

Glen Innes Severn Ordinary Council Meeting

25 MARCH 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:
Wednesday, 25 March 2026 at 9:00 AM

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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 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. No other persons are permitted to record the Meeting, unless specifically authorised by Council to do so.

To everyone joining us in the gallery today, thank you for being here. By attending this public meeting, you acknowledge that the proceedings—including images, voices and comments—are being recorded and may be published.

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 hold the authority to pause or end the live stream if exceptional circumstances arise—for example, if debate strays into misleading, defamatory, or otherwise inappropriate territory. 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 implications.

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 also reminded of their obligations under both the Code of Meeting Practice and the Code of Conduct, as well as the Oath or Affirmation of Office made under Section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. These commitments 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

Father Thadeus Ike 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.

Councillor T Alt submitted an apology for the April 2026 and June 2026 Ordinary Council Meetings as he will be on annual leave. He requested that Council grant him a leave of absence from these two meetings.

Moved Cr C Sparks Seconded Cr M Elphick

2.03/26 RESOLUTION

That the apology received from Cr T Alt for the Ordinary Council Meetings to be held in April 2026 and June 2026 be accepted and that a leave of absence be granted.

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

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING - 19 FEBRUARY 2026 AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING - 9 MARCH 2026 TO BE CONFIRMED

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

3.03/26 RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 19 February 2026, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

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

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr D Scott

4.03/26 RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9 March 2026, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

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

5 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

No Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest were made.

6 MAYORAL MINUTE

There was no Mayoral Minute.

7 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

7.1 RESOLUTION TRACKING REPORT

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

5.03/26 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

7.2 DELIVERY PLAN RESOURCING

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr A Vosper

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the report, and
2. Requests a further report to the May 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting that provides:
 - a. a clear statement on whether workforce capacity is sufficient to deliver the Delivery Program,
 - b. a high-level assessment of the extent to which vacancies and recruitment are impacting delivery, and
 - c. identification of known workforce gaps and proposed strategies to address those gaps.

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

6.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the report, and
2. Requests a further report to the May 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting that provides:
 - a. a clear statement on whether workforce capacity is sufficient to deliver the Delivery Program,
 - b. a high-level assessment of the extent to which vacancies and recruitment are impacting delivery, and
 - c. identification of known workforce gaps and proposed strategies to address those gaps.

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

7.3 CHANGE OF DATE FOR JUNE 2026 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr C Sparks

7.03/26 RESOLUTION

That Council reschedules the June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting to Thursday, 18 June 2026, to accommodate attendance at the 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra.

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 PROPOSED NAME CHANGE - GLEN INNES HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

THAT Council:

1. Places the proposal to change the name from Glen Innes Severn Council to Glen Innes Highlands Council on public exhibition for 28 days inviting community feedback.
2. Receives a further report following the exhibition period to consider submissions and determine whether to proceed with a formal application to the Minister for Local Government.

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

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

The division was declared LOST by 4 votes to 3.

Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr A Parsons

8.03/26 RESOLUTION

That Council passes Item numbers 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9 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

7.5 AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr A Parsons

9.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Australia Day Committee for the ensuing term, as elected at the AGM:
 - Robert Arthur,
 - Karen Carr,
 - Bev Edkins,
 - Richard Edkins,
 - Peter Haselwood,
 - Mahri Koch,
 - Jan Lemon,
 - Kerrie Sturtridge, and
 - Jenny Thomas.

2. Endorses the election of the following office bearers of the Australia Day Committee, as resolved at the AGM:
 - Chair – Jan Lemon,
 - Secretary – Mahri Koch.

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

7.6 GLEN INNES COMMUNITY ACCESS COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr A Parsons

10.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Glen Innes Community Access Committee, as elected at the AGM:
 - Maryann Brookfield,
 - Jo-Anne Cooper,
 - Lyn Cregan,
 - Leonie Lee,
 - Kerrie Sturtridge,
 - Julie Teal, and
 - David Thomas.
2. Endorses the election of the following office bearers of the Glen Innes Community Access Committee, as resolved at the AGM:
 - President- Jo-Anne Cooper,
 - Vice President- David Thomas.

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

**7.7 GLEN INNES SEVERN LIBRARY COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE
REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services**

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr A Parsons

11.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Glen Innes Severn Library Committee for the ensuing term, as elected at the AGM:
 - Kerry Muir,
 - Byron Sansom,
 - Jenny Sloman, and
 - Lindy Stevenson.

2. Endorses the election of the following office bearers of the Glen Innes Severn Library Committee, as resolved at the AGM:
 - Chair – Kerry Muir,
 - Vice Chair – Lindy Stevenson,
 - Minute Secretary – Jenny Sloman.

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

7.8 GLENCOE HALL COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr A Parsons

12.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Glencoe Hall Committee for the ensuing term, as elected at the AGM:
 - Lesley (Caren) Donald,
 - Helen Gunther,
 - Andrew Irwin,
 - Glenda Laughton,
 - Selena McMullen,
 - Evelyn Scott,
 - Robert Walker,
 - Rachel Welstead, and
 - Julie Wright.
2. Endorses the election of the following office bearers of the Glencoe Hall Committee, as resolved at the AGM:
 - Chair – Rachel Welstead,
 - Vice Chair – Andrew Irwin,
 - Secretary – Helen Gunther,
 - Treasurer – Julie Wright.

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

7.9 SALEYARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr A Parsons

13.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the following community representatives as members of the Saleyards Advisory Committee for the ensuing term, as elected at the AGM:

- Agent Representatives:
 - o Elders: Michael Lamph
 - o Colin Say & Co: Shad Bailey
 - o Newberry and te Velde: Terry te Velde
 - o Nutrien: Jim Ritchie
- Landholder Representatives:
 - o Kurt Parker
 - o Lyle Perkins
 - o Angus Vivers

2. Endorses the election of the following office bearer of the Saleyards Advisory Committee, as resolved at the AGM:

- Chair – Shad Bailey

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

**7.10 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE QUARTERLY UPDATE
REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services**

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

14.03/26 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 STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT
COMMITTEE - MARCH 2026**

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr M Elphick

THAT Council:

1. Receives and notes the findings of the independent Strategic Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee undertaken in March 2026.
2. Endorses the recommendations of the review and approves their implementation in accordance with the implementation plan at Table 1 of this report.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT Council:

1. Receives and notes the review,
2. Endorses the recommendations contained in the independent Strategic Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (Annexure A) to be implemented in full.

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

15.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the review,**
- 2. Endorses the recommendations contained in the independent Strategic Review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (Annexure A) to be implemented in full.**

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 REVISED COMMUNITY CULTURAL RELATIONS POLICY

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr C Sparks

Seconded Cr M Elphick

16.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Approves for the revised Community Cultural Relations Policy to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days from Monday, 30 March 2026.
2. Displays the revised Community Cultural Relations Policy 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.
3. Requests the Director Corporate and Community Services to prepare a further report to Council after the exhibition period in the event of Council receiving any substantive submissions regarding the Community Cultural Relations Policy; otherwise, that the Community Cultural Relations Policy be adopted by Council.

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

7.13 ROADS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE - REVISED

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

17.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Adopts the revised Roads Consultative Committee Terms of Reference.

2. Notes that an Annual General Meeting of the Roads Consultative Committee is to be scheduled within three months of this Council meeting, with subsequent Annual General Meetings to be scheduled in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference.

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 GLEN INNES DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr D Scott

18.03/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes advice provided by Glen Innes and District Community Centre that the \$20,000 one-off subsidy identified in Resolution 9.04/25 is no longer required.

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 INVESTMENTS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

19.03/26 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

7.16 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

That Council notes the information contained in this report.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks

THAT Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the report, and
2. Requests that future Capital Works Program reporting be provided on a quarterly basis aligned with the Quarterly Budget Review, and be refined to:
 - a. focus on project status, risks, delivery confidence and financial performance,
 - b. provide consistent and current commentary across all projects, and
 - c. clearly identify projects at risk of delay, cost variation or carryover.

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

20.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the information contained in the report, and
2. Requests that future Capital Works Program reporting be provided on a quarterly basis aligned with the Quarterly Budget Review, and be refined to:
 - a. focus on project status, risks, delivery confidence and financial performance,
 - b. provide consistent and current commentary across all projects, and
 - c. clearly identify projects at risk of delay, cost variation or carryover.

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

7.17 FORMER GLEN INNES HIGHLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN AND DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETION REPORT

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Councillors were advised in an email from the General Manager on 22 March 2026 that this report had been withdrawn from the agenda.

7.18 GLEN INNES HIGHLANDS HUB QUARTERLY REPORT - OCT - DEC 2025

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr C Sparks

Cr Alt left the meeting room at 9:53am.
Cr Alt returned to the meeting room at 9:54am.

21.03/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the Highlands Hub Quarterly Progress Report for the period October–December 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

7.19 DRAFT ROAD, BRIDGE AND PLACE NAMING POLICY

REPORT FROM: Infrastructure Services

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr C Sparks

THAT:

1. Council approves for the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days from Monday, 30 March 2026.

2. Council displays the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy 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.
3. A further report to Council be prepared after the exhibition period in the event of Council receiving any substantive submissions regarding the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy; otherwise, that the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy be adopted by Council.
4. The 2021 Roads Consultative Committee recommendation and subsequent Council resolution (28.01/22) is to be rescinded, and the new policy is to be applied to the naming of the Shannon Vale Road bridge over the Mann River.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr T Alt

THAT:

1. Council endorses the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy for public exhibition, and
2. Council displays the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy 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.
3. Council requests that, following the public exhibition period, the subsequent report to Council include consideration of how the policy may be further strengthened to recognise naming as a strategic tool for place-making and economic development, including alignment with:
 - a. Council’s broader place branding and identity,
 - b. cultural heritage and local Aboriginal recognition, and
 - c. Council’s emerging GeoRegion narrative and aspirations.
4. The 2021 Roads Consultative Committee recommendation and subsequent Council resolution (28.01/22) is to be rescinded, and the new policy is to be applied to the naming of the Shannon Vale Road bridge over the Mann River.

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

22.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT:

1. Council endorses the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy for public exhibition, and
2. Council displays the Draft Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy 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.
3. Council requests that, following the public exhibition period, the subsequent report to Council include consideration of how the policy may be further strengthened to recognise naming as a strategic tool for place making and economic development, including alignment with:
 - a. Council's broader place branding and identity,
 - b. cultural heritage and local Aboriginal recognition, and
 - c. Council's emerging GeoRegion narrative and aspirations.
4. The 2021 Roads Consultative Committee recommendation and subsequent Council resolution (28.01/22) is to be rescinded, and the new policy is to be applied to the naming of the Shannon Vale Road bridge over the Mann River.

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

7.20 GLEN ELGIN SPORTSGROUNDS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

REPORT FROM: Infrastructure Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr A Parsons

23.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Resolves to hold a public hearing in accordance with section 40A of the *Local Government Act 1993* in respect of the Draft Glen Elgin Sports Grounds Plan of Management; and
2. Authorises the General Manager to arrange and publicly notify the public hearing, including fixing the date, time and venue; and
3. Requests that a further report be prepared to Council after the public hearing, in the event of Council receiving any substantial submissions regarding the Draft Glen Elgin Sports Grounds Plan of Management; otherwise, that the Draft Glen Elgin Sports Grounds Plan of Management be adopted by 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 Parsons
Cr D Scott
Cr A Vosper

Nil

The division was declared carried by 7 votes to 0.

CARRIED

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

8.1 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - LIFE CHOICES - SUPPORT SERVICES FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

REPORT FROM: Councillors

On 12 March 2026, Councillor Scott submitted the following question with notice to the General Manager:

In relation to the Life Choices Support Services program, can the General Manager provide:

- *a detailed profit and loss statement for 2024-2025,*
- *what is the gross operating turnover of the Life Choices program, and has Council assessed whether it triggers the competitive neutrality reporting threshold?*
- *A table showing the numbers of:*
 - *clients, FTE staff and fleet vehicles in the last 3 financial years.*
 - *the direct cost of insurance and superannuation attributed to this business.*
- *a breakdown of revenue sources (from NDIS, grants, and other sources), operating expenditure, and any subsidies from Council including cross-subsidisation from general rates or reserves, and*
- *the projected financial performance for 2025-2026 and the net surplus or deficit, including whether the program is expected to operate on a commercially sustainable basis moving forward into FY2025-26?*

Officer response:

LCSS is a Council-operated community service delivering aged care and disability support services, including services funded through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Commonwealth aged care programs, and other grants and user-pay arrangements. The program operates within a regulated environment and is subject to both financial and service delivery oversight requirements.

Financial Reporting at Program Level

Council's financial statements and Annual Report are prepared in accordance with legislative and accounting requirements. Consistent with those requirements:

- Council does not report financial performance at an individual service or program level, except where activities are formally declared business activities, and
- There is no existing published profit and loss statement, turnover disclosure, or cost attribution for Life Choices Support Services.

Neither the *Local Government Act 1993* nor the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires Council to prepare or publish program-level profit and loss statements for non-declared activities.

The information sought in the Question with Notice would require the extraction and compilation of internal management information, rather than disclosure of existing public or audited material.

Competitive Neutrality Considerations

LCSS has not been declared as a Category 1 or Category 2 business activity under the NSW competitive neutrality framework and has not been reported as such in Council's Annual Report.

Under the NSW Treasury Policy Statement on the Application of Competitive Neutrality (TPP02-1), competitive neutrality is intended to apply where a government entity is undertaking a significant business activity and where non-application could reasonably be expected to materially distort competition.

Having regard to the criteria set out in TPP02-1, LCSS has historically been treated as a Council community service, rather than a commercial business activity. In particular, the service:

- is delivered primarily to meet social and community objectives,
- operates within highly regulated funding and pricing frameworks (including NDIS and aged care),
- does not operate with commercial pricing discretion or profit-seeking intent, and
- has historically been governed, budgeted, and reported as part of Council's community services function.

Although LCSS operates in a contestable environment, contestability alone does not determine whether an activity is required to be declared for competitive neutrality purposes. On the information available to date, the service has not previously been assessed as meeting the threshold of a significant business activity requiring formal declaration.

The treatment of LCSS as a non-declared activity has not been raised as an issue in internal or external audit reporting to Council.

Disclosure in Open Council vs Closed Forum

Under the Code of Meeting Practice, open Council meetings are intended for matters appropriate for public consideration. Detailed internal financial performance information, including cost attribution and forward projections for non-declared activities:

- is not reported publicly in Council's financial statements,
- may involve commercially sensitive information, and
- is appropriately treated as commercial-in-confidence to Council.

For these reasons, detailed financial performance information for LCSS would not be disclosed in open Council. Any such information, once compiled, should be provided to councillors through a briefing, workshop, or confidential session, subject to confidentiality obligations.

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

24.03/26 RESOLUTION

That Council passes Item numbers 9.1, 9.2 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 CORRESPONDENCE, MINUTES, PRESS RELEASES

9.1 CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESS RELEASES

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr A Parsons

25.03/26 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 C Sparks

Seconded Cr T Alt

28.03/26 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	Land Purchase	(d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.
12.2	Deepwater Railway Station Expressions of Interest	(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
12.3	General Manager Performance Review for 2025	(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

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 10:08am.

12.1 LAND PURCHASE

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr M Davis

Seconded Cr T Alt

29.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the strategic importance of adopting a more interventionist approach to housing delivery to support workforce attraction, liveability and economic development.
2. Notes that the proposed acquisition is currently reliant on anticipated proceeds from asset sales and future revenue that has not yet been realised, and that this introduces financial and delivery risk.
3. Defers a final decision on the purchase of Lot 153 Hunter Street at this time.
4. Requests a further report to Council that outlines:
 - a clear framework for Council's role in housing delivery (including facilitation, partnership and direct development models),
 - priority housing outcomes and target cohorts (including key workers, rental supply and housing diversity),
 - delivery mechanisms and partnership opportunities (including government, community housing providers and private sector),
 - confirmed and secured funding pathways, including timing of cashflows and contingencies where asset sales or revenues are delayed or not achieved,
 - feasibility assessment principles to guide future land acquisition and development decisions.
5. Notes that any future consideration of land acquisition should be assessed against this framework to ensure alignment with Council's long-term strategic approach and financial sustainability.
6. Authorises the General Manager to monitor the outcome of the auction process and, should the property not sell, report back to Council on any potential opportunity for negotiated purchase aligned with the above framework.

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

12.2 DEEPWATER RAILWAY STATION EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

REPORT FROM: Infrastructure Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

30.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Authorises the calling of Expressions of Interest for a Licence to Occupy the Deepwater Railway Station and that the Expressions of Interest be accepted only from Incorporated Community Groups. The period of the Licence to Occupy will be for an initial three years with an option to extend until 30 November 2030.
2. Requests a report be brought back to a Council Meeting outlining the Expressions received and provide a recommended action.

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

All staff, with the exception of the General Manager left the meeting room at 10:15am.
The General Manager left the meeting room at 10:20am.

12.3 GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR 2025

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

31.03/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes that the General Manager's annual performance review has been completed in accordance with Clause 7 of the Contract of Employment,
2. Adopts the Performance Agreement for the 2026-2027 period, including agreed performance criteria and measures,
3. Notes that the Performance Agreement may be varied by agreement during the term in accordance with the Contract, and
4. Authorises the Mayor to provide the required written statement to the General Manager outlining the outcomes of the review and the agreed performance criteria for the forthcoming period.

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

Staff returned to the meeting room at 10:36am.

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr A Parsons

32.03/26 RESOLUTION

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

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 resumed at 10:37am.

The Mayor read out the Confidential Closed Resolutions relating to Item numbers 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3 as listed above.

The Meeting closed at 10:40am.

MINUTES