



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL CONFIRMED MINUTES

Confirmed Minutes of the
Ordinary Council Meeting
held on **Tuesday 24 March 2026**

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 was not required to read the following as there were no members of the public.

- (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 Simone Lowe
Cr Winston Mason
Cr Jason Orr

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Tim Harris
General Manager - Shane Power

1.2 IN ATTENDANCE

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

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In Honour of Cr Heather Barwick

The Chair commenced by saying:

Today is a sad day. It is with great sadness that we inform community members of the passing of Cr Heather Barwick, who passed away on Sunday, 15th March 2026.

George Town Council honours the exceptional service and lasting contribution of Cr Heather Barwick to both the Council and the wider George Town municipality. Her unwavering dedication to the community has created a legacy that will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Cr Heather Barwick's decades of service to the George Town community leave a legacy that will be remembered for generations. Her leadership, dedication, advocacy and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of our residents have shaped our municipality in meaningful and lasting ways. We honour her remarkable contribution and extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones.

First elected in March 1989, Cr Barwick has provided decades of dedicated service to the George Town community and has been the longest continuously serving Councillor. Cr Barwick was approaching her 36th year. In 1995, she made history as the first woman elected as Mayor of George Town, serving until 1997, and during her leadership, she initiated the Council's first Financial Policy in 1996. During her time as Mayor, she also assisted in the establishment of the Devil Cat ferry service from George Town to Victoria.

Cr Barwick continued to serve the community in a variety of leadership roles, including Deputy Mayor from October 2009 to October 2011, and as Chair of the George Town Community Safety Group Committee since 2014. Her commitment to public service has also extended beyond Council through her work as a Justice of the Peace since 1996, for which she received a 20-year service recognition from the Department of Justice in 2020.

Throughout her time on Council, Cr Barwick has been a strong advocate for local residents and coastal communities, including Bellingham, Weymouth, Lulworth and Hillwood. She has worked closely with community organisations and progress associations and has been actively involved in numerous projects that have benefited our municipality. These include securing \$93,000 for the restoration of the Semaphore site at Mt Direction and more recently advocating for the restoration of the Mt George Semaphore. She successfully obtaining \$405,000 in funding for the York Cove walkway and seniors' exercise equipment. She has also contributed significantly to community

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initiatives through her involvement with the Tamar Valley Semaphore Association and the Wattle Group Advisory.

Her outstanding service was formally recognised in 2014, when she received the Outstanding Commitment and Services to Local Council Award from the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

In 2023, Cr Barwick was inducted into the Tasmania Honour Roll for Women, awarded for her service to the community, advocacy and inclusion; government and public services.

Our thoughts are with Heather's family and loved ones as we mourn the loss of a valued member of our community. Heather will be warmly remembered for her contribution to local government and the people of our municipality.

Rest in Peace Heather.

A minute silence was held by Council for the memory of Cr Heather Barwick.

The Chair opened the meeting to Councillors or staff who wished to say a few words.

Cr Heather Ashley:

I would like to thank Heather for her time on Council. Heather was a mentor to a lot of us fellow Councillors but she was also a leader, a leader for women in this town. When women were not in Council positions and places, Heather stood up, put her hand up, and showed exactly what she could do for our community.

I admire her - Rest in Peace Heather, for you have done your community proud.

Cr Winston Mason

For the last seven years, I have sat next to Heather. She has been a great source of knowledge for me. Heather was a very private person and she didn't very often take anyone into her life, but when she did, you would be very surprised with her past life. I was.

At 86 years of age, she had a magic memory and her wit was still there. Her mind was sharp as a tack. We have lost someone that I would say is irreplaceable in this community and on this Council.

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I am very mindful of other people who want to say something and I could say a lot more.

Rest in Peace Heather.

Cr Winston Archer

Heather really was a trailblazer. She set a path for leadership for other females in this municipality. Obviously back when she started in 1989, things were a lot harder back then for females but she had the attitude to be heard and be a leader.

It is going to be very difficult to sit in this room without her presence, because there wasn't much that would keep her from a council meeting. Yes, its going to be very difficulty for the next six months, and we can just honour her empty seat at the table.

Cr Jason Orr

I saw Heather as a Councillor and as a community member from Lulworth. I have probably known Heather for those 36 years she has been a Councillor.

Heather was very involved in not just the local community association, but all the local community associations, which they all really appreciated, especially back in the day when she was first a Councillor. There were no emails and the communication between Council and those groups was very limited for a number of reasons. So I have seen over the years, how she engaged with those communities, with those committees.

Also, my wife being a previous police officer, she used to ring her up and ask for advice all the time, and many conversations, I know myself, had with Heather over the phone.

If Heather had a ratepayer with an issue, she would know who to turn to, who to talk to and get that advice for that ratepayer. Even though maybe not being council related, she would still chase that up. She was very devoted to everyone in the community.

Heather will be sorely missed.

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Cr Simone Lowe

I have some fond memories. My first memory when I came on to Council was that I was able to share with Heather, that she signed my Year 6 Aussie Sports Leader Certificate which I still have today. So Heather was pretty chuffed that we had a connection back then.

Now, she was funny, I loved her dearly, but also a couple of times we didn't see eye to eye and we were able to get past those things and have a good relationship. She would ring and chat things through and sometimes I would be like, oh, I have got to get off the phone to her with two hours passing sometimes. But no matter what, what Heather didn't know wasn't worth knowing. She was always very generous with her knowledge and was happy to take myself under her wing and other Councillors.

It was just the fact that she generally cared about the community and she didn't care that she would come to the table and ruffle some feathers. She was prepared to do that and not a lot of people are. So I just know that the community have lost that very serious feather ruffler and I just want to acknowledge her today.

There is a lovely flower arrangement tribute to Heather here today.

Cr Greg Dawson

Since I have been at this table, Heather has sat opposite me and certainly has been one of those people that was groundbreaking. She was a pioneer for women in our community.

Some of the other things that probably weren't mention earlier were:

- that within weeks of Heather taking the seat as Deputy Mayor or Mayor at the time, the Iron Barron ran aground and she pretty much had Council's role in that crisis management;*
- She supported people around the retention of the rotunda recently;*
- She fought hard in the early days and did barbeques every weekend to get funding for the skate park; and*
- Recently around the swimming pool issue that she certainly had the back of the people that were campaigning to retain that.*

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Heather certainly wasn't backwards coming forward and was a resilient woman. The background knowledge and the history that she had around this building was fantastic.

Without making light of it, Chuck Norris passed away this week, and if they are both up there at the pearly gates together, and they are trying to argue over who gets in first, I know who backs down first. It wont be Heather Barwick.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Heather. We have had our arguments over the time and we didn't see eye to eye, didn't often see eye to eye, but I respect the lady and I know she respected me.

Acting General Manager, Mr Andrew McCarthy

I would like to reiterate the words that the Mayor and the Councillors have just said.

On behalf of the General Manager, Shane Power who is not able to be here today, the executive team and all the staff of George Town Council, we would like to pay tribute and acknowledge the tremendous contribution Councillor Heather Barwick has made to Council and the community.

Heather is highly regarded by all of the staff here and truly missed. Personally, I have witnessed Heather's commitment to particularly the coastal communities and Hillwood and specifically her devotion to the Hillwood Sharks. It is something that I will always remember.

On behalf of all the staff, we wish to pass on our condolences to Heather's family.

Rest in Peace Heather.

The Chair thanked the Councillors and Management and asked all to join him in saying All Vale, Heather Barwick.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Minute No. 026/26

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Dawson

That the Minutes of Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 24 February 2026 numbered 012/26 to 020/26 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 Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

3 LATE ITEMS

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Orr declared an interest in Agenda Item 10.1 is a member of one of the groups.

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: 1.19 pm

Concluded at: 1.19 pm

Nil

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.

The Acting General Manager advised that 8.2 was not included in the Table of Contents and an updated Table of Contents has been provided to the Council and public.

7 PLANNING AUTHORITY

Nil.

8 OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

8.1 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 12 March 2026
FILE NO: 14.10

Minute No. 027/26

Moved: Cr Ashley
Seconded: Cr Dawson

That Council:

1. Receives the report on the Council Workshops held on the 24 February 2026, 10 March and 17 March 2026.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

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8.2 LGAT GENERAL MEETING - 10 APRIL 2026 CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS

REPORT AUTHOR: General Manager - Mr S. Power
REPORT DATE: 12 March 2026
FILE NO: 15.15

Minute No. 028/26

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Orr

That Council:

1. That Council determines that the Mayor or Council representative be authorised to vote at the LGAT General Meeting 10 April 2026, in accordance with Council's strategic direction, policy and Council resolutions with due consideration of any conference debate on items listed for decision at that meeting.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

The Chair advised the Council meeting that he was required to attend a meeting. The Chair invited the Deputy Mayor to assume the role as Chair.

The Deputy Mayor accepted and the Mayor vacated the Chair at 1.25 pm.

The Deputy Mayor assumed the role of Chair at 1.25 pm.

The Mayor left the room at 1.26 pm.

9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil.

10 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

10.1 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS ROUND 2

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE:	17 March 2026
FILE NO:	23.2

The Director Corporate & Community entered the meeting at 1.26 pm.

Minute No. 029/26

Moved: Cr Archer
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. George Town Cricket Club – approve the Community Assistance Grant Application of \$1,980.00.
2. George Town Community Bowls Club – approve the Community Assistance Application of \$1,484.00.
3. Weymouth Progress Association – Not support this application.
4. Bellingham Progress Association – Not support this application.
5. Tamar FM – approve the Community Assistance Grant Application of \$1,894.90.
6. Country Women’s Association - approve the Community Assistance Grant Application of \$2,000.00 pending the successful fundraising for the balance by the CWA.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6 / 0

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10.2 LOAN COUNCIL ALLOCATION FOR 2026/2027

REPORT AUTHOR:	Director Corporate & Community - Ms C. Hyde
REPORT DATE:	25 March 2025
FILE NO:	32.20

Minute No. 030/26

Moved: Cr Orr
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council:

1. Authorises the General Manager to advise Treasury that no further borrowings are required by George Town Council for the 2026/2027 financial year.

VOTING

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6 / 0

The Director Corporate & Community left the meeting at 1.34 pm.

11 STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Nil.

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12 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

12.1 MATTERS OF INVOLVEMENT - MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

REPORT DATE: 19 March 2026

FILE NO: 14.11, 14.15

Mayor Cr Greg Kieser		
February	24	Chaired Council Workshop
	24	Chaired Ordinary Council meeting
March	4	Tamar FM Interview
	10	Chaired Council Workshop
	14	Attended Gallery Opening
Deputy Mayor Cr Greg Dawson		
February	24	Attended Council Workshop
	24	Attended Ordinary Council meeting
March	4	Attended Youth Impact Council meeting
	10	Attended Council Workshop
	16	Chaired Progress/Community Association's quarterly meeting
	17	Chaired Council Budget Workshop
	17	ABC Interview re Equis Wind Farm
	19	Participated in Mayoral Croquet event
	19	Attended site visit of Firmus Technology with Federal member for Bass Jess Teesdale
	19	Attended George Town Chamber of Commerce Networking event

Minute No. 031/26

Moved: Cr Mason

Seconded: Cr Orr

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

VOTING

For: Cr Dawson, Cr Archer, Cr Ashley, Cr Lowe, Cr Mason and Cr Orr

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6 / 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. 032/26

Moved: Cr Mason
Seconded: Cr Ashley

That Council move into closed meeting at 1.39 pm to discuss the following items:

Agenda Item 16.2 Minutes of the Closed Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026

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

Agenda Item 16.3 2025/2026 Gravel Resheeting Tender Report

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


VOTING

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

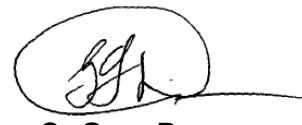
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6 / 0

17 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.54 pm.



**Cr Greg Kieser
MAYOR
(PART CHAIR)**



**Cr Greg Dawson
DEPUTY MAYOR
(PART CHAIR)**