council listening to you and I appreciate that you have provided that feedback.

Ms Mitchell asked can we just swap them around. Stage 1 outdoor kids pool and we can still use them while you block off the other area and build it.

The Chair advised Ms Mitchell that we will do the best we can, I just do not have an answer for you. This is the best advice we have today, again within our budget which is extremely tight, we want to priorities making sure that this one in 20 year funding that we have, we hit a home run for the community.

Ms Mitchell asked how many questions can I ask?

The Chair advised that I think you are over but I can come back to you. I will ask the audience if they have any questions first, and then I will come back to you.

Ms N. Ciffo

Q1. It was community priorities that we wanted an indoor and a gym, but it wasn't what the people wanted if it meant that we didn't have an outdoor pool. Is there going to be more community discussion around what we are going to have or is this it?

The Chair thanked her for her question I appreciate it and its a difficult question. Are we immutable and not open to any level of change? No, not at all. The whole idea of local government is we listen to our communities feedback in trying to deliver the best outcome of our community. We are engaged on a path based on research and the priorities of the community wanted us to deliver.

When was the research done?

Approximately two years ago that was concluded ...

I don't remember being in the research, who was asked?

The entire community, we run constant research. Sometimes Council run forums where we have a handful of people in total who participate. Council host things like World Cafe Forum where it was over a number of days.

Sometimes we do forums where we have a handful of people in total that participate sometimes and Council host things like World Cafe Forum where it's over a number of days;

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we had three or four sessions in a day and we invite various different cohorts and I think the Sport and Recreation Strategy fitted into one of those World Cafe days.

I'm not 100% sure but the point being is that a sizeable chunk across various different user segments participated and provided that feedback, I don't know if I've got a better answer than that for you. The Chair thanked her for her question.

I just don't think when they were saying they wanted indoor pools, they realised they wouldn't have an outdoor pool.

Thank you very much for your question.

Cr Dawson

Q1. Just a question and through the Chair around the grant deeds. Do the grant deeds allow deviation from what's currently proposed? Is there scope to change the grant deeds to do a Stage 2 to do before Stage 1?

Through the Chair to the Acting General Manager. In relation to the grant deed, the \$15 million that was provided by the Federal Government was on the basis of the case the Council put to the Federal Government and was on the back of the sports strategy and the overwhelming feedback that was received at that time was around year access to a pool. About having a facility that was more accessible to more user groups and more individuals within the community. That was the impetus of the Federal Government agreeing to provide the grant funding and similarly with the State Government in their contribution to the project.

So to your question about can you vary grant deeds, you can, but in this case, if you were to, it would be very difficult and having spoken to the Minister previously to go back and say we want to spend this money on a facility that's going to be open six months of the year and only going to be open to the existing user groups and it's not going to be able to be that year round access to people with accessibility and NDIS programs, Mums and Bubs swimming classes, people with hydrotherapy needs.

So it would be a really difficult, we don't know, we haven't done it, but to go back and try and make a case where the money should be better spent providing an outdoor swimming pool that's opened six months of the year, I would imagine a very difficult thing to do.

The Chair continued, in short, I'll paraphrase that by saying it's not without risk.

Cr Dawson commented that the government would take the money back.

The Chair continued, it's not without risk, and given the quantum of funding and the infrequency by which you get governments to buy into a vision like this for a community, that's a pretty profound risk.

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Ms Mitchell

Q. How big square footage is this in-built swimming pool?

The Chair requested clarification on the question.

The whole complex?

The Chair advised that the question was taken on notice.

The Chair continued that the Oatlands pool has been built by the same architect. They are not identical but will give you a very strong feel for the direction Council are going in.

Ms Mitchell asked so that pool is complete?

The Chair answered that it is complete and been in operation for a number years. He has visited the site and spoken to the staff. Yeah, it's complete.

We've spoken to the staff at Oatlands and I'm happy to say that a lot of the lessons from that facility, which has commonality to George Town, have been learnt.

In fact, we're definitely building a grander vision, then that one, I'm going to say that one politely. But if you go there, I think you will leave there kind of going oohh. I have been there with swimming carnivals on, where there has been kids in the heated therapy pools with mums.

Swimming carnivals, how many swimming lanes was there?

The Chair advised that there were 6 lanes. And so again, it is a facility that is done well but I think we can improve. It is a real privilege that we can make a decision and plans are informed by something that is already been done that has an area of commonality. There is a lot we have learned and the architect has learnt from which is reflected in our design.

Is there any chance we could have a meeting where people aren't at work and it is not leading up to Christmas so you can hear what the community want?

The Chair responded that's something we'll take under advisement, but again, no, I'm just not in a position to make a decision on the fly, but I remind everybody that at any stage, if they have questions, you welcome to contact me.

It's just the community feel like you are not listening to us.

The Chair advised that I'll take that on the chin but I hope I have demonstrated that I certainly am receptive to whatever the community wants.

Again, it's all about delivering the best outcome possible, and we're very much committed to doing that. Listening to the community to delivering the best outcome for the community.

And on a personal note, I am very passionate and it would mean a lot to me if you would listen to my sister Fiona Hills and Kylie Sherriff who is running the pool.

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The Chair advised that yes, he would do that.

Ms Hills

Q. You are saying that we can use this swimming pool for carnivals?

The Chair replied yes.

If you are saying that we can use this pool for swimming carnivals will there be a diving box because in the diagram there are no boxes? If you have a metre pool and then you have a deep end, you will not be able to dive in the 5 or 6 lanes.

The Chair advised that this question had been debated and will ask the Acting General Manager to respond.

Because you have to teach the children water safety, they need to know what happens if they fall in a pool. They need to know how to dive, it is life skills.

The Acting General Manager advised In relation to the diving blocks, under the GSPA you need to have 1.8 metres in depth and 1.2 metres if under instruction by a coach or you are a competitive swimmer. In relation to this pool, there will be maybe 2 lanes that would have diving blocks.

So that wont work for a swimming carnival?

The Acting General Manager continued saying that the blocks would be there for swimming squads or learn to swim programs or specialised coaching for individual swimmers.

In relation to swimming carnivals, it is not an issue, I refer to the LSSSA swimming carnival that occurred a few weeks ago, all of those swimming, all of those events started in the water.

Which is ridiculous.

The Education Department are now doing it this way because kids aren't trained to dive.

Because they didn't get the chance to use the facilities to learn how to do those things, those life skills.

The Chair advised that it is a contemporary standard. As a Council authority, we would go to the Department of Education and ask what are the things you specifically want us to do and not to do. This is their advice to use. They're saying you don't need them, but we will provision them for two lanes so that if you got to coach there, your kids will at least be able.

You won't get any coaches come to the George Town pool.

Megan.

Do you know what the water will be? Will it be salt and chlorine or will it just be chlorine?

Through the Chair to the Acting General Manager.

The Acting General Manager advised that it will likely be chlorine. There are other alternatives, but generally, they can be challenging and problematic.

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And is there any regulation of the temperature cause? I know I've swimming a lot of heated pools, and I find them way too hot in when they're indoors.

The Acting General Manager, through the Chair, advised that lap swimmers normally like the pool temperature a bit cooler i.e. 26 They normally would like it about 26 degrees. Generally, 26 to 27 degrees for the 25-metre pool. Any hotter than that the lap swimmers do not like it. The recreational swimmers will love it. Regarding the programs pool around 30 /31 degrees. Again, you have user groups that use the therepay element to the pool or have issues with body regulating body temperature, so it tends to be a bit warmer.

The Chair advised, back to the chlorination issue, a group of Councillors went to the mainland to Victoria. We looked at 4 aquatic centres that have been built as well as the one down in Oakland's and others, and almost unanimously, they have all gone the non-salt route in terms of long-term operating costs on your infrastructure.

Mr Egan

Q Just regarding the project itself \$15 million have you had quotations to have this facility built? and who will be building it?

The Chair advised Council has a \$15 million grant from the federal government as well as a \$2.5 million state grant. The procurement process that Council has followed is a bit different to the regular one but is designed specially around de-risking your project.

These have a terrible habit of cost escalating once construction has started in variations and we as a Council do not think our community deserves this. Council has a different model, which is to first appoint an architect. Council had 10 who competed for it. Council went with the company called Philip Leighton Designs who did Oaklands. First you get your design, and the second stage called a forward contractor engagement which was tendered again. All of the various builders then tendered on things like builders margin, contractual margin what they are going to do i.e. remove the rubbish etc. This has been awarded to Fairbrothers.

This is not a done deal yet, because even though we've engaged various different quantity surveyors through the lifecycle, Council contracted a quantity surveyor to do this before we went to government for the grant. The Architect and Fairbrother's are also engaging a quantity surveyor, but until Fairbrothers have sat with the architect and looked at the building design and provided Council with a final price, then we are not locked in.

So we're at the point where they are sitting side by side.

They are looking at the builder ability and they're getting us to the point where we are going to get a final price, then that comes before this group of people here and we decide again.

We may need to put in a little. We may come in on budget. We'll wait and see how those planets align. Then we'll know where we're at.

Will the company that is being selected have experience in building pools?

The Chair responded yes.

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That's one reason why you've selected them?

The Chair responded that their reputation is fantastic. They've just done the University of Tasmania, all of the new buildings in Launceston. They've done some very ambitious works and they have an incredibly good reputation.

Building a pool is different than building a structure.

Through the Chair, the Acting General Manager advised that as you are aware the design team and the contractors do have pool experience. As you have stated not a lot of commercial pools get built in Tasmania but the one thing Fairbrothers do have a lot of experience with complex concrete structures. The work that they have been doing in Launceston and particularly around the Inveresk, Council believe they have the experience and skills to be able to deliver the pool.

The Chair added the team that they have put on this project is second to none.

The Acting General Manager added that there are also a number of projects like this that are complex, there are a number of other sub consultants, so there are pool specialists that will also feed into the design phase and just specialise in the construction of pools.

Cr Dawson requested through the Chair to make a comment. The Chair granted Cr Dawson to make comment. Fairbrothers presented to Council today with the group that constructed the Scottsdale pool. If you have been to Scottsdale you will understand the quality that we expect.

Mr Neilsen

Q. The words lean to swim have been used bit today, which is interesting. Many of the people here could remember when the children in George Town had learned to swim down in the Cove and trained for carnivals and so forth. The government of the day generously gave \$7,000 and I was one of quite a few people who walked the streets and had various events . We raised the rest of the money for that excellent facility at the former George Town Primary School (Port Dalrymple). From what I understand it is still getting lots of use. It's even depths and it was built to service learn to swim campaigns for all schools and I would assume that it is being subsidised with its maintenance and running costs by the government, the same people that you are going hand in glove to get money.

That existing facility, where does it come into the mix is it is this new facility going to make that redundant, has there been some serious discussions with the government and their education department that they're not funding 2 facilities or is it time to look at it and take the money from there and make that redundant and make what we're getting in the new facility better?

We just seem to have this thing in this town that we duplicate things and seriously, we don't seem to be on the one tram or thinking in a business like manner.

I don't want to get political but you know, we we just don't want to duplicate things like bars, restaurants and so forth with government funding?

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So, I would ask you to take seriously what I've said and think about the facility we've got as far as learn to swim, I know it's age, but it should be.

It should be in the thinking of this municipality, if we're going out and asking for money otherwise, we could end up with a facility up there where the government's knowing will be throwing their money into this and that's redundant.

And I'm sure that's going to affect a lot of user groups as well.

The Chair thanked Mr Neilsen for his question and advised that Council will consider it.

Q2. And as we spoke, informally outside, will you make available the engineers report on the current pool so as the people know what the defects are with the existing pool and what's the estimated cost was?

The Chair responded to Mr Neilsen if you request under the obligations of Freedom of Information.

Mr Neilsen responded with oh come on, come on, that is a democratic thing. You are the Mayor of a small town and if people want to know, all the facts.

The Chair thanked Mr Neilsen. Please take a seat. Mr Neilsen let's not go down this path yet.

Mr Neilsen continued to raise his voice and talk over the Chair.

Alright, that's your second warning, Mr Nelson.

Mr Neilsen responded with oh yeah, I know the door.

The Chair thanked Mr Nelson.

Ms Hills approached the Chair delivering a petition on the swimming pool.

The Chair acknowledged and accepted the petition and advised Ms Hills that it will be checked to meet the standards and Council will write back to you.

The Mayor left the meeting at 1.57 pm.

The Deputy Mayor assumed the role as Chair at 1.57 pm.

The Mayor entered the meeting at 1.58 pm.

The Deputy Mayor left the role as Chair at 1.58 pm.

The Mayor assumed the role as Chair at 1.58 pm.

The Mayor vacated the Chair at 1.59 pm due to an engagement he is required to attend.

The Deputy Mayor assumed the role as Chair at 1.59 pm.

5.4 RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(Refer to Minute No. 425/00, which states in part, "that a copy of all written replies to questions from the Public Gallery be included in the following Council Agenda.")

Nil.

6 ACTING GENERAL MANAGER'S DECLARATION

I certify that with respect to all advice, information or recommendations provided to Council with this Agenda:

- the advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation; and
- where any advice is given directly to Council by a person who does not have the required qualifications of experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.



Andrew McCarthy
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 – SECTION 65

65. Qualified persons

- (1) A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.
- (2) A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless –
 - (a) the general manager certifies, in writing –
 - (i) that such advice was obtained; and
 - (ii) that the general manager took the advice into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee; and
 - (b) a copy of that advice or, if the advice was given orally, a written transcript or summary of that advice is provided to the council or council committee with the general manager's certificate.

7 PLANNING AUTHORITY

Nil.

8 OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

8.1 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024

REPORT AUTHOR:	General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	11 December 2024
FILE NO:	14.10

Minute No. 179/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Barwick

That Council:

Receives the report on the Council Workshops held on the 26 November 2024 and 10 December 2024 amendment to include Low Head in the George Town Open Space Plan topic.

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Barwick, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 / 0

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8.2 DRAFT ADVOCACY PLAN AND NTDC REGIONAL PRIORITY PROJECTS

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager – Shane Power
REPORT DATE: 12 December 2024
FILE NO: 17.6

Minute No. 180/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Archer
Seconded: Cr Lowe

That Council:

1. Adopts and endorses the George Town Council Advocacy Plan.
2. The General Manager is to ensure that up to date project costings are maintained.
3. The General Manager is to forward up to date project costings to NTDC and other interested parties as they are developed.

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr
Against: Cr Barwick
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED 7 / 1

9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

9.1 CONSIDERATION - NEW CROWN AGREEMENTS

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Infrastructure & Development - Mr A. McCarthy
REPORT DATE:	10/12/2024
FILE NO:	52.1

Minute No. 181/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Orr
Seconded: Cr Harris

That Council:

Accepts responsibility for and authorises the General Manager to enter into a ten (10) year agreements by signing and sealing the required documentation for the following:

- a. Foreshore Site: Leam Rd Corner
- b. York Cove Pontoon & Boat Ramp
- c. Low Head Pontoon
- d. Weymouth Hall

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Barwick, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 / 0

10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

10.1 SPONSORSHIP POLICY

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE: 10 December 2024
FILE NO: 14.33

The Director Corporate and Community entered the meeting at 2.25 pm.

Minute No. 182/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Ashley
Seconded: Cr Mason

That Council:

1. Adopt the amended GTC-22 Sponsorship Policy.

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Barwick, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason
and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 / 0

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10.2 GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL AUDIT PANEL COMMITTEE MINUTES

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE:	17 December 2024
FILE NO:	29.11

Minute No. 183/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Minutes of the Audit Panel meeting held on 19 June 2024 and 18 September 2024 as an accurate record of that meeting.

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Barwick, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason
and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 / 0

The Director Corporate & Community left the meeting at 2.35 pm.

11 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE & STRATEGY

Nil

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12 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

REPORT DATE: 11 December 2024

FILE NO: 14.11, 14.15

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser		
November	20	Attended LGAT Mayor and Deputy Mayor Workshop
	21	Attended LGAT General Meeting
	22	Attended Official Launch of Art-Street-Art
	22	Attended George Town South Primary Trivia Night
	23	Attended and welcomed guests to the CWA 80 th Birthday Celebrations
	25	Attended meeting with General Manager and prospective business
	25	Attended RSL Media Event for the donation of a vehicle by Bell Bay Aluminum for Veterans
	25	Attended interview with ORIMA Research, on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water re Renewable Energy infrastructure developments
	26	Part Chaired Council Workshop
	26	Attended meeting with officials of the Net Zero Economy Authority (NZEa) and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) regarding Net Zero Industrial Precincts
	26	Chaired Ordinary Council meeting
	27	Interview Tamar FM
December	9	Attended the opening of the Narle Project – Jim Mooney Gallery
	10	Chaired Council Workshop
	11	Attended Audit Panel Meeting
	12	Attended South George Town Primary School end of year assembly
	12	Met with the Tas Police Commander Ghedini and Inspector and General Manager
	16	Attended the George Town Community Hub 10 th Birthday celebrations
Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson		
November	26	Part Chaired Council Workshop
	26	Attended Ordinary Council Meeting
December	10	Attended Council Workshop
Cr Winston Mason		
November	26	Attended Council Workshop
	26	Attended Ordinary Council Meeting

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	6	Attended and judged the floats at the George Town Christmas Carnival
	10	Attended Council Workshop
	11	Attended Audit Panel Meeting
Cr Jason Orr		
November	21	RESET – Port Dalrymple School. Location Launch Pad/ Police Station
December	3	DAP – East Tamar Network Catchup.
	3	South George Town Primary School redevelopment community engagement session
	4	RESET – Port Dalrymple School. Location Low Head
	4	Tasmanian Recreational Fishing Forum
	5	RESET – Port Dalrymple School. Location Hillwood
	5	George Town Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party

Minute No. 184/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Barwick
Seconded: Cr Mason

That the information report from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors on Matters of Involvement be received and the information noted.

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Barwick, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 / 0

13 PETITIONS

Nil.

14 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

15 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil.

16 CLOSED MEETING

16.1 INTO CLOSED MEETING

Minute No. 185/24

DECISION

Moved: Cr Archer
Seconded: Cr Mason

That Council move into closed meeting at 2.43 pm to discuss the following items:

Agenda Item 16.2 Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 November 2024

As per the provisions of Regulation 34(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

Agenda Item 16.3 Legal Expenditure

As per the provisions of Regulation 15(2)(a); (b); (d); (e)(i)(ii); (f); (g); (i) and (j) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Barwick, Cr Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason
and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 / 0

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17 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.57 pm.



Cr Greg Kieser
MAYOR