

dorset
C O U N C I L

Minutes

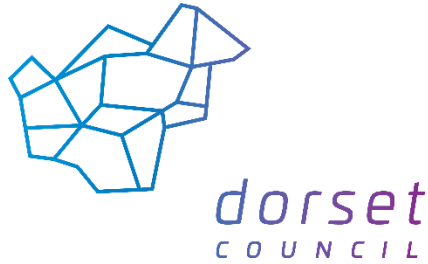
Annual General Meeting

21 November 2022

it's in the making

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Annual General Meeting Minutes 21 November 2022

The Meeting Opened: 6:01 pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

Crs Greg Howard* (Mayor & Chair), Dale Jessup* (Deputy Mayor), Beth Donoghue*, Edwina Powell*, Kahlia Simmons*, Mervyn Chilcott*, Jerrod Nichols*, Anna Coxen*, Leonie Stein*

Council Officers:

Acting General Manager: John Marik, Director – Works & Infrastructure: Dwaine Griffin, Senior Accountant: Allison Saunders*, Executive Assistant: Sarah Forsyth*, Administration Supervisor: Lauren Tolputt*, Town Planning Supervisor: Thomas Wagenknecht

Electors of Dorset:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Jodie Terry | Jay Wilson | Jackie Moore |
| Patsy Cameron | Barry Hall | Len Gillett |
| Gail Archer | Daisy Arnold | Lyn Commane |

**Electors of Dorset eligible to vote*

Other:

Nil

Apologies:

Director – Community & Development: Rohan Willis

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 7 December 2021

Ref: DOC/21/16600

The Chair reported that he had viewed the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 7 December 2021, finds them to be a true record and recommends that they be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DECISION

MOVED: Cr Stein | **SECONDED:** Cr Powell

That the Minutes of Proceedings of the Dorset Council Annual General Meeting held on 7 December 2021, having been circulated to all Councillors and available to electors of the Dorset municipality, be confirmed as a true record.

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| For | 21 |
| Against | 0 |
| OUTCOME | Carried Unanimously |

2. MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The Mayor, Councillor Greg Howard addressed the meeting in relation to the Council's achievements for the 2021/22 year in review and the Annual Report.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Ref: DOC/22/12850

The Dorset Council Annual Report 2021/22 has been publicly available from the Council Office or via the Council website since 1 November 2022. Council invited members of the community to provide submissions on the 2021/22 Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting. Written submissions were open until 12 noon, Wednesday 16 November 2022. The Acting General Manager advised that one submission was received and is listed below.

3.1 Submissions

Lawrence Archer, Bridport | 15 November 2022

The annual report shows that Councils cash position has again declined, continuing the negative trend since 2014.

During the preparation of the current years budget it was stated by the Mayor that 'There was a large hole in the budget created by the increased maintenance cost of the Derby bike trails and that a rate increase of 7% – 9% was unacceptable to the councillors.'

This year Council increased the general rate by 4.5% and increased the waste management levy from \$120 to \$3020 for chosen short term accommodation providers.

It is noted the Dorset Councils Website home page states

- rates on a typical house in Scottsdale are generally between 15% and 30% lower than most Tasmanian Councils
- Council did not increase fees and charges from 1 July 2015 to 1 July 2021
- all Council buildings are free of charge to community groups
- all recreational facilities are free of charge to sporting groups
- entry to Council swimming pools is free of charge
- Council waives all approval fees for business
- Council doesn't charge an annual food registration licence fee
- new small business receive rate rebates
- expanding businesses receive rate rebates

It is submitted that while these policies are far more generous than the majority of other Tasmanian Councils the decline in Councils cash position is unsustainable. Consequently a complete review of Council rating and charging policies should be undertaken by the new Council as a matter of urgency.

Officer Comments | Acting General Manager, John Marik:

Council adopted the [Financial Management Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2032](#) (DOC/22/10803) at the 19 September 2022 Council Meeting. This publically available document explains Council's historical financial position and more importantly the future intent.

Dorset Council operational efficiency and effectiveness have delivered record infrastructure spend over the previous 8 years, punching well above its weight and delivering larger infrastructure spend than much bigger Tasmanian councils. Council's total cash and cash equivalents, including term deposits, as at 30 June 2012 totalled \$17.4 million, with this total cash balance as at 30 June 2022 being \$9.4 million. With total capital expenditure of \$83 million from 2012/13 to 2021/22 it is evident that the primary reason for record capital expenditure is driven by operational effectiveness and efficiency and effective attainment of capital grant funding, which has totalled \$25.1 million from 2012/13 to 2021/22. 70% of the capital grant funding was successfully attained during the last 5 years. This decade long capital program has ensured Council has caught up with asset renewals and does not have an asset renewal gap in the 2022 – 2032 Long Term Financial Plan. During the last 5 years Council has delivered multiple inter-generational projects including the full redevelopment of the Scottsdale Aquatic Centre, under-writing and saving aged care in the North East – along with the State Government, underwriting the Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme, construction of the Jarvis Link, and the construction of world renowned Mountain Bike Trails at Derby.

The current Financial Management Strategy (FMS) and Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2022-2032 show a cash position greater than \$4 million at year end 30 June 2023 through to 30 June 2028 and greater than \$3 million for year end 30 June 2029 through to 30 June 2032. Council has planned for a challenging future environment of higher inflation and your comment in regards to a '*large hole in the budget...*' was more so in reference to year 5 of the 2022-2032 LTFP. When expenses are increasing at double the rate of income all Council's must make alternate plans by either increasing income or decreasing service levels (to reduce either operational or capital costs), or a combination of the two. Council made the decision in the FMS and LTFP, and in the 2022/23 budget estimates, to lift the income base and keep service levels unchanged in the current plan. The new Council will have a chance to review income and expenditure assumptions in the FMS and LTFP as part of the 2023/24 budget estimates.

The forward estimates assume a lower level of capital spend to match the free cash flow forecast to be generated operationally over the 2022-2032 LTFP. Council inflation is running at double the official CPI figures as a result of fuel, infrastructure materials and building materials in particular. The Tasmanian and national economies have experienced low inflation over the last decade and interest rates reached a record low over the last two years. The last decade was the perfect time for Council to utilise Council's access cash holdings to catch up on asset renewals and complete inter-generational projects that will benefit not only the current, but future generations. Had Council attempted to hoard cash, in the current inflationary environment the cost to complete many of the projects that have been completed over the last 5 years would have been out of reach for the community without very large rate increases. The current high inflation devalues the purchasing power cash that is held in relatively low interest term deposits.

The Council have enacted key policies to drive increased business investment through the waiver of all approval fees for businesses, no charge for annual food registration licence fees and new and expanding businesses receive rate rebates. These policies are stimulatory for the local economy and Council believe the benefit outweighs the cost for the community. Council facilities are available free of charge to the community to stimulate engagement and maximise use of Council facilities by ensuring cost is not an impediment to community facility use. Council has ascertained the benefit of thriving sports clubs and community groups far outweigh the loss in income.

3.2 Questions

The Chair will invite questions from the community in relation to the 2021/22 Annual Report.

Gail Archer, Bridport

In the Annual Report it's noted that the Council has contracted to acquire a FOGO truck. Please explain what's happening with the truck, considering Council has not yet commenced FOGO collections?

Response from Acting General Manager, John Marik:

That truck was originally going to be for FOGO collections, however, we've suspended going down that route at this point in time. That truck will now replace the old second hand truck within our fleet. Council have two trucks that are part of kerbside collection services, with one purchased extremely cheap at approximately \$50,000 quite a few years ago, so it's at end of life. This truck will be replaced with the newly purchased one referred to in the Annual Report.

3.3 Motions

Nil

4. TIME MEETING CLOSED: 6:05 pm

Minutes Confirmed: 20 November 2023 Annual General Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by several loops and a final flourish.

Commissioner