



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on **Tuesday 29 April 2025**

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

commencing 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	PRESENT	5
1.1	Apologies And Leave Of Absence	5
1.2	In Attendance	5
2	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
2.1	Ordinary Council Meeting Held 25 March 2025.....	6
3	LATE ITEMS	7
3.1	Late Agenda Report - Establishment Of General Manager Performance Review Panel.....	7
4	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	8
5	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	8
5.1	Public Question Time Procedure.....	8
5.2	Public Questions On Notice.....	9
5.3	Public Question Time	10
5.4	Response To Questions From Previous Public Question Time	18
6	GENERAL MANAGER'S DECLARATION	25
7	PLANNING AUTHORITY	26
8	OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER	27
8.1	Council Workshop March And April 2025	27
8.2	Rescinding Of Obsolete Motions And Removal Of Motions From Outstanding Motions Register.....	28
9	INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT	30
9.1	Policy - Private Signage On Council Land	30
9.2	Stormwater Drainage Plan For Beechford	32
10	CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY	33
10.1	Community Assistance Policy.....	33
11	ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE & STRATEGY	34
12	OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	35

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

12.1 Matters Of Involvement - Mayor, Deputy Mayor And Councillors	35
13 PETITIONS.....	37
14 NOTICES OF MOTIONS	38
15 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE	39
16 CLOSED MEETING.....	40
16.1 Into Closed Meeting.....	40
17 CLOSURE	42

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

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

Nil.

1.2 IN ATTENDANCE

General Manager - Mr S Power
Director Corporate & Community - Mrs C Hyde
Director Operational Performance, Strategy & Engagement - Mr R Dunn
Director Infrastructure & Development - Mr A McCarthy
Senior Executive Support and Governance Officer - Ms L Dickenson
Executive Assistant - Mollie Crane
Administrative Assistant - Coby Roach

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 25 MARCH 2025

Minute No. 47/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Harris
Seconded: Cr Mason

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 25 March 2025 numbered 27/25 to 43/25 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 Harris, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason
and Cr Orr
Against: Cr Barwick
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED 8 / 1

3 LATE ITEMS

3.1 LATE AGENDA REPORT - ESTABLISHMENT OF GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE REVIEW PANEL

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 28 April 2025
FILE NO: 14.101

Minute No. 48/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Dawson

That Council:

1. resolves to receive the late item Agenda Report 3.1 from the General Manager; and
2. include Closed Agenda Item 4.1 from the Office of the Mayor to consider the establishment of a panel for the review of the General Manager's performance.

REQUIRES ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL

VOTING

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

**CARRIED 7 / 2
BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL**

FORESHADOWED MOTION

Moved: Cr Barwick

That Council:

1. resolves to not receive the late item Agenda Report 3.1 from the General Manager as it does not comply with the regulations pertaining to a Late Item under the Act.

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.

5.3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Commenced at: 1.20 pm

Concluded at: 1.51 pm

Mr J. Glisson, Low Head

Mr Glisson expressed some concerns about the works going on in McKenzie Drive at the moment. Mr Glisson advised that Council wrote to him on 15th January of 2004 saying that I had attended the Council meeting on the 19th December 2004, which is basically 12 months after the written correspondence. Mr Glisson asked that you need to look at your system.

The Chair apologised for this.

Mr Glisson continued to say that he had received further correspondence about an issue of stormwater coming from the roof of the houses in McKenzie Drive which run out into a spoon drain, down the street and under the houses next door to himself. Council wrote to him on the 8th April 2025 to advise residents about Council's upcoming drainage works. Council engaged ProDig with the intention to commence work from Wednesday 23rd April with this project installing kerb and channeling, along with drain pipes, pits and associated civil works.

Mr Glisson came to Council to talk to the engineer to find out what that entails and whether or not the residents could connect to the stormwater into these pipes. The engineer looked at it and advised that what is being designed would not accept the amount of water that come off our roof. Mr Glisson stated that this would not fix the problem. Mr Glisson continued and advised that he has real concerns that if the residents are going to get kerb and channeling and residents cannot connect our water into the kerb and challenging that it is not going fix the problem but cause an overflow and create the same problem.

Q1. Can Council confirm that adequate stormwater drainage is going to be installed to address the problem?

Through the Chair, the General Manager advised that question would be taken on notice as he does not have the design in front of him, so unsure of the hydraulic capacity of the design.

Ms D. Judd, George Town

Q1. Is the Mayor going to apologise to the George Town community for stating on the ABC Radio, Northern Tasmania that George Town has the worst health record in the whole of Tasmania?

Ms Judd went on to say that she had received an email on the 4th April 2025 from the Mayor saying "sorry for the delay in responding to your email, indeed I am human and from time to time we all make an error when under pressure from a journalist. Such is the situation, when trying to respond to challenging questions without any forewarning, where I thought I had said some of the worst health outcomes I apparently said we have the worst health outcomes.

I apologise unreservedly for this by our part. I take my role very seriously and am tremendously proud of our community. Please accept my apologies. I only wish to represent the best of my ability, albeit poorly on this occasion."

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

Ms Judd advised that when I responded to that email, the response from the Mayor was "OK, let me work with my PR team. Let's see what we can do. I intend to follow up with a meaningful apology. I will get back to you."

And then the next email the Mayor said "at the next Council meeting", which you thought was the 22nd of April, "I will make the following formal apology on record. Once again, I apologise."

Ms Judd asked are you going to make that apology?

The Chair thanked Ms Judd for her questions.

The Chair stated that I absolutely do apologise unequivocally to all of our excellent health workers in our community. And you guys do a fantastic job.

Ms Judd interrupted and said I think you need to apologise to the whole community, not for their help.

The Chair advised that he was not going to apologise. He is going to apologise to the health workers if they took offence. This is confrontational stuff and understand that it's a difficult thing to hear.

However, this is a data driven third party government authored report. Based on the last national census and the Chair has printed it out for anybody who would like to see them. This is based on the national consensus from across nationally and based on that feedback, they have then gone and surveyed the health outcomes of each community.

The Chair advised, with disappointment, that George Town does rate as having the worst health statistics as per the national census in Tasmania. He has the collated data as well as the graphs association and are available for all. This is not my report, it is the national census data and independent report that is authored by the Department of State Growth that state that we have the worst health statistics as per the census in Tasmania.

Ms Judd stated that she had contacted the Primary Health of Tasmania today and their data, which is on their Tasmanian Committee Health Check which is from the Bureau of Census. In their data George Town has the lowest margin rates than Devonport and Sorrell; lowest vaping rates; lower than average of drinking alcohol, Tasmanian average of 37% - George Town is 28%. Meeting the recommended daily vegetable intake where that is the Tasmanian average, which is 91%, we are 88%. The eating fruit with one of us we are at highest at 62%.

The Chair advised that Council have taken it one step further and gone back to the independent research house. Council requested from the Department of State Health to provide Council with the full data, which again, is available to all. Of the 29 different LGAs surveyed in the category of arthritis, asthma, cancer including remission, dementia including Alzheimer's's, heart disease, kidney disease, lung condition; mental health conditions, stroke and other long term health conditions by composite George Town scored 76.73 is the worst in the whole of Tasmania and you can view all other 28 LGAs.

I fundamentally cannot apologise for independent data driven research. I am, however, deeply apologetic to any of our health workers who took offence.

Ms Judd stated that so the emails you sent me on the 4th of April, you hadn't seen that data because you said that you had.

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

The Chair responded that he didn't have this level of data.

Ms Judd stated when you made that comment on ABC Radio, you didn't know that.

The Chair advised that when he made that apology, it turns out that it was wholly appropriate and fundamentally correct. I'll make that available to anybody to have a look at.

Ms F. Hills, George Town

Last month, when I raised the question of the swimming carnivals in the pool, both the Chair and Cr Mason dismissed the need to consider this as it was only 11 days a year.

Cr Mason asked why would other schools closer to Launceston would come to George Town to have their swimming carnivals here. I think that is some extraordinary attitude, since we have seen so much money invested in infrastructure of the playground Regent Square; two mountain bike trails; pump track; rock climbing area and not to mention the sports ground, the blue gum park to encourage people to come to George Town.

Much of that infrastructure, at a cost to the rate payer, with very little return. Users for the pool were charged at \$210.00 an hour during normal hours of operation and \$284.00 per hour outside normal hours, and I think there is a slide fee as well. Seems a hefty return on a swimming carnival that might only last up to 5 hours.

Q1. Was every school that used this pool in the last season charged these rates? How many school swimming carnivals were held and what was the total amount received to use the George Town pool for these in the past swimming season, October to March?

The Chair advised Ms Hills that the questions are to be taken on notice.

Ms Hills informed that the following question is on behalf of Ms L. Wootton. Mayor at the last meeting, you answered Mr. Brown with a geographic description of how the current 25 metre pool in Williams St was built that was designed for a lifespan of 50 years. You have a pool with a lifespan of 50 years when the original members of this community and a lot of them did this on weekends and their own with their own equipment and not necessarily civil engineers or experts. Good people at the community got together and they decided to build a pool.

When they did that, it was the best of their ability. The desired lifespan of the intended 50 metre and the pool is only 38 years old. It should have at least another 12 years to go at least.

Q2. My question is, where did you get the information about the building of the current pool and that was opened at the end of 1986? And did that information in any way influence your decisions on the demolition plan or other councillors who thought that was true?

Because indeed those facts that the pool that was in York Cove was opened in 1936.

The Chair advised he has been extensively briefed by our team on the pool, its history and again, I commend every member of the Community. It's just a fantastic effort that has served us very well. But I just reiterate what I've said all along, which is the condition of the pool was not the primary thing which we use to determine the best future development outcome for the Community. It is an aged asset. To my knowledge, I've always used a figure of 40 years old so.

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

There seems to be some debate around the actual age, but it shows that age and its lifespan is very limited.

Q3. Ms Hills asked has anyone been to the pool now that it is emptied?

The Chair advised that the pool is closed.

Ms Hills continued and do they agree with your diving technique skills that the side is bowing?

The Chair advised that he could not comment on that. The pool is closed and it has lost significant volume of water.

Mr P. Shields, George Town

Mr Shields advised that he had attended the pool meeting and came to the Council last week and asked if they were taped, if there was records, what people asked?

At the meeting he attended were 7 people. Cr Winston Mason was there. I asked about the school carnival. I was told by not the Council representative, but the builder and designer and maker of the pool that was at the meeting that there is no way you can have a school carnival in that pool.

The open pool is a different design altogether. They have a shallow end and a deep end. They can still have 6 lanes. This pool can only have three lanes and cannot be used as a carnival pool.

The shallow lane can't be used with one person standing up another diving in the sloping lane. Mr Shields advised that you can't stand on the sloping lane to take off for Breast stroke and butterfly stroke. So from the builders and designers of the pool said no, the best you can have is the play area for the primary school.

Q1. Mr Shields would have liked that meeting to be recorded and is that why you had so many little meetings so that nothing could be said and recorded that is public? If it is true, you can have 6 lanes and six people racing. Please explain it to me how.

The Chair thanked Mr Shields for his questions. Through the Chair to the Director of Infrastructure and Development advised that the pool is designed for 5 x 2 ½ metre lanes and in carnival mode it will be 6 x 2 metre lanes.

Mr Shields said that 6 x 2 metre lanes, the builder stated that this still only makes 3 lanes of swimming suitable for competition. If you've got 6 people having a competition and going for race times - one's going to be in a small amount of water; ones on the slope holding on; and three at the end ready to dive in. It is not a competition pool; it is not a standard pool.

The Chair requested that Mr Shields provide the Director with an opportunity to provide an answer.

The Director continued saying that 2 metre lanes are sufficient to have a carnival. The open pool has two metre lanes which is suitable. What Council is proposing is five 2 1/2 because 2 1/2 for the majority of the time provides a more wider lane for people to be able to pass up and back. Generally there is a slow, medium and fast lanes.

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

In relation to the carnival because you only have one person in the lane, 2 metres is truly wide enough to be able to accommodate. During LSSSA carnivals the kids start in the pool, they don't dive. So this particular pool will have in the deep lane for the 1.5 metre lane will have a diving blocks at either end. But the actual carnivals will start in the water as they do currently at LSSSA.

Q2. Mr Shields asked what is the LSSSA?

The Director advised that this is the local schools carnival competition. The top 2 representatives from each school goes into the regional finals. They start within the water at the Riverside pool.

Mr Shields questioned that they start in the pool, so don't dive in. How do they start butterfly? The Director advised that they push off.

Mr Shields stated it is impossible to start butterfly standing in a pool and swimming carnivals normally have more than two people that want to swim carnivals.

The Director commented not in the one lane.

Mr Shields commented that Riverside have got 6 lanes with a deep end. How do they start butterfly in the pool.

The Director advised that they push off.

Mr Shields continued.

The Chair reminded about the protocol.

The Director advised that they start in the water and the reason that they don't dive now is because the skills. The risk assessment of the Education Department is the kids just don't have the skills or trained to dive safely.

Mr Shields stated that if children have been going through all their swimming lessons all through their diving, they get to the day they're doing the race. But butterfly. They've got to stand in the shallow end and on and take off with butterfly. Get times and different things and don't tell me butterfly starts in the pool because they don't.

The Chair advised that to be fair and objective, this has been widely circulated and consulted with the Department of Education, we actually have the person who runs all of the swim programs in the North understand she lives in our municipality, she's across that, she's endorsed the design as being a great design.

We've been to Oakland to have a look at how their pool functions as a swim carnival, again widely acclaimed that it does the job well. So I understand you have a difference of opinion, but everything that we've heard is that.

Mr Shields continued speaking that it is a different pool with 6 lanes with a deep end and every lane is equal.

Council's Most frequently asked questions about school carnivals says that school carnivals can be held. The pool will be under configured to six by two metre to support carnival competitions. So you cannot have a competition in a shallow pool and you can't have more

George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes

than three people swimming in a competition unless they're unfairly timed you can't have someone point in the shallow end and someone times in a deep end.

The Chair advised we will be able to host some carnivals. We have consulted with the Department of Education and Mr Shields has been given an answer that according to the LSSSA.

Mr Shields went on speaking when are you going to be honest with the George Town Public and say that you are closing the pool. You have not got any money other than the 17 ½ million. We are not going to move the pool because we don't want to. You could move it, you could redesign it around what is there. There will be no slides, there will be no medium pool, no mushroom pool and no outdoor pool because you have not got money. It is advertised other than the few sprinkles on the mat as a splash pool.

The Chair advised that he was trying to provide an answer.

Council have the funds and is still waiting on final contract prices to come back. Council has the funds to deliver phase one, which is the indoor facility that contains the two swimming pools, the 25 metre swimming pool, as well as the heated programme pool as well as the gymnasium and allied health services to the best of our knowledge, is funded and that is we just waiting on process to resolve.

Council has been unequivocal that phase two, which is the splash pad which is about to start consultation on and phase three an outdoor swimming pool is unfunded at this stage.

As however, we have on many occasions raised funding from external sources for these type of capital projects and we have started that.

Ms C. Crawford-Coates, George Town

Q1. Ms Crawford-Coates had the agenda before she came today and it said something about the George Safety Group Committee has not been established?

The Chair advised it has not been established as of yet. I think there are expressions of interest are just correct me if I'm wrong and their expressions of interest have closed.

Through the Chair the General Manager advised that the Safety Group Committee has been disbanded and it is the intention that the Health and Wellbeing Committee in line with the State Health and Wellness directive, will take its place.

Q2. My next question is, is the Snap Send Solve app still running?

The Chair advised that this is a third party app. It is a private app developer - a business. If you've downloaded the app, you can take a photo and you send it to council and then they charge us a fee to retrieve those requests.

Council's strong preference is to come straight to the front desk, make a phone call, or go to our website and fill in the service request.

Q3. My next question is about feral cats and implementing the cats indoors rule. Can we look into getting an organisation or funding to help with the feral cats around the town? I know there's a few different areas that have feral cats in them. I've recently tried to deal with feral cats but it did not work.

George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes

The Chair advised that Council has done quite groundbreaking work. So the way that the animal management framework for state government works is basically there's a big hole in legislation. So we actually have set aside a budget in the George Town annual operating budget. We have a feral cats program which Council have now run for a year.

Through the Chair the Director Organisational Performance and Strategic advised that there are two parts of the program. One is around microchipping and desexing so that the so both the cats that are stray or domestic but still roam, there is an opportunity for residents to have those microchipped and desexed. That's been very successful over the last six months.

Accompanying that is a travelling program Council have to undertake that program at certain times of the year to avoid the breeding seasons that involves the declaration of areas where organisations like Council can undertake trapping. Council is about to declare two areas within George Town, one around the depot and the other around the refuse disposal site where Council will be able to undertake trapping under supervision.

Council is also working with the Low Head community and the Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure that areas around the Low Head area are protected from feral cats for the potential trapping program up there. So we are doing work in that space. We have got limited powers under legislation, but we're doing everything that we can within the compliance of the legislation.

Q4. Can we put out the topic to the public to do some trapping on the places not on breeding season like Low Head and the sporting complex? Just Cats can't take them and Council does not have any facilities to take them either. But just cats can't take them. And like you guys don't have any facilities to take them either.

The Chair advised that it is Council's intention to try to take on a little bit more each. Cats, in general, people get emotional about it and so we are taking little steps here within our budget and not overreach. The Chair advised that anybody from the public that has noticed any feral cats in an area please report them to Council to help us to monitor the hotspot, then Council can declare those as the hotspots for the next year's activity.

Ms J. Baxter, Pipers River

Q1. Ms Baxter stated that she understands Pipers River Road is State Growth and that she is unaware whether Council has the ability to notify State Growth or Fulton Hogan who was spraying there today with no dye in their trucks. Ms Baxter acknowledged when the Council sprays or when they employ the contractor to spray that it is always dyed.

The Chair thanked Ms Baxter for her question and asked the General Manager for comment.

Through the Chair the General Manager advised that Council will provide feedback on the question.

MOTION FROM THE FLOOR – GEORGE TOWN HEALTH AND WELLBEING CENTRE

DECISION

Moved: Cr Barwick
Seconded: Cr Lowe

That this Council request that the demolition and reconstruction of the George Town Health and Wellbeing Centre project be returned to the May Council meeting to reassess the costs and affordability of the complex prior to commencement of any works.

Cr Dawson left the meeting 1.53 pm.

Cr Dawson returned to the meeting at 1.54 pm.

VOTING

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

LOST 2 / 7

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

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.")

Mr Judd



17 April 2025

Mr M. Judd

Email: m.judd@georgetown.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Judd,

Re: Public Question Time – 25 March 2025

Thank you for your attendance at the 25 March 2025 Ordinary Council meeting where you raised the following questions. Please see below response to each of the questions in italics.

Q1. On completion of the pool condition assessment was it supplied to all of our elected councillors?

Yes

Q2. If indeed it was supplied then when was this action taken, date please?

The report was provided to Councillors on 9 October 2024.

Q3. At any stage after council received the pool condition assessment were the elected Councillors given an opportunity to inspect and query the condition assessment with a suitably qualified person?

Councillors can make requests, discuss, scrutinise and question information presented to them. Some Councillors have subsequently inspected the pool.

Q4. If no pool condition assessment inspection was not offered was any formal briefing given to elected Councillors from a suitably qualified person, in order that they were able to ask the suitably qualified person of any concerns they may have had.

N/A as per the previous question.

Q5. At any stage during the consultation and design stage were there conceptual drawing done which included the existing 25 metre outdoor pool?

Initially, Council's intention was to construct a facility that included indoor and outdoor aquatic elements. However, delays in receiving confirmation of funding caused issues with the scope of the project. Post-COVID pandemic inflation and rising costs experienced across the construction sector impacted Council's ability to deliver the project as initially envisaged, specifically building a new outdoor pool.

Council opted to invest in a new, contemporary indoor facility to increase community usage, rather than spend increasing amounts on maintaining the existing pool that is deteriorating.

Q6. In light of there being plans within the new pool project for a cafe was any form of building assessment undertaken in order to identify opportunities for reuse, upgrading or incorporating any worthwhile

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

features from the existing infrastructure?

The infrastructure on the site is 40 years old, and therefore the plan has always been to ensure the aquatic centre is built with materials that meet contemporary standards as well as maximise the new facility's lifespan.

Q7. When was the decision made to demolish the original 25 metre outdoor pool?

February 2025.

Q8. How was this decision reached and by what means?

Councillors have been thoroughly briefed from the beginning by Council officers, and external specialist advisors, with all options being considered.

After extensive consultation through Council's Sport and Recreation Strategy, an indoor aquatic facility incorporating health and wellbeing services was identified as a priority for the community. This formed the basis for Council's funding request, which ultimately contributed to the success of our funding application.

Delays in funding confirmation, coupled with a drastic rise in construction costs meant Council had to prioritise investing in a new, contemporary indoor facility to increase community usage, rather than spend increasing amounts on maintaining the existing pool that is deteriorating.

Q9. Was this decision voted on by elected Councillors or was the decision made by senior management?

Refer previous question.

Q10. Was the key factor in reaching this decision orchestrated from the pool condition assessment?

No. As operators of the existing pool Council was aware of the condition of the structure and what is required to maintain it. Unsurprisingly the condition assessment confirmed what was already known.

Q11. If so, then can that key information be made public?

N/A as per the previous question.

As stated at the Ordinary Council meeting, your questions with responses will be published in the 29 April 2025 Ordinary Council meeting agenda.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office on council@georgetown.tas.gov.au or 03) 6382 8800.

Yours sincerely,



Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

Mrs L. Wootton



17 April 2025

Mrs L. Wootton

Dear Mrs Wootton,

Re: Public Question Time – 25 March 2025

Thank you for your attendance at the 25 March 2025 Ordinary Council meeting where you raised the following questions. Please see below response to each of the questions in italics.

Q1. How many people in total attended the series of meetings held on two days last week?

Nine sessions, with each session able to cater for 10 people, were advertised extensively and initially were largely booked out by a small number of individuals reserving multiple seats. Council contacted these people to advise a preference of one person per booking, which resulted in some people cancelling their bookings altogether.

Three sessions were cancelled all together due to low numbers, and the registered participants moved to one of the six remaining sessions. Of the 60 remaining available spots, 55 were booked, with only 40 attending. No sessions had all bookings turn up.

Q2. What was the total cost of running those meetings?

Both external advisors participated in delivering the community information sessions as part of existing arrangements. Some additional travel and accommodation costs were incurred, with one advisor coming from Victoria, and the other from Hobart. It is estimated that the cost of running the information sessions was \$6,000-\$7,000.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office on council@georgetown.tas.gov.au or 03) 6382 8800.

Yours sincerely,



**Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER**

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

Mr G. Neilsen



17 April 2025

Mr G. Neilsen

Dear Mr Neilsen,

Re: Public Question Time – 25 March 2025

Thank you for your attendance at the 25 March 2025 Ordinary Council meeting where you raised the following questions. Please see below response to each of the questions in italics.

Q2. Mayor on the 6th March you made some claims and gave information on Tamar FM Radio following the February Council meeting which I considered required a response.

The station has granted me a right of reply and they have offered to record an interview with me next week.

In your report you quoted over \$3 million to keep the outdoor pool functional and referenced the Deed which covers the Federal \$15 million contribution to the new Aquatic Centre.

Can you please provide me with a copy of the Deed this week and the evidence on which you relied to quote the costs of keeping the 25 m pool operational?

Advice from the grant provider is that the deed contains confidential information and is not appropriate for public sharing. However, Council as the Grantee can share: -

- *information pertaining to the purpose of the grant; and*
- *the activities that need to be delivered under the grant;*

by way of the relevant page extracted from the grant deed document (see below).

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

Grant Details PCIP0068

A. Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the Grant is to support community and sporting infrastructure through the construction of an aquatic, health and wellbeing facility.

This Grant is being provided under Priority Community Infrastructure Program, (the Program) and these Grant Details form part of the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee as of the date of execution for PCIP0068 – George Town Aquatic, Health and Wellbeing Centre.

The Grant is being provided as part of the Program.

B. Activity

The Grantee must deliver the following Activities:

- Design, construction and fit-out of a leisure and aquatic centre, including:
 - An indoor Learn to Swim pool of at least 3 lanes at 12.5m length;
 - An indoor pool of at least 3 lanes at 25m length;
 - Reception, kiosk and retail area;
 - At least 2 cleaner's closets;
 - Office space of at least 18m²;
 - A plant room with associated supporting infrastructure and mechanical room;
 - At least 1 separate store room for equipment, chemicals and ambient products;
 - First aid room of at least 6m²;
 - At least 1 gym area of 100m²;
 - At least 2 allied health/specialist rooms of 12m²;
 - At least 2 group fitness areas of a minimum combined area of 200m²;
 - Male, female and family amenities including changing places, lockers, showers and water closets;
 - At least 2 accessible amenities; and
 - Associated external landscaping.

The Grantee must undertake the Activity so as to meet the following outcomes:

- The enhancement of community infrastructure through the construction of an aquatic, health and wellbeing facility that improves equity outcomes and social inclusion, and encourages the community to thrive economically and socially.

The Grantee must complete the milestones specified in the table below by the corresponding due date. If the Grantee does not complete a milestone described as a critical milestone by the corresponding due date, the parties agree that the Commonwealth may treat such failure as a breach of this Agreement incapable of remedy for the purposes of clause 19 of Schedule 1 (Commonwealth Standard Grant Conditions).

- Q. So I want clarification you gave technical details in responding to Mr Brown around the seepage from the pool. Can you please tell us if that detailed engineering is in the report and that we have in the black or the details you gave,

Mr Neilsen asked the Acting General Manager to you have any objections to me releasing the document that was left at my house?

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

The document is and shall remain in the property of the report author and may only be used for the purpose for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the Terms of Engagement for the commission. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office on council@georgetown.tas.gov.au or 03) 6382 8800.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shane Power', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER

•

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

Ms C. Crawford-Coates



17 April 2025

Ms C. Crawford-Coates

Dear Ms C. Crawford-Coates,

Re: Public Question Time – 25 March 2025

Thank you for your attendance at the 25 March 2025 Ordinary Council meeting where you raised the following questions. Please see below response to each of the questions in italics.

- Q1. Ms Crawford-Coates advised that she has Mr Neilsen's question. I ask when did elected members as the Community Trustees of all that we the ratepayers own debate and pass a motion to make the momentous decision to authorise management to initiate and proceed with plans and processes that would lead to the decommissioning and destroying of all of the Swimming Centre including the 25 m pool?

Councillors have been thoroughly briefed from the beginning by management, council officers, and external specialist advisors, with all options being considered. Ultimately, Council opted to invest in a new, contemporary indoor facility to increase community usage, rather than spend increasing amounts on maintaining the existing pool that is deteriorating.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office on council@georgetown.tas.gov.au or 03) 6382 8800.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Power', is written over a circular stamp or seal.

**Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER**

6 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 or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice, the advice from an appropriately qualified or experienced person.



Shane Power
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.

The General Manager advised the following declarations:

- *Agenda Item 9.1 there is an amendment to the Officers Recommendation which has been circulated to all Councillors and hard copies are available for the public; and*
- *The agenda Item Into Closed to have the addition of Legal Expenditure listed.*

7 PLANNING AUTHORITY

Nil.

8 OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

8.1 COUNCIL WORKSHOP MARCH AND APRIL 2025

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 17 April 2025
FILE NO: 14.10

Minute No. 48/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Receives the report on the Council Workshops held on the 18th March, 25th March, 8th April and 15th April 2025.

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

George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes

8.2 RESCINDING OF OBSOLETE MOTIONS AND REMOVAL OF MOTIONS FROM OUTSTANDING MOTIONS REGISTER

REPORT AUTHOR:	General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE:	17 April 2025
FILE NO:	14.12, 14.5

Minute No. 49/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Orr
Seconded: Cr Mason

That Council:

1. Receives the report; and
2. Notes the following motions are completed and will be removed from the Council Outstanding Motions list after the presentation of the 3rd Quarterly Performance Report dated 31 March 2025:
 - a. 114/24 DA 2024/13 – 40 Davis Street, Beechford – Subdivision (11 Lots and Road)
 - b. 128/24 DA 2024/13 – 40 Davis Street, Beechford – Subdivision (11 Lots and Road)
 - c. 151/24DA2024/74 - 80 North Street, George Town - Subdivision (1 Lot & Balance)
 - d. 152/24 DA2024/75 - 93 Burton Street, Hillwood - Resource Development - Free-Range Poultry/Eggs
 - e. 165/24 DA 2024/86 - 82 Bellbuoy Beach Road, Low Head - Subdivision (1 Lot To 4 Lots)
 - f. 166/24 DA2024/60 - Residential - Single Dwelling & Outbuilding - 253 Old Bangor Tram Road, Mount Direction (Ct177146/1) With Access Via Crown Road Reserve
 - g. 052/21 Notice of Motions – Dog Management Policy Review
 - h. 024/23 S24 Special Committee Review – George Town Safety Group Committee
 - i. 136/17 Accessible Car Parking
 - j. 047/22 Proposed Speed Limit Changes – Hillwood
 - k. 148/23 Marguerite Street Property – Cr Lowe
 - l. 121/24 Additional Schedule of Fees for the 2024/2025 Financial Year

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

- m. 148/24 Confidential Item – Strategic Acquisition
- n. 160/24 RFT 09/2024 Gravel Resheeting Program 2024/25
- o. 161/24 RFT 07/2024 Old Aerodrome Road Upgrade (Stage 2) – Closed Council
- p. 170/24 Boundary Fence Contribution Policy
- q. 176/24 RFT 08/2024 - Early Contractor Involvement (Eci) - Construction Of George Town Aquatic, Health And Wellbeing Centre – Closed Council
- r. 037/24 Community Events and Sponsorship Application Process
- s. 143/24 Community Assistance Grants Round 1
- t. 156/24 Audit Panel - Appointment of Independent Member
- u. 182/24 Sponsorship Policy
- v. 183/24 George Town Council Audit Panel Committee Minutes
- w. 025/18 Potential Council Land Sales
- x. 100/20 Notice of Motion – Domestic/Family and Sexual Violence Strategy – Cr Brooks
- y. 127/22 Strategic Land Acquisition – Closed Council
- z. 183/23 Councillor Expenses – Cr Barwick
- aa. 154/24 George Town Council's Annual Report 2023/2024
- bb. 155/24 Draft Managing Unreasonable Conduct By Customers Policy
- cc. 169/24 Quarterly Report - Quarter 1 - 1 July - 30 September 2024
- dd. 175/24 General Manager's Professional Development
- ee. 179/24 Council Workshops November and December 2024
- ff. 180/24 Draft Advocacy Plan and NTDC Regional Priority Projects
- gg. 19/23 kanamaluka Trail Upgrade
- hh. 52/24 East Beach Viewing Platform

VOTING

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

CARRIED 8 / 1

9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

9.1 POLICY - PRIVATE SIGNAGE ON COUNCIL LAND

REPORT AUTHOR: Senior Town Planner - Mr J. Simons
REPORT DATE: 16th April 2025
FILE NO: 14.3

Minute No. 50/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Lowe
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Amends the Private Signage on Council Land Policy attached to include the following in Section 3. *Scope*:

This policy does not apply to temporary event signage associated with community events for which an "event application" has been submitted to Council. Approval for signage issued under the event application process may differ from the limitations included under the *Temporary Event Signage* heading below.
2. Adopts the Private Signage on Council Land Policy as attached – With a commencement date of 1 July 2025 and a fee to be included in the 2025/2026 Fees and Charges.
3. Rescinds Policy GTC-P1 – Signs and Footpaths
4. Requests the General Manager to develop a procedure for implementation of the policy.

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

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

Minute No. 51/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Barwick
Seconded: Cr Mason

That Council move Agenda item 2.1 Stormwater Drainage plan for Beechford listed to be discussed in closed be moved into open session under item 9.1 Infrastructure & Development.

VOTING

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

CARRIED 5 / 4

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

9.2 STORMWATER DRAINAGE PLAN FOR BEECHFORD

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Infrastructure & Development - Mr A. McCarthy
REPORT DATE:	29/04/2025
FILE NO:	63.2
ATTACHMENTS:	Attachment 1 – Beechford Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement

Minute No. 52/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Orr
Seconded: Cr Mason

That Council:

1. Accepts the *Beechford Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Report*.

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

10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

10.1 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE POLICY

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE: 17 April 2025
FILE NO: 14.33
ATTACHMENTS: 1. GTC C 11 Draft Community Assistance Policy [**10.1.1** - 10 pages]

Minute No. 53/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Orr
Seconded: Cr Dawson

1. That Council defer the motion.

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

11 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE & STRATEGY

Nil

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

12 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

REPORT DATE: 17 April 2025

FILE NO: 14.11, 14.15

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser		
<i>March</i>	18	Met with local business
	18	Chaired Council Budget Workshop
	20	Attended George Town Chamber of Commerce – Annual General Meeting
	25	Chaired Council Workshop
	25	Chaired Ordinary Council Meeting
	26	Attended George Town Futures Expo (BBAMZ)
	26	Attended NTDC meeting
	26	Tamar FM Radio Interview
	28	Attended LGAT Mayors Psychological Safety
	31	Attended Media Event NTDC Regional Priorities
<i>April</i>	2	Attended LGAT General Meeting
	3	Attended LGAT Mayors & Deputy Mayors Workshop
	4	Attended the Opening of the 2025 Kinimathatakinta/George Town Art Prize
	7	Attended NTDC Board Meeting
	8	Chaired Council Workshop
	9	Tamar FM Interview
	10	Attended BBA Tree Planting Day
	11	Met with local resident re prospective business
	15	Met with Federal Member for Bass
	15	Chaired Council Workshop
Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson		
<i>March</i>	25	Attended Council Workshop and Ordinary Council meeting
<i>April</i>	4	Attended Mountain of Voices at Port Dalrymple High School
	8	Attended Council Workshop
	15	Attended Council Workshop
Cr Jason Orr		
<i>March</i>	26	NEB Hub – George Town Futures Expo
	29	Landcare Tas Networking Day – Lilydale
	30	Lulworth Community Association AGM
<i>April</i>	1	Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony Committee Meeting

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

	4	Opening of the 2025 Kinimathatakinta/George Town Art Prize
	15	FoLHPC meeting
	17	"Have Your Say" Satisfaction Survey distribution
	19	Weymouth Easter Market

Minute No. 54/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Ashley

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

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

13 PETITIONS

Nil.

14 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil.

15 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Questions Taken on Notice from 25 March Ordinary Council Meeting

Cr Barwick

- Q1. Advised that she had not received an update on the commemoration of the late Peter Cox.

Officers have contacted Crown in relation to the installation of a seat and officially re-naming the site in Tamar Avenue the 'Peter Cox Reserve'. The Crown has responded regarding the seat which requires crown approval and a works application. However, they have not responded regarding renaming the site which is quite a lengthy process as the naming of a reserve needs to go through Placenames Tasmania.

Due to the complexities associated with Tamar Avenue, a Council owned site might be more suitable.

- Q2. Advised that there is a person living in a bus and requested an update.

The Chair advised due to the personal nature of the request a response will not be included in the minutes but provided during a workshop.

- Q3. Cr Barwick requested a copy of Council's Drug and Alcohol Policy?

The Chair advised that a copy will be provided. Completed.

Cr Lowe

- Q1. Will this Council before considering any advancements of Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Aquatic, Health and Wellbeing Centre hold community consultations and a community meeting to get the feedback of the community for any further stages?

Council will conduct community consultation for future stages.

16 CLOSED MEETING

16.1 INTO CLOSED MEETING

Cr Archer requested the Chair to adjourn the meeting at Tuesday 13th May at 1pm due to the workplace not being psychosocial safe.

The Chair declined the request as Council has the appropriate support and mechanisms for anonymity.

Minute No. 55/25

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Cr Archer
Seconded: Cr Barwick

To adjourn the meeting to Tuesday 13th May at 1.00 pm.

Cr Archer called a Point of order against the Chair re Regulation 20 1(d) at 3.11 pm.

VOTING

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

LOST 3 / 6

Cr Archer left the meeting at 3.14 pm.

**George Town Council
2025 04 29 Ordinary Council Meeting
Confirmed Minutes**

Minute No. 56/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Harris
Seconded: Cr Mason

That Council move into closed meeting at 3.14 pm to discuss the following items:

Agenda Item 16.2 Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 March 2025

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) (f) (g) (i) and (j) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 1

The Chair called a recess for 5 minutes at 3.15 pm to assist Councillor Barwick to her vehicle.

Cr Barwick left the meeting at 3:18 pm.

17 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.57 pm.

**Cr Greg Kieser
MAYOR**