



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on **Tuesday 22 July 2025**

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 2025.

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

Andrew McCarthy
ACTING 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 43 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025 except for the proceedings of meetings or parts of meetings closed to the public in accordance with Regulation 17(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 2025.

The Chairperson advised the meeting that:

- (a) an audio is being made of the meeting; and*
- (b) all persons attending the meeting are to be respectful of, and considerate towards, other persons attending the meeting; and*
- (c) language and conduct at the meeting that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory or threatening to a person attending the meeting, or listening to the recording, is not acceptable.*

1 PRESENT

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

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Tim Harris
Cr Winston Mason
General Manager - Mr S. Power

1.2 IN ATTENDANCE

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

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 24 JUNE 2025

Minute No. 97/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Ashley
Seconded: Cr Orr

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 24 June 2025 numbered 81/25 to 96/25 as provided to Councillors be received and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6 / 1

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Lowe declared an interest in Agenda Item 10.1 Sponsorship Request - George Town Neighbourhood House re employer has put the application forth for consideration. Cr Lowe advised that she will leave the meeting.

Cr Orr declared an interest in Agenda Item 11.1 Consideration of Entering into a Lease at Esplanade, Lulworth - Public Recreation Site re Treasurer of an organisation that has a user agreement on that land. Cr Orr advised that he will stay in the meeting.

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: 1.21 pm

Mrs L. Wootton

Three Trails. When this Colonial Story Telling Trail and Kanamuluka Story-telling Experience were put out for community response, I made a considered response to both.

My response to the Kanamuluka Story-telling Experience is dated August 2022 - nearly 3 years ago. I'd expect there would have been more than mine to this. I don't recall either of them coming back for discussion and approval in open Council until today. I stand to be corrected, but I don't remember it.

They seem to have been pushed into the new multi-million dollar Advocacy Plan that was "adopted" by Council last December, but never been put out for public consultation discussion.

Q1. If I'm wrong, could you tell me the dates when both these multi-million dollar plans came to the open Council?

The Chair took the question on notice.

Q2. If this discussion today is the next step, why are the community responses not included in this agenda?

The Chair took the question on notice.

Mr M. Judd

Q1. The council reached out to the community requesting feedback to a survey. That was months ago, when can the community expect the result of the survey to be made public.

Through the Chair to the Director Organisational Performance & Strategy. The Director advised that Council received a good response to the survey. Currently Council is collating the answers to the questions which will be presented to Councillors and the community within the next four weeks. Council is trying to provide a true and accurate reflection of the comments received on the survey in a summary document.

Q2. What is the projected costings for completion of the kerb, channeling and road reinstatement in McKenzie Drive.

Through the Chair to the Acting General Manager advised that the McKenzie Drive project has a budget \$455,600. At the end of June with actual and commitments was at \$361,000. The completion of the project it is expected that it will be approximately what the approved budget is.

Q3. Mr Judd asked that you are not expecting an overrun?

The Acting General Manager advised that no Council is not expecting an overrun but there are a couple of issues that need to be resolved; i.e. stormwater at one of the easements and

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footpath going on the northern end and associated works with this. It is expected that it will be within the project budget.

- Q4. A delegation of council visited some local and interstate Aquatic Centre's/Swimming Pools. It has previously been requested for the names of the interstate centre's visited that were similar in design and concept to what is envisaged for George Town, i.e. the varying depth across the pool. Will the details of visited centres be let known in a timely manner.

The Chair confirmed that the names of the interstate pools will be published.

- Q5. When and how?

Through the Chair, the Acting General Manager advised that a response can be provided into the next Council meeting agenda. Mr Judd's question was taken on notice.

The Chair provided further details stating the delegate had seen a range of centres, some were way above Council's price range but there were elements from all of them that were educational and informative. When you look at the list of them, none will mirror what Council is building in George Town but there were elements that were highly informative.

Mr G. O'Doherty

- Q1. Item 10.2 Sponsorship for the George Town Folk Club. which is a three day event. Over a decade working as a volunteer and also on the Committee. Mr O'Doherty stated that he is not speaking on behalf of the Committee.

Last year the sponsorship was \$20,000 and out of that was approximate \$2,500 for the hire of the venues. This festival 34 years the hire of the venues was in-kind, the Committee decided that we would pay for the venues. I thought this was a mistake. We have asked for \$20,000 plus \$2,500 for the venues. The \$2,500 is not spendable money and can this be looked at in-kind.

Could it be looked at it that way?

- Q2. The Officers recommendation is not to give \$22,500 sponsorship and now states provide \$15,000 towards the Folk Club towards the Tamar Valley Folk Festival Event to be held in George Town on 16-18 January 2026. Mr O'Doherty explained that if you include the \$2,500 out of the \$15,000 this leaves \$12,500 of spendable money. That is overall a 33% reduction in sponsorship and with inflation and price rises it is getting tougher and harder. All of the people on the Folk Festival Committee are volunteers from the Coordinator down. They are not paid persons and are working for the community. It is important after 34 years that the Folk Festival at least get what was given last year.

The Chair, thanked him for this question, at one level the Chair cannot foreshadow at outcome of the meeting. The information Mr O'Doherty has provided is helpful for the Council to be aware of. The Chair advised that a response will not be provided, but is confident that this will surface as your elected members debate this item.

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Ms C. Atwell

- Q1. Ms Atwell stated that she is the President of the George Town Folk Club and the Festival Director Tamar Valley Festival. In the interest of transparency, in such tough times, and when she has read the agenda and it recommends less money than last year.

Could George Town Council tell us how much money has been allocated to the 2026 Winter Solstice event run by Council?

The Chair advised that the question will be taken on notice.

Mrs L. Wootton

- Q1. *Councillors realise that what has been put in the agenda has gone on numbers and that only 2,000 attend the Folk Festival and 5,000 attend the fireworks display. The people that come to the folk festival are normally here for three days or at least a day, they have accommodation, meals and spend money here not like the fireworks. as well as that, the number that are given here today are from ticket sales. There are hundreds of others that just come and sit around the venues and listen to the free music. They don't pay money to listen but spend money at the pub to eat and drink. You have to consider that a lot of locals enjoy the weekend but do not pay for the events.*

Would you consider the overall benefits to tourism? Mrs Wootton stated that she could not see why Council would cut \$5,000 off a grant application where someone else does all the work.

The Chair advised that Council does consider the benefits to tourism as it is part of Council's strategic objectives.

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 JUNE AND JULY 2025

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

Minute No. 98/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Dawson
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Receives the report on the Council Workshops held on the 24 June 2025 and 8 July 2025.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

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8.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION TASMANIA (LGAT) GENERAL MEETING 25 JULY 2025

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 14 July 2025
FILE NO: 15.15

Minute No. 99/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Archer
Seconded: Cr Barwick

That Council:

1. Determines that the Mayor is to vote at the LGAT General Meeting 25 July 2025, against the motions.

VOTING

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

CARRIED 5 / 2

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8.3 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2025/2026

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 1 July 2025
FILE NO: 17.4

Minute No. 100/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Orr
Seconded: Cr Dawson

That Council:

1. Adopts the 2025/2026 Annual Plan.

VOTING

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

CARRIED 6 / 1

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8.4 THREE TRAILS TOURISM PROJECT

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 16 July 2025
FILE NO: 28.30

The Director Corporate and Community entered the meeting at 1.42 pm.

Minute No. 101/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Dawson
Seconded: Cr Orr

That Council:

1. Proceed with Stage One of the *'Three Trails: One Big Story' project*, utilising the \$100k contribution from Bell Bay Aluminium and the \$100k Council contribution from carry forward project J90034.

VOTING

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

CARRIED 4 / 3

AMENDMENT

Point of Order was called by Cr Dawson at 1.49 pm due to the amendment being substantially different to the original motion.

The Chair advised Cr Barwick that her amendment was not accepted due to it being considered substantial different. The Chair accepted Cr Barwick's motion as a Foreshadowed motion.

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FORESHADOWED MOTION

Moved: Cr Barwick

That Council:

1. Proceed with original kanamaluka trail concept, utilising the \$100k contribution from Bell Bay Aluminium and the \$100k Council contribution from carry forward project J90034.

NO VOTING TOOK PLACE

9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil.

10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

10.1 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST - GEORGE TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE: 22 July 2025
FILE NO: 23.9

Cr Lowe left the meeting at 2:03 pm.

Minute No. 102/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Archer
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Provides \$20,000 sponsorship to George Town Neighbourhood House towards the New Years Eve Event to be held in George Town on 31 December 2025.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6 / 0

Cr Lowe returned to the meeting at 2:09 pm.

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10.2 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST - GEORGE TOWN FOLK CLUB

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE: 22 July 2025
FILE NO: 25.2

Minute No. 103/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Barwick
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Provides \$20,000 sponsorship to George Town Folk Club towards the Tamar Valley Folk Festival Event to be held in George Town on 16, 17 and 18 January 2026.

The Chair called a Point of Order against the gallery at 2.25 pm re disruption.

The Chair called a caution to the Mrs Atwell 2.29 pm re disruption.

The Chair called a second warning against Mrs Atwell at 2.31 pm re disruption.

The Chair called a final warning against Mrs Atwell at 2.32 pm re disruption.

VOTING

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

CARRIED 5 / 2

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FORESHADOWED MOTION

Moved: Cr Kieser

That Council:

1. Provides \$15,000 sponsorship to George Town Folk Club towards the Tamar Valley Folk Festival Event to be held in George Town on 16 - 18 January 2026.

NO VOTING TOOK PLACE

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**10.3 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT PANEL FOR 2024/2025 AND GEORGE TOWN
AUDIT PANEL COMMITTEE CONFIRMED MINUTES 12 MARCH 2025**

REPORT AUTHOR: Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE: 07 July 2025
FILE NO: 29.11

Minute No. 104/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Orr
Seconded: Cr Dawson

That Council:

1. Receives the Annual Report for the Audit Panel 2024/2025;
2. Endorses the Annual Workplan for the Audit Panel for 2025/2026;
3. Requests an independent internal audit of Council's Sponsorship and Grants Programs be included in the 2025/2026 Internal Audit Schedule; and
4. Accepts the confirmed minutes of the Audit Panel for the 12 March 2025 meeting.

VOTING

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

CARRIED 6 / 1

Director Corporate and Community left the meeting at 2.48 pm.

11 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE & STRATEGY

11.1 CONSIDERATION OF ENTERING INTO A LEASE AT ESPLANADE, LULWORTH - PUBLIC RECREATION SITE

REPORT AUTHOR: Team Leader - Planning & Building Services - Ms T. Burt
REPORT DATE: 9th July 2025
FILE NO: 52.1

Team Leader Building & Planning entered the meeting at 2.48 pm.

Minute No. 105/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Dawson
Seconded: Cr Lowe

That Council:

1. In respect to the land on the corner of Esplanade and Beach Street, Lulworth:
 - a. Confirms its intention to enter into a ten (10) year lease; and
 - b. Authorises the Mayor and the General Manager to execute the lease on behalf of Council.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

Team Leader Building & Planning left the meeting at 2.51 pm.

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12 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

REPORT DATE: 14 July 2025

FILE NO: 14.11, 14.15

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser		
June	19	Opened the Launch of the Youth Art Prize
	20	LAFM Interview
	20	Attended NTDC Meeting
	20	Attended Solstice in the Square
	23	Attended TasWater General Meeting
	24	Chaired Council Workshop
	24	Chaired Ordinary Council Meeting
	25	Tamar FM Radio
July	8	Chaired Council Workshop
	10	Attended George Town Emergency Management Committee meeting
	10	Attended NTDC meeting
	11	Attended NTDC State Election Priorities Session
	11	Met with Rebekah Pentland MP
Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson		
June	20	Attended Solstice in the Square
	24-27	Attended the National General Assembly of Local Government (Canberra)
July	8	Attended Council Workshop
Cr Jason Orr		
June	20	Attended and assisted in Solstice in the Square
July	7	Attended Naidoc Week – Cultural Burning, Flag Raising & Morning Tea

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Minute No. 106/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Barwick
Seconded: Cr Ashley

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

The Director Organisational Performance & Strategy entered the meeting at 2.55 pm.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

The Director Organisational Performance & Strategy entered the meeting at 3.03 pm.

13 PETITIONS

Nil.

14 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

14.1 ANNUAL LEASE VALUATION OF COUNCIL OWNED LAND – CR ARCHER

Moved: Cr Archer
Seconded: Cr Barwick

Council obtain an annual lease valuation from a land valuer qualified under Section 4 of the Land Valuers Act 2001, before Council activates any lease of Council owned land.

The Chair accepted the motion for the next Ordinary Council Meeting LG(MP)R 20(3)(b) set aside the motion for inclusion in the agenda of a later meeting.

15 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Cr Barwick

(24th June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting)

Q1. Cr Barwick asked where did Secret Park's name come from?

A response was provided at the 24th June 2025 Ordinary Council meeting. Council had submitted an enquiry to Place Names Tasmania and confirmation has been received that Placenames does not hold any record of either 'Secret Park' or 'Harold Winston Little Reserve' or any other name for this park area.

Cr Barwick

Q1. Who has seen the appeal of Mr Neilsen under policy number 8 11.1 right of appeal and when will the outcome of the appeal be given to Mr Neilsen.

The Chair advised that the question will be considered in the Closed agenda.

16 CLOSED MEETING

16.1 INTO CLOSED MEETING

Minute No. 107/25

DECISION

Moved: Cr Dawson
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council move into closed meeting at 3.13 pm to discuss the following items:

Agenda Item 16.2 Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025

As per the provisions of Regulation 40(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

Agenda Item 16.3 Leave of Absence

As per the provisions of Regulation 17(2)(i) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

17 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.27 pm.



**Cr Greg Dawson
ACTING MAYOR**