



**NORTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2024



MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held on 9 December 2024 at 5.00pm in person at the Council Chambers, 13 Smith Street, Longford

1 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert, Cr Dick Adams OAM, Cr Alison Andrews AM, Cr Richard Archer, Cr Matthew Brooks, Cr Paul Terrett

In Attendance

Mr Des Jennings - General Manager, Miss Maree Bricknell - Corporate Services Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh - Works Manager, Mr Paul Godier - Senior Planner, Ms Tatiana Paniagua - Executive Officer, Ms Kristy Nutting - Executive Officer, Mr Ben Badcock - IT Officer, Mrs Gail Eacher - Executive Assistant, Mrs Lee Viney - Executive Assistant

Registered Electors In Attendance

Ms Sue Field, Mr Glenn Leighton, Ms Barbara Baker, Ms Maria Lawson, Ms Stephanie Kensitt

APOLOGIES

Cr Richard Goss, Cr Andrew McCullagh



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3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

4 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

A welcome and opening address by Mayor Knowles.

Mayor Knowles read from the following statement:

In 2023/2024 the Council progressed projects of varying sizes across the municipal area including the recent completion of The Longford Memorial Hall. This has been extended and refurbished to provide additional space and improved facilities for the community and is already proving to be a popular venue for events with the recent Illuminate program which saw participation and collaboration between all the schools across the Northern Midlands. Additionally, the Longford Village Green and BBQ area have been upgraded, offering enhanced amenities for outdoor gatherings and events. These include a successful celebration of cultural diversity with the Community Pacific Festival in April showcasing our Pacific Island and Timor Leste seasonal workers in a fun afternoon, and the inaugural Scots Day Oot event which saw pipe bands marching throughout the village green in February 2024.

In line with Council's strategy to make our amenities more accessible to people of all abilities, the entrances to Cressy Hall and the Longford Library have been renovated for convenient access for all community members, including those with mobility challenges.

The public toilets at Pioneer Park in Evandale have been upgraded to meet modern standards. These improvements include accessible toilets and more robust facilities to cater to the needs of the many park visitors.

The Avoca Museum & Information Centre has been renovated to improve functionality and appeal for the volunteers and visitors. The renovations offer a better experience for visitors and the volunteers who promote local heritage to ensure that this remains a prime tourist attraction in the Heritage Highway region.

In other infrastructure programs, the Northern Midlands Council has successfully executed its annual Footpath Program for 2023-24, ensuring safer pedestrian pathways throughout the municipality. The kerb and verge in Falmouth Street, Avoca, from Churchill to Gray Street have been replaced and sealed. In Perth a new traffic calming measure has been implemented on Seccombe Street with the installation of speed humps and signage to reduce vehicle speeds, ensuring a safer environment for pedestrians and residents.

Since the completion of the Perth bypass and the transfer of roads to council's jurisdiction a comprehensive stormwater upgrade has been completed on Perth Main Street. This project involved the installation of new drainage systems to mitigate flooding risks and improve water management during heavy rainfall events, thereby enhancing the overall resilience of the town's infrastructure.

Council is committed to continuing its work in upgrading roads and municipal development, with road upgrades in a section of Ashby Road in Ross which has been reconstructed to improve road safety and durability. The new road surface ensures a smoother and safer drive for motorists and the construction of Bishopsbourne Road between railway crossings at Toiberry has been completed.

With the Bridge replacements at Liffey Road, Jones Road, and Blackwood Creek Road now complete, these new bridges have been designed to enhance safety and reliability for motorists, ensuring better connectivity and access for the surrounding areas.

The Northern Midlands Council also recognises the significant contributions that local sporting clubs make to our community and the positive impact they have on our residents' well-being and social cohesion. Local sporting clubs are essential to the fabric of our municipality. They provide our residents with the opportunities for physical activity, foster community spirit and offer a platform for social interaction and inclusion. The Perth practice cricket nets have been upgraded to meet current standards, providing a high-quality training facility for local cricket teams. This upgrade includes the installation of new netting and improved surface conditions to ensure a safe and effective training environment.



An advanced irrigation system has been installed at the Longford Rec Ground Oval. This system ensures optimal watering of the oval, maintaining the turf in prime condition for sporting events and community use.

The hot water system in the Campbell Town Recreation changing rooms has been improved. This upgrade ensures a more reliable supply of hot water, enhancing the comfort and convenience for sports teams and visitors using the facilities.

The kitchen at the Ross Recreation Grounds Clubrooms has been upgraded with new appliances and an improved layout enhancing the functionality and usability of the kitchen, supporting community events and sports activities.

The playground at the Train Park in Perth has undergone significant upgrades. New play equipment has been installed, and existing structures have been refurbished to provide a safe, fun, and inclusive space for children and families.

Moving beyond the infrastructure programs, Community feedback is now incorporated into the draft strategies for Council's consideration. Our consultations during the year included the proposed Campbell Town Tourist Park and the draft Weed Management Strategy.

Council officers have developed a series of strategies to further support the Council's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2027 to create a sense of purpose and define the direction in which the Council may travel and establishes realistic strategic outcomes that are in line with Council's vision and mission. The first five local community strategies are:

- Arts and Culture Strategy 2024
- Communications & Engagement Strategy 2024
- Economic Development Strategy 2024
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024
- Youth Strategy 2024

This year has also been a remarkable one for the Council, marked by numerous successful events and strong community engagement. A highlight has been our welcoming of new Australian citizens through our Citizenship Ceremonies, fostering inclusivity and a sense of belonging within the community.

Key events included the official opening of the Longford Road Safety Park, an important initiative promoting road safety awareness. We also hosted the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Community Event, celebrating our diverse workforce and strengthening ties with international communities with a visit from the Hon Consul for Timor Leste Dr Nitin Vermer and welcoming the Vanuatu High Commissioner at Cressy Town Hall. Additionally, the Scott Day Oot Pipe Band event brought more cultural vibrancy and entertainment to our region, while the Cressy DHS Inspiring Futures Charter signing demonstrated our commitment to supporting and inspiring local youth. Our annual Australia Day Celebrations were once again a standout, bringing the community together to recognise our outstanding citizens and volunteers as well as our shared values and national pride.

These events have not only enriched our community but have also strengthened our Council's relationship with residents and stakeholders, highlighting our ongoing commitment to engagement, celebration, and collaboration.

Council has made significant progress through the year, and I would like to thank our Management and staff for their ongoing dedication in achieving such great outcomes while continuing to support our communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and ongoing support throughout the past year enabling the Northern Midlands to continue to be a leader in growth and development.



5 DECLARATIONS INTEREST

In accordance with

- part 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993*,
 - in particular, section 48(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- regulation 8 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*;
- schedule 1, part 2 of the *Local Government (Code of Conduct) Order 2024*; and
- Council's adopted Code of Conduct for Elected Members;

the Mayor requests Councillors and staff to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, an interest in any item on the Agenda.

No Annual General Meeting Declarations of Interest were received.



6 PROCEDURAL

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1.1 Confirmation Of Minutes: Annual General Meeting

MINUTE NO. 24/0396

DECISION

Cr Adams/Cr Archer

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 11 December 2023, be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried Unanimously

Voting for the Motion:

Mayor Knowles, Deputy Mayor Lambert, Cr Adams, Cr Andrews, Cr Archer, Cr Brooks and Cr Terrett

Voting Against the Motion:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 11 December 2023, be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

6.2 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report for the 2023/2024 financial year was circulated by the General Manager.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting together with the Annual Report was advertised in the Examiner Newspaper on Saturday, 23 November 2024 and Wednesday, 27 November 2024. The community were invited to submit comments on the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

No submissions were received.

The Mayor noted that no public submissions were received.

MINUTE NO. 24/0397

DECISION

Deputy Mayor Lambert/Cr Andrews

That Council resolve to accept the 2023-2024 Annual Report.

Carried Unanimously

Voting for the Motion:

Mayor Knowles, Deputy Mayor Lambert, Cr Adams, Cr Andrews, Cr Archer, Cr Brooks and Cr Terrett

Voting Against the Motion:

Nil



6.3 QUESTIONS

6.3.1 Question On Notice

6.3.1.1 Mr Jason Horton - Expenditure

The following questions on notice were received from Mr Jason Horton, Devon Hills for this Meeting:

1. On page 99 of the Annual report there is a note that says that the Council has settled with the Airport Corporations their challenge regarding payment of rates has costed council \$705,000. What was the total cost of this action against the Airport Corporation to the Northern Midlands Council?
2. The Northern Midlands Council is reported in the media to have expended a large amounts of money on legal costs. In the annual report there is no amount highlighted. What was the final amount of legal expenditure by the Northern Midlands Council in 2023/24?

The following responses have been provided:

1. *The total cost of action against the Airport Corporation from 2019 to 2024 was \$1,133,017 excluding GST.*
 2. *The total amount of legal expenditure in 2023/24 was \$1,155,602 excluding GST.
The total amount of legal expenditure in 2023/24 excluding Airport legal costs was \$368,117 excluding GST.*
-

6.3.1.2 Mr Russell McKenzie - Expenditure and South Esk River

The following questions on notice were received from Mr Russell McKenzie, Perth for this Meeting:

1. In what [way] will the NMC ensure total accountability to the rate payers of the NMC for how our rates are spent?
2. How can the community work [with] the NMC to improve and maintain the South Esk River [at] Perth?

The following responses have been provided:

1. *Council reports monthly on it's recurrent expenditure.
Council's accounts are audited annually by the Auditor General, with internal reviews undertaken.
The Annual Financial Statements are then included in the Annual Report.*
 2. *Council's responsibility is associated with the reserve area.
Council maintains the William Street Reserve and propose further upgrades to the South Esk River Parklands, depending upon availability of Council funds and the success in attracting external funds.
External groups within various committees, support improvement to the area by way of requests to Council and also seeking to attract external funds/support to assist to fund improvements.*
-



6.3.1.3 Mrs Maree Smith - Playground Facilities

The following question on notice was received from Mrs Maree Smith, Perth for this Meeting:

It was stated in The Northern Courier that Council intend to construct a playground at Napoleon St., Perth which will be a great benefit to the community and greatly appreciated. The article indicated that toilet facilities at the site would not be constructed at the same time and this would potentially be followed at a later date.

I wish to ask why this isn't included at the same time as construction of playground as previous experience with the lack of toilet facilities at Seccombe Street Perth playground would indicate that this is a necessity from the time of opening of the playground to the public.

Surely this a health and wellbeing requirement for a public facility which is not in close proximity to other public toilets.

The following response has been provided:

Due to budget constraints, the park will be constructed in stages so that it can be used by the public.

Construction is estimated to cost \$700,000. Council was successful in receiving part of the grant funding it applied for, to the value of \$127,695.

At its July meeting, Council endorsed \$300,000 towards the new park, and consideration for the remainder to be budgeted in the 2025-2026 Municipal budget.

Construction will progress over two financial years, pending Councillors approving the 2025-26 Municipal Budget.



6.3.2 Questions Without Notice

Questions without notice welcomed by Mayor Knowles, to be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A person seeking to ask a question must firstly identify himself or herself by stating their name and the town they reside in
- If more than one person wishes to ask a question, the Mayor is to determine the order in which those questions are asked
- Questions must be directed to the Mayor who shall answer or direct the question to the appropriate Councillor or Council Officer. A question will be answered if the information is known otherwise taken on notice and responded to in writing within 10 working days. Questions should preferably be in writing and provided to the General Manager at the Council Meeting
- A person is entitled to ask no more than two questions on any specific subject. If a person has up to two questions on several subjects, the Mayor may defer those questions until other questions have been asked and refer back to that person only if time permits
- Each speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

No questions without notice were received.



6.4 MOTIONS

6.4.1 Motions On Notice

A paper attendance register will be made available for completion by prior to the meeting at reception and at the commencement of the meeting upon the table at the entrance to the Council Chambers.

Note: Only attendees who are electors within the Northern Midlands municipal area are entitled to register and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

The following extract from *Local Government Act 1993, Section 72B - Annual General Meeting*, legislation is applicable:

...

(4) Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.

(5) A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.

(6) A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.

...

The procedure relating to the receipt of Motions On Notice follows:

- Motions On Notice received prior to the issue of the AGM Agenda have been included within the Agenda and are listed in Item 6.4.1
 - Electors who have put forward a Motion On Notice will be called upon at the prescribed time, at which time the Mover of the Motion On Notice will be invited to propose their motion and seek a to have the motion seconded by a registered elector
 - Once seconded, the motion will then be put to the gallery by the Mayor
 - All persons wishing to vote either for or against the motion must be registered as electors within the Northern Midlands municipal area
 - The vote will be taken by a show of hands
 - If the motion is carried by a majority of the registered electors present, a report will be prepared for the 20 January 2025 Council meeting.
 - A maximum of 3 minutes is to be allowed in relation to debate on each Motion On Notice.
-



6.4.1.1 Motion on Notice - Perth Train Park

Responsible Officer: Des Jennings, General Manager

The following Motion on Notice has been received from Ralph McGee, President and Sue Field, Train Park Project Officer on behalf of the Perth Lions Club.

MINUTE NO. 24/0398

DECISION

Ms Field/Mr Leighton

That Council Officers prepare a report to be presented to the next Council Meeting on the following Motion on Notice:
That Council agrees to finish the work required at Perth Train Park in consultation with the Perth Lions Club to make it more family friendly and to make it celebration of the history of trains and Perth.

Carried Unanimously

Voting for the Motion:

Mayor Knowles, Deputy Mayor Lambert, Cr Adams, Cr Andrews, Cr Archer, Cr Brooks and Cr Terrett

Electors Voting for the Motion:

Ms Field, Mr Leighton, Ms Baker, Ms Lawson, Ms Kensitt

Voting Against the Motion:

Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council Officers prepare a report to be presented to the next Council Meeting on the following Motion on Notice:
That Council agrees to finish the work required at Perth Train Park in consultation with the Perth Lions Club to make it more family friendly and to make it celebration of the history of trains and Perth.

Ralph McGee, President and Sue Field, Train Park Project Officer on behalf of the Perth Lions Club have submitted the following Motion on Notice for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 9 December 2024.

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council agrees to finish the work required at Perth Train Park in consultation with the Perth Lions Club to make it more family friendly and to make it a celebration of the history of trains and Perth.

BACKGROUND

Ongoing efforts from Perth Lions Club have been focussed on building covered seating areas for families to enjoy a picnic. Now that there are more barbeques and no seating in the original shelter, separate shelters are required. The Lions shelter from Norfolk Street Park has never been replaced as promised. The Lions Club also built the fence on Little Mulgrave St and once again it has been removed and not replaced. The fence is required to keep young children in the park and away from the road.

The Train Park is a small park and cannot include all the equipment that is found in other parks but it can be a different park by focusing on trains and history, which helps to make it a tourist attraction as well as an asset for Perth.



6.4.1.2 Motion on Notice - Promote and Preserve History of Perth

Responsible Officer: Des Jennings, General Manager

The following Motion on Notice has been received from the Perth Tasmania Historical Society.

MINUTE NO. 24/0399

DECISION

Ms Field/Mr Leighton

That Council Officers prepare a report to be presented to the next Council Meeting on the following Motion on Notice:
The Northern Midlands Council agrees to support projects that preserve and promote the history of the township of Perth.
Carried Unanimously

Voting for the Motion:

Mayor Knowles, Deputy Mayor Lambert, Cr Adams, Cr Andrews, Cr Archer, Cr Brooks and Cr Terrett

Electors Voting for the Motion:

Ms Field, Mr Leighton, Ms Baker, Ms Lawson, Ms Kensitt

Voting Against the Motion:

Nil

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

That Council Officers prepare a report to be presented to the next Council Meeting on the following Motion on Notice:
The Northern Midlands Council agrees to support projects that preserve and promote the history of the township of Perth.

The Perth Tasmania Historical Society have submitted the following Notice of Motion for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 9 December 2024.:

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Northern Midlands Council agrees to support projects that preserve and promote the history of the township of Perth.

BACKGROUND

Background: Ongoing efforts from community members and groups to preserve and promote Perth's important history are deserving of increasing recognition and support from the Northern Midland's Council. These efforts include the Perth Community Hub, historical interpretive signage around Perth, and online sources of information related to the history of the town.

The recent community archaeological dig at Skyview estate in Napoleon Street in Perth is demonstrative of both the history in Perth and the community's interest in such history. The previous community dig at the Perth Convict Probation Gaol in 2023 is also consistent with the important social and cultural history in the township.

It is worth noting that several historic buildings and sites are not easily accessible to the public, such as Eskleigh, formerly Scone, and the Perth Probation Station, now Sustainable Timber Tasmania. Gibbet Hill is the site of the last gibbeting in the British Commonwealth – a site of international social and criminological importance – and to date little effort has been made to preserve or promote this landmark. There is a dearth of sources, such as signs, that detail the area prior to European settlement.

The NMC should work to recognise Perth's important social and cultural history and support community efforts to preserve and promote this history.



6.4.2 Motions Without Notice

A paper attendance register will be made available for completion by prior to the meeting at reception and at the commencement of the meeting upon the table at the entrance to the Council Chambers.

Note: Only attendees who are electors within the Northern Midlands municipal area are entitled to register and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Motions Without Notice from electors welcomed by Mayor Knowles.

The following extract from *Local Government Act 1993, Section 72B - Annual General Meeting*, legislation is applicable:

...

(4) Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.

(5) A motion at an Annual General Meeting is passed by a majority of votes taken by a show of hands or by any other means of ascertaining the vote the council determines.

(6) A motion passed at an Annual General Meeting is to be considered at the next meeting of the council.

...

The procedure relating to the receipt of Motions Without Notice follows:

- An elector proposing to put forward a Motion Without Notice at the meeting is to register their intent with the Mayor and provide a copy of the proposed Motion to the Mayor at the commencement of the meeting
- At the prescribed time, the Mover of the Motion Without Notice will be invited to propose their motion and seek a to have the motion seconded by a registered elector
- Once seconded, the motion will then be put to the gallery by the Mayor
- All persons wishing to vote either for or against the motion must be registered as electors within the Northern Midlands
- The vote will be taken by a show of hands
- If the motion is carried by a majority of the registered electors present a report will be prepared for the 20 January 2025 Council meeting.
- A maximum of 3 minutes is to be allowed in relation to debate on each Motion Without Notice.

[No Motions Without Notice were received.](#)



7 CLOSURE

Mayor Knowles closed the meeting at 5.30pm.

MAYOR _____ DATE _____