

Glen Innes Severn Ordinary Council Meeting

19 FEBRUARY 2026

Minutes



SEVERN COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

MINUTES

From the meeting held at the Glen Innes Severn Learning Centre,
William Gardner Conference Room, Grey Street, Glen Innes on:
Thursday, 19 February 2026 at 9:00 AM

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 1 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY..... | 6 |
| 2 | OPENING WITH PRAYER..... | 6 |
| 3 | APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS..... | 6 |
| 4 | MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING - 18 DECEMBER 2025 TO BE CONFIRMED..... | 6 |
| | 1.02/26 RESOLUTION..... | 6 |
| 5 | DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS..... | 7 |
| 6 | MAYORAL MINUTE..... | 7 |
| 6.1 | ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAYORAL COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND AND SCHOOLS MAYORAL EMERGING LEADERSHIP AWARDS..... | 7 |
| | 2.02/26 RESOLUTION..... | 7 |
| 6.2 | ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTHERN TABLELANDS REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (NTROC)..... | 8 |
| | 3.02/26 RESOLUTION..... | 9 |
| 7 | REPORTS TO COUNCIL..... | 10 |
| 7.1 | RESOLUTION TRACKING REPORT..... | 10 |
| | 4.02/26 RESOLUTION..... | 11 |
| 7.2 | ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026..... | 12 |

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| | 5.02/26 RESOLUTION | 12 |
| 7.3 | PROPOSED MOTIONS TO THE 2026 ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY | 12 |
| | 6.02/26 RESOLUTION | 12 |
| 7.4 | GLEN INNES SCHOOL OF ARTS AND MUSIC PILOT - PROPOSED OPERATING MODEL | 13 |
| | 7.02/26 RESOLUTION | 15 |
| 7.5 | OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-2026 PERIODIC REVIEW (Q2) | 16 |
| | 8.02/26 RESOLUTION | 16 |
| 7.6 | QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - DECEMBER 2025 | 17 |
| | 9.02/26 RESOLUTION | 18 |
| 7.7 | INTERNAL LOAN UPDATE | 18 |
| | 10.02/26 RESOLUTION | 19 |
| 7.8 | CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026 | 20 |
| | 11.02/26 RESOLUTION | 20 |
| 7.9 | QUARTERLY BORROWINGS REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025 | 21 |
| | 12.02/26 RESOLUTION | 21 |
| 7.10 | INVESTMENTS REPORT - DECEMBER 2025 | 22 |
| | 13.02/26 RESOLUTION | 22 |
| 7.11 | INVESTMENTS REPORT - JANUARY 2026 | 22 |
| | 14.02/26 RESOLUTION | 22 |
| 7.12 | INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER | 23 |
| | 15.02/26 RESOLUTION | 23 |
| 7.13 | S355 COMMITTEES - DISSOLUTION OF PINKETT RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | 23 |
| | 16.02/26 RESOLUTION | 23 |
| 7.14 | S355 COMMITTEES - DISSOLUTION OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE | 24 |
| | 17.02/26 RESOLUTION | 24 |

| | | |
|------|--|----|
| 7.15 | S355 COMMITTEES - DISSOLUTION OF ROADS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE | 25 |
| | 18.02/26 RESOLUTION | 25 |
| 7.16 | POLICY DOCUMENT INCORPORATING GUIDELINES FOR COUNCILLOR WORKSHOPS - RESCINDMENT | 26 |
| | 19.02/26 RESOLUTION | 26 |
| 7.17 | GLEN INNES DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY CENTRE - UPDATE..... | 27 |
| | 20.02/26 RESOLUTION | 28 |
| 7.18 | RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE - COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND FRAMEWORK & VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT TEMPLATE | 28 |
| | 21.02/26 RESOLUTION | 30 |
| 7.19 | DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT (QUARTERLY UPDATE) - OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025 | 31 |
| | 22.02/26 RESOLUTION | 31 |
| 8 | NOTICES OF MOTIONS (INCLUDING RESCISSION MOTIONS) / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE..... | 32 |
| 9 | CORRESPONDENCE, MINUTES, PRESS RELEASES | 32 |
| | 23.02/26 RESOLUTION | 32 |
| 9.1 | CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESS RELEASES | 33 |
| | 24.02/26 RESOLUTION | 33 |
| 9.2 | MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION..... | 33 |
| | 25.02/26 RESOLUTION | 33 |
| 9.3 | MINUTES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS FOR INFORMATION | 34 |
| | 26.02/26 RESOLUTION | 34 |
| 10 | REPORTS FROM DELEGATES | 34 |
| 10.1 | REPORTS FROM DELEGATES..... | 34 |
| | 27.02/26 RESOLUTION | 34 |
| 11 | MATTERS OF AN URGENT NATURE | 35 |

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS.....35

28.02/26 RESOLUTION35

12.1 CODE OF CONDUCT - FINAL INVESTIGATION REPORT36

29.02/26 RESOLUTION37

30.02/26 RESOLUTION38

MINUTES

PUBLIC FORUM

No community members addressed Council.

PRESENT: Cr Margot Davis (Mayor), Cr Carol Sparks (Deputy Mayor), Cr Tim Alt, Cr Max Elphick, Cr Andrew Parsons, Cr David Scott and Cr Anne Vosper.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Bernard Smith (General Manager), Mr Alan Butler (Director of Infrastructure Services), Mrs Riarna Sheridan (Director of Place and Growth), Mr Lindsay Woodland (Director of Corporate and Community Services), Mr Gary Mills (Acting Chief Financial Officer), Mr Brendan Wright (Acting Governance Manager) and Mrs Debbie Duffell (Executive Assistant (Mayor and General Manager)).

OPENED: 9.00am.

The Mayor read the following statement regarding video and audio recording of the Council Meeting:

"This Council Meeting is being streamed live, recorded and published in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and the Live Streaming of Council Meetings Procedure. Recording by any other person is not permitted unless expressly authorised by Council.

By remaining in the chamber today, you acknowledge and consent to your image, voice and comments being captured and published. Statements made in this meeting are not protected by parliamentary privilege, and individuals are personally responsible for any defamatory, discriminatory or otherwise unlawful comments.

If you are invited to speak, your contribution will form part of the live stream and the official recording. We simply ask that comments stay focused on the matter under discussion and avoid any defamatory content.

The Chair and the General Manager may pause or end the live stream if exceptional circumstances arise—for example, if debate becomes misleading, defamatory, or is otherwise inappropriate for public broadcast. This discretion is exercised sparingly and only to maintain the integrity of the meeting.

All attendees are reminded to engage respectfully. Behaviour or comments that fall outside acceptable standards may carry legal consequences.

Under the Model Code of Meeting Practice for NSW Local Government, the Chair is responsible for ensuring the meeting runs safely, respectfully, and in accordance with the Code.

Councillors are reminded of their obligations under the Code of Meeting Practice, the Code of Conduct, and the Oath or Affirmation of Office made under Section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. These obligations guide how we work together and uphold the trust placed in us by the community."

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the following “Acknowledgement of Country”:

“I acknowledge the traditional owners on the land in which we meet today, the Ngarabul people, and pay my respect to the Elders past, present and emerging with recognition of their continuing connection to the land, waters and community.

I also extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.”

2 OPENING WITH PRAYER

David Robinson opened the Meeting with a prayer.

3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

No apologies were given as all Councillors were in attendance. There were no applications for a leave of absence.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING - 18 DECEMBER 2025 TO BE CONFIRMED

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr M Elphick

1.02/26 RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 18 December 2025, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting, subject to the amendment of Resolution number 3.12/25, to correct ‘March 20206’ to ‘March 2026’.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Against

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Nil

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

5 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The Director of Place and Growth, Riarna Sheridan, declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 7.19 Development Assessment Report Quarterly Update, as one of the listed approved Development Consents relates to property owned by her in-laws in which she has a potential financial interest. The Director added that she has had no involvement in the assessment or determination of that application.

The Director of Place and Growth intends to vacate the meeting while the item is considered.

6 MAYORAL MINUTE

6.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAYORAL COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND AND SCHOOLS MAYORAL EMERGING LEADERSHIP AWARDS

REPORT FROM: Councillors

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

2.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Approves the establishment of the Mayoral Community Impact Fund to replace the Mayoral donations program with an annual allocation of \$10,000, commencing in the 2026/27 financial year, subject to adoption through the annual Budget process.
2. Notes that the Fund will operate under the Mayor's delegated authority, in accordance with endorsed guidelines and with all allocations to be endorsed by the General Manager as compliant with Council policy, budget, and probity requirements.
3. Approves that the Mayoral Community Impact Fund will be delivered through the following funding streams:
 - a. Micro-Grants for Community Activation – supporting low-cost, high-impact community-led initiatives,
 - b. Volunteer Recognition and Civic Contribution – recognising unpaid contribution and strengthening civic pride,
 - c. Seed Funding for Local Innovation and Pilot Projects – enabling early-stage trials and proof-of-concept activity,
 - d. Hardship and Rapid Response Support – providing timely assistance for urgent community needs through recognised agencies,
4. Approves the inclusion of a Schools Mayoral Emerging Leadership Awards stream within the fund, which aims to recognise emerging leadership in local primary and secondary schools through school-nominated, non-cash awards, with awards:
 - a. Nominated by participating schools,

- b. Presented at existing school presentation events,
 - c. Provided as non-cash educational supports (e.g. vouchers, books, IT resources).
5. Requests the General Manager to develop guidelines for the operation of the Fund and Awards Program, including governance, reporting, and accountability arrangements and in accordance with this resolution.
6. Requests that an annual summary report be provided to Council outlining total allocations made under the Fund and recipient categories.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Vosper

Against

Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott

The division was declared carried by 5 votes to 2.

CARRIED

The Mayor presented a further Mayoral Minute.

6.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTHERN TABLELANDS REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (NTROC)

The Northern Tablelands Regional Councils met earlier this week to discuss ways to better advocate on the issues which are important in terms of liveability, economic growth and wellbeing. It was determined that a structured approach is important for this to be achieved and that a regional organisation should be pursued to achieve these objectives.

This Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) model has been created by Mayors, to replace the previous Joint Organisation (JO) structure, which ultimately struggled under high administrative costs and compliance costs, low participation and limited perceived outcomes. We have taken the lessons from that experience and designed something leaner, more focused and more accountable.

This is a bipartisan, Mayoral-led initiative. It is not a new layer of bureaucracy. It has no secretariat, no additional staffing structure and no cost to ratepayers beyond standard travel expenses. It is simply Mayors working collectively on common regional priorities.

We will invite engagement from all levels of government – including our local Member for Northern Tablelands, Brendan Moylan – because strong advocacy requires constructive relationships. But this is fundamentally a Mayor-driven forum shaped around shared regional interests.

The Northern Tablelands is a distinct region and is interconnected. Our workforce, supply chains, tourism flows, and health services do not stop at council boundaries. When we advocate separately, we dilute impact. When we speak together, we increase leverage.

I will be ensuring that we are focused in our actions and advocacy on issues where the Northern Tablelands Regional Organisation of Councils (NTROC) can make a difference, which are relevant to our region, and that we do not meet for the sake of meeting.

Concurrently the Minister is seeking feedback from councils regarding the future of Joint Organisations and it was agreed that the Minister should be advised that the former New England Joint Organisation which was discontinued in early 2023 should cease to exist. At that time the joint organisation wrote to the Minister for Local Government seeking dissolution however no response was received.

I commend this Mayoral Minute to Council.

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr C Sparks

3.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT:

1. Subject to the concurrence of each individual member Council, a Northern Tablelands Regional Organisation of Councils (NTROC) be established consisting of Armidale Regional Council, Glen Innes Severn Shire Council, Gwydir Shire Council, Inverell Shire Council, Moree Plains Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Shire Council,
2. Upon the concurrence referred to in point 1, a draft constitution be prepared for consideration at the inaugural meeting of NTROC scheduled for the 18 May 2026,
3. It is agreed that participation costs for the NTROC be limited to meeting attendance costs until resolved otherwise,
4. Council responds to Minister Hoenig's correspondence of the 9 February 2026 advising of its desire to have the previous New England Joint Organisation wound up.
5. Further investigations be undertaken in regard to accessing residual New England Joint Organisation funds for the future benefit of the NTROC.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--|---------|
| Cr M Davis Cr C Sparks Cr T Alt Cr M Elphick Cr A Parsons Cr D Scott Cr A Vosper | Nil |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

7.1 RESOLUTION TRACKING REPORT

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr M Elphick

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

THAT Council:

Notes the information contained in this report, and

1. Requests the General Manager to review and refine the internal process for allocation and tracking of Council resolutions to ensure that:
 - a. Where resolutions contain multiple actions capable of being progressed concurrently, those actions are assigned and delivered in parallel rather than sequentially,
 - b. Clear responsibility is allocated to relevant officers for each action component, with appropriate coordination oversight,
 - c. Robust internal checks are in place to confirm that all elements of a resolution have been fully completed before an item is marked as “completed” in the Resolution Tracking Report, and
2. Requests that, where resolutions include advocacy actions, reporting includes advice on advocacy undertaken by the Mayor and any associated outcomes or progress.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

4.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

Notes the information contained in this report, and

1. Requests the General Manager to review and refine the internal process for allocation and tracking of Council resolutions to ensure that:
 - a. Where resolutions contain multiple actions capable of being progressed concurrently, those actions are assigned and delivered in parallel rather than sequentially,
 - b. Clear responsibility is allocated to relevant officers for each action component, with appropriate coordination oversight,
 - c. Robust internal checks are in place to confirm that all elements of a resolution have been fully completed before an item is marked as “completed” in the Resolution Tracking Report, and
2. Requests that, where resolutions include advocacy actions, reporting includes advice on advocacy undertaken by the Mayor and any associated outcomes or progress.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.2 ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr C Sparks Seconded Cr M Elphick

5.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council authorises for the Mayor, Cr M Elphick, Cr T Alt and the General Manager to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government, which is being held in Canberra from Tuesday, 23 June 2026 until Thursday, 25 June 2026.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|--------------|
| Cr M Davis | Cr A Parsons |
| Cr C Sparks | Cr D Scott |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 5 votes to 2.

CARRIED

7.3 PROPOSED MOTIONS TO THE 2026 ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr C Sparks Seconded Cr M Elphick

6.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council submits motions on the following topics, as detailed in Annexure A, to the 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly:

1. Towards a Place-Based, Outcomes Driven Funding Framework for Local Government.
2. Housing.
3. Place-Based and Outcome-Driven Funding to Support Regional Essential Services Delivery.
4. Local Government Enablement for Regional Jobs Generation through Economic Development and the Visitor Economy.
5. Early Childhood Education and Care as Essential Workforce Infrastructure for Regional Jobs and Skills.

6. Biochar.

7. Healthcare.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.4 GLEN INNES SCHOOL OF ARTS AND MUSIC PILOT - PROPOSED OPERATING MODEL

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

THAT Council:

1. Notes the progress made to establish the recently approved pilot program for the Glen Innes School of Arts.
2. Approves the preferred operating model (Option 3: Council & Community Operated) co-designed in collaboration with key stakeholders.
3. Endorses the proposed amendments to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges relating to the room hire at the School of Arts and Music of \$10 per hour.
4. Resolves to place this amendment to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.
5. Receives a further report to Council after the exhibition period in the event of Council receiving substantial submissions regarding the amendment to the Fees and Charges; otherwise, that the amendments be adopted by Council.
6. Extends its thanks to stakeholders who have participated in and contributed to the engagement process.
7. Receives a report regarding the progress of the pilot in December 2026.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT Council:

1. Notes the progress made to establish the recently approved pilot program for the Glen Innes School of Arts.
2. Approves the preferred operating model (Option 3: Council & Community Operated) co-designed in collaboration with key stakeholders.
3. Endorses the proposed amendments to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges relating to the room hire at the School of Arts and Music of \$10 per hour.
4. Resolves to place this amendment to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.
5. Receives a further report to Council after the exhibition period in the event of Council receiving substantial submissions regarding the amendment to the Fees and Charges; otherwise, that the amendments be adopted by Council.
6. Extends its thanks to stakeholders who have participated in and contributed to the engagement process.
7. Requests that within six months of commencement of operations, a further report be provided to Council outlining:
 - a. Actual utilisation rates and financial performance against cost neutrality assumptions,
 - b. A refined financial model including break-even analysis and downside scenarios,
 - c. Defined key performance indicators for the remainder of the pilot period,
 - d. A review of governance arrangements, including advisory committee structure and membership, and
 - e. Clear success criteria and review thresholds to inform Council's determination of the future of the program at the conclusion of the pilot.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Vosper

Against

Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott

The division was declared CARRIED by 5 votes to 2.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr T Alt

7.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the progress made to establish the recently approved pilot program for the Glen Innes School of Arts.
2. Approves the preferred operating model (Option 3: Council & Community Operated) co-designed in collaboration with key stakeholders.
3. Endorses the proposed amendments to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges relating to the room hire at the School of Arts and Music of \$10 per hour.
4. Resolves to place this amendment to the 2025/26 Fees and Charges on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.
5. Receives a further report to Council after the exhibition period in the event of Council receiving substantial submissions regarding the amendment to the Fees and Charges; otherwise, that the amendments be adopted by Council.
6. Extends its thanks to stakeholders who have participated in and contributed to the engagement process.
7. Requests that within six months of commencement of operations, a further report be provided to Council outlining:
 - a. Actual utilisation rates and financial performance against cost neutrality assumptions,
 - b. A refined financial model including break-even analysis and downside scenarios,
 - c. Defined key performance indicators for the remainder of the pilot period,
 - d. A review of governance arrangements, including advisory committee structure and membership, and
 - e. Clear success criteria and review thresholds to inform Council's determination of the future of the program at the conclusion of the pilot.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Vosper

Against

Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott

The division was declared carried by 5 votes to 2.

CARRIED

b. The extent to which vacancies or recruitment timeframes are impacting delivery of endorsed strategies.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.6 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - DECEMBER 2025

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr A Parsons

That Council notes and adopts the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT Council:

1. Notes and adopts the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review.
2. Requests that future Quarterly Budget Review Statements include:
 - a. The Responsible Accounting Officer's statement in accordance with the OLG QBRs Guidelines;
 - b. Clear identification of structural versus temporary budget adjustments; and
 - c. Explicit commentary on the impact of quarterly variations on the Long-Term Financial Plan and key financial sustainability indicators.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr T Alt

9.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes and adopts the December 2025 Quarterly Budget Review.
2. Requests that future Quarterly Budget Review Statements include:
 - a. The Responsible Accounting Officer's statement in accordance with the OLG QBRs Guidelines;
 - b. Clear identification of structural versus temporary budget adjustments; and
 - c. Explicit commentary on the impact of quarterly variations on the Long-Term Financial Plan and key financial sustainability indicators.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Against

Nil

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.7 INTERNAL LOAN UPDATE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr C Sparks

That Council notes the information in this report.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr M Elphick

THAT:

1. Council notes the information in this report.

2. A Councillor Workshop be conducted to inform Councillors on the operation of Council's cash flow management.

Cr Alt left the meeting room at 10.15am.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 6 votes to 0.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr M Elphick

10.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT:

1. Council notes the information in this report.
2. A Councillor Workshop be conducted to inform Councillors on the operation of Council's cash flow management.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

Cr Alt returned to the meeting room at 10.16am.

- a. Clear identification of projects at risk of deferral or carryover and quantification of anticipated carryovers,
- b. High-level commentary on delivery capacity and sequencing risks, and
- c. Refinement of the Project Pipeline Register to include defined project maturity stages, progression milestones, and accountability measures to support structured advancement toward shovel-ready and grant-ready status.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.9 QUARTERLY BORROWINGS REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr M Elphick

12.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.10 INVESTMENTS REPORT - DECEMBER 2025

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr M Elphick

13.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Against

Cr M Davis

Nil

Cr C Sparks

Cr T Alt

Cr M Elphick

Cr A Parsons

Cr D Scott

Cr A Vosper

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.11 INVESTMENTS REPORT - JANUARY 2026

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick

Seconded Cr T Alt

14.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Against

Cr M Davis

Nil

Cr C Sparks

Cr T Alt

Cr M Elphick

Cr A Parsons

Cr D Scott

Cr A Vosper

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.12 INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

15.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee considered the revised Internal Audit Charter 2026 at its 10 December 2025 meeting and recommended that Council adopt the Charter.
2. Adopts the revised Internal Audit Charter 2025.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.13 S355 COMMITTEES - DISSOLUTION OF PINKETT RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr A Vosper

16.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Resolves to dissolve the Pinkett Recreation Reserve Management Committee in accordance with section 355 and section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and section 17 of the *Community Committees of Council Manual*.

2. Resolves to retrospectively approve the transfer of funds held by Council for that committee's usage to the incorporated body, Pinkett Community Management Committee.
3. Extends its thanks to the Committee members for their participation and contribution over past years.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.14 S355 COMMITTEES - DISSOLUTION OF RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

17.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Dissolves the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee in accordance with section 355 and section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and section 17 of the *Community Committees of Council Manual*.
2. Notes that the Committee's original advisory purpose is now delivered through internal Recreation and Open Spaces operations, strategic planning frameworks, and modern engagement channels.
3. Extends its thanks to the Committee members for their participation and contribution over past years.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.15 S355 COMMITTEES - DISSOLUTION OF ROADS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr T Alt

18.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Resolves to defer consideration of the dissolution of the Road Consultative Committee pending three (3) consecutive meetings at which a quorum is not achieved, to allow reasonable opportunity for continued participation.
2. Requests the General Manager to prepare a draft revised Terms of Reference for the Road Consultative Committee for Council's consideration which:
 - a. clarifies the advisory role of the Committee in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and ensures alignment with Council's adopted policies and governance framework;
 - b. establishes clear expectations regarding the provision of appropriate officer reports and information to enable the Committee to provide informed advisory input to Council; and
 - c. sets out arrangements for scheduling the Committee's Annual General Meeting and future meetings, having regard to relevant agricultural industry cycles and key Council commitments to maximise participation.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.16 POLICY DOCUMENT INCORPORATING GUIDELINES FOR COUNCILLOR WORKSHOPS - RESCINDMENT

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

19.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Rescinds the Policy Document Incorporating Guidelines for Councillor Workshops.
2. Notes that the principles formerly covered by this document are now appropriately addressed through the adopted Code of Meeting Practice and other governance policies.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

Moved Cr D Scott

Seconded Cr A Parsons

20.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Receives and notes the update report on the in-kind support provided to the Glen Innes and District Community Centre (GIDCC).
2. Notes that GIDCC has successfully addressed its operational and financial challenges and seeks advice from GIDCC as to whether they still require the \$20,000 one-off subsidy identified in Resolution 9.04/25.
3. Notes that Council officers will continue to work with GIDCC, Homes North, and other relevant stakeholders to progress the Community Service Hub concept and will provide a comprehensive report in due course.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Against

Nil

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

7.18 RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE - COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND FRAMEWORK & VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT TEMPLATE

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Benefit Fund Framework for the purpose of public exhibition for 28 days.
2. Endorses the draft REZ Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) template for concurrent public exhibition.
3. Receives a further report only if substantial submissions are received that warrant amendment to the REZ Community Benefit Fund Framework or REZ VPA template, otherwise both documents be adopted as exhibited.

Amendment Moved Cr D Scott

Seconded Cr A Parsons

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Benefit Fund Framework for the purpose of public exhibition for 28 days.
2. Endorses the draft REZ Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) template for concurrent public exhibition.
3. Displays the draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Benefit Fund Framework and the draft REZ Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) template on Council's website, and that it be made available for viewing at the following locations:
 - Council's Town Hall Office, and
 - The Village Post Offices at Deepwater and Emmaville.
4. Receives a further report only if substantive submissions are received that warrant amendment to the REZ Community Benefit Fund Framework or REZ VPA template, otherwise both documents be adopted as exhibited.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Against

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Benefit Fund Framework for the purpose of public exhibition for 28 days.
2. Endorses the draft REZ Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) template for concurrent public exhibition.
3. Displays the draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Benefit Fund Framework and the draft REZ Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) template on Council's website, and that it be made available for viewing at the following locations:
 - Council's Town Hall Office, and
 - The Village Post Offices at Deepwater and Emmaville.

4. Requests that, prior to adoption, Council staff review and integrate the principles and strategic approach of the Glen Innes Highlands Economic Development Strategy 2026–2030 into the Community Benefit Fund Framework, including community wealth-building, place-based capital investment, liveability enablers, and Council’s population growth target of 10,000 residents.
5. Receives a further report following the exhibition period that includes:
 - a. a summary of submissions received, and
 - b. advice on any amendments arising from public feedback and strategic alignment considerations prior to final adoption.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Against

Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

The Amendment became the Motion.

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr T Alt

21.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Benefit Fund Framework for the purpose of public exhibition for 28 days.
2. Endorses the draft REZ Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) template for concurrent public exhibition.
3. Displays the draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Community Benefit Fund Framework and the draft REZ Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) template on Council’s website, and that it be made available for viewing at the following locations:
 - Council’s Town Hall Office, and
 - The Village Post Offices at Deepwater and Emmaville.
4. Requests that, prior to adoption, Council staff review and integrate the principles and strategic approach of the Glen Innes Highlands Economic Development Strategy 2026–2030 into the Community Benefit Fund Framework, including community wealth-building, place-based capital investment, liveability enablers, and Council’s population growth target of 10,000 residents.

5. Receives a further report following the exhibition period that includes:

- a. a summary of submissions received, and
- b. advice on any amendments arising from public feedback and strategic alignment considerations prior to final adoption.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

The Director Place and Growth, Riarna Sheridan declared a Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 7.19 Development Assessment Report Quarterly Update, as one of the listed approved Development Consents relates to property owned by her in-laws in which she has a potential financial interest. The Director added that she has had no involvement in the assessment or determination of that application.

The Director of Place and Growth left the meeting at 10.52am and did not participate in discussion on Item 7.19.

7.19 DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT (QUARTERLY UPDATE) - OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

22.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained within the report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

The Director of Place and Growth returned to the meeting at 10.54am.

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS (INCLUDING RESCISSION MOTIONS) / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

There were no Notices of Motions, Rescission Motions or Questions with Notice.

9 CORRESPONDENCE, MINUTES, PRESS RELEASES

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

23.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council passes Item numbers 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 10.1 en bloc.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

9.1 CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESS RELEASES

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

24.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

9.2 MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

25.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|--------------|---------|
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

9.3 MINUTES OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS FOR INFORMATION

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

26.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| For | Against |
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

10 REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

10.1 REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

27.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| For | Against |
| Cr M Davis | Nil |
| Cr C Sparks | |
| Cr T Alt | |
| Cr M Elphick | |
| Cr A Parsons | |
| Cr D Scott | |
| Cr A Vosper | |

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

11 MATTERS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There were no matters of an urgent nature.

12 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

28.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:

| Item | Report | Reason |
|------|--|--|
| 12.1 | Code of Conduct - Final Investigation Report | (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under Section 440. |

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Against

Nil

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

The live streaming of the Meeting was paused at 10.56am.

All members of the public, Cr M Davis and Cr M Elphick left the meeting room at 10.56am.

The Deputy Mayor, Cr C Sparks, assumed the role of Chair.

12.1 CODE OF CONDUCT - FINAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr C Sparks Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT Council:

1. Notes that a procedural fairness oversight was identified following Council's December 2025 consideration of the final investigation report into former Councillor Arandale.
2. Notes that corrective action has been taken by the independent conduct reviewer to provide the respondent with the investigation report and an opportunity to comment, and that no submission was received.
3. Confirms its previous resolution 16.12/25 noting the findings of the investigation, noting that the investigator determined breaches of the Code of Conduct occurred, and referring the matter to the Office of Local Government for its information.

Amendment Moved Cr D Scott Seconded Cr A Parsons

THAT Council:

1. Notes that a procedural fairness oversight was identified following Council's December 2025 consideration of the final investigation report into former Councillor Arandale.
2. Notes that corrective action has been taken by the independent conduct reviewer to provide the respondent with the investigation report and an opportunity to comment, and that no submission was received.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

| For | Against |
|----------------------------|--|
| Cr A Parsons Cr D Scott | Cr C Sparks Cr T Alt Cr A Vosper |

The division was declared LOST by 3 votes to 2.

Moved Cr C Sparks

Seconded Cr T Alt

29.02/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes that a procedural fairness oversight was identified following Council's December 2025 consideration of the final investigation report into former Councillor Arandale.
2. Notes that corrective action has been taken by the independent conduct reviewer to provide the respondent with the investigation report and an opportunity to comment, and that no submission was received.
3. Confirms its previous resolution 16.12/25 noting the findings of the investigation, noting that the investigator determined breaches of the Code of Conduct occurred, and referring the matter to the Office of Local Government for its information.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr A Vosper

Against

Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott

The division was declared carried by 3 votes to 2.

CARRIED

Cr D Scott and Cr A Parsons left the meeting room immediately following the motion being put (11.13am).

Cr M Davis and Cr M Elphick returned to the meeting room at 11.34am.

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr A Vosper

30.02/26 RESOLUTION

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

For

Against

Cr M Davis
Cr C Sparks
Cr T Alt
Cr M Elphick
Cr A Vosper

Nil

The division was declared carried by 5 votes to 0.

CARRIED

The live streaming of the meeting resumed at 11.36am.

The Meeting closed at 11.37am.