

Glen Innes Severn Ordinary Council Meeting

28 MAY 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, 28 May 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 Gary Mills (Interim Chief Financial Officer), Ms Tracey Carr (Manager of Governance), 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 - 23 APRIL 2026 AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING - 11 MAY 2026 TO BE CONFIRMED

Moved Cr M Elphick

Seconded Cr D Scott

3.05/26 RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23 April 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

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

4.05/26 RESOLUTION

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 11 May 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	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

5 DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Cr M Davis declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 7.10 “Former Glen Innes Highlands Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan and Destination Management Plan Completion Report”, Item 7.11 “Glen Innes Highlands Hub Quarterly Report – Q3 (Jan-Mar 2026)” and Item 8.1 “Armidale-Glen Innes Rail Corridor – Investigation of Integrated Rail and Rail Trail Options”, as she was a former Council employee from July 2018 until April 2023 working on all items.

Cr Davis intends to remain in the meeting, participate in the debate and vote on these items.

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 T Alt Seconded Cr A Vosper

5.05/26 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 COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr C Sparks

That Council appoints Joanne Cooper and Catherine Donald as Community Members of the Community Safety Forum.

Amendment Moved Cr M Davis Seconded Cr C Sparks:

THAT:

1. Council notes the limited level of interest and participation from the stakeholder groups identified under the adopted Terms of Reference for the Community Safety Forum;
2. Council defers the appointment of community members who expressed an interest and thank them for that interest in the Community Safety Forum; and

3. Council defers commencement of the Community Safety Forum until the full stakeholder representation identified under the adopted Terms of Reference has been secured;
4. Should the full stakeholder representation not be achievable by the July Council Meeting that Council rescind resolution 4.12/25.

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

6.05/26 RESOLUTION

THAT:

1. Council notes the limited level of interest and participation from the stakeholder groups identified under the adopted Terms of Reference for the Community Safety Forum;
2. Council defers the appointment of community members who expressed an interest and thank them for that interest in the Community Safety Forum; and
3. Council defers commencement of the Community Safety Forum until the full stakeholder representation identified under the adopted Terms of Reference has been secured;
4. Should the full stakeholder representation not be achievable by the July Council Meeting that Council rescind resolution 4.12/25.

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 DELIVERY PLAN RESOURCING

REPORT FROM: General Manager's Office

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

7.05/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes 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

7.4 CASH & INVESTMENTS REPORT - APRIL 2026

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr C Sparks Seconded Cr M Elphick

8.05/26 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

7.5 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW - QBR3

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

9.05/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes and adopts the March 2026 Quarterly Budget Review.

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

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

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 1.

CARRIED

7.6 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

10.05/26 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

7.7 OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-2026 PERIODIC REVIEW (Q3)

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr C Sparks

11.05/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the information 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

7.8 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND FRAMEWORK AND SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT - SUMMARY OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION RESULTS

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr M Elphick

12.05/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Notes the outcome of the public exhibition of the draft Glen Innes Severn Council Community Benefit Fund Framework and draft Renewable Energy Projects Voluntary Planning Agreement Template.
2. Adopts the amended Glen Innes Severn Council Community Benefit Fund Framework at Annexure C.
3. Adopts the amended Glen Innes Severn Council Renewable Energy Projects Voluntary Planning Agreement Template at Annexure E.
4. Notes that any future project specific Voluntary Planning Agreement will remain subject to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, including any applicable public notice, explanatory note, public inspection and publication requirements.
5. Thanks all submitters for their time and feedback during the public exhibition 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

7.9 DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT (QUARTERLY UPDATE) - JANUARY-MARCH 2026

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr C Sparks

13.05/26 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

Cr M Davis declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 7.10 "Former Glen Innes Highlands Economic Development Strategy, as she was a former Council employee from July 2018 until April 2023 working on this matter.

Cr Davis remained in the meeting, participated in the debate and voted on the item.

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

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr M Elphick

14.05/26 RESOLUTION

That Council receives and notes the close-out report on the implementation of the former Glen Innes Highlands Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040, its supporting Action Plan 2020-2025 and the Glen Innes Highlands Destination Management Plan 2021-2026.

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

Cr M Davis declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 7.11 “Glen Innes Highlands Hub Quarterly Report – Q3 (Jan-Mar 2026)”, as she was a former Council employee from July 2018 until April 2023 working on this matter.

Cr Davis remained in the meeting, participated in the debate and voted on the item.

7.11 GLEN INNES HIGHLANDS HUB QUARTERLY REPORT - Q3 (JAN - MAR 2026)

REPORT FROM: Place and Growth

Moved Cr T Alt Seconded Cr C Sparks

15.05/26 RESOLUTION

That Council notes the Highlands Hub Quarterly Progress Report for the Q3 period (January – March 2026).

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 DEEPWATER RAILWAY STATION EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

REPORT FROM: Infrastructure Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr M Elphick

16.05/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Accepts the Expression of Interest submitted by the Deepwater Progress Association and enters into a Licence to Occupy for the Deepwater Railway Station, for an initial term of three years, with an option to extend to 30 November 2030.
2. Supports the establishment of the Licence to Occupy on a peppercorn basis, in recognition of the Association's commitment to undertake general maintenance works that would otherwise be the responsibility of Council.
3. Authorises the General Manager to execute the Licence to Occupy and any associated documentation on behalf of 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

Cr M Davis declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest regarding Item 8.1 "Armidale-Glen Innes Rail Corridor – Investigation of Integrated Rail and Rail Trail Options", as she was a former Council employee from July 2018 until April 2023 working on this matter.

Cr Davis remained in the meeting, participated in the debate and voted on the item.

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

8.1 ARMIDALE-GLEN INNES RAIL CORRIDOR - INVESTIGATION OF INTEGRATED RAIL AND RAIL TRAIL OPTIONS

REPORT FROM: Councillors

Moved Cr D Scott

Seconded Cr A Parsons

THAT Council:

1. Acknowledges the diverse and strongly held views within the community regarding the future of the Armidale to Glen Innes rail corridor, including support for both a rail trail and the preservation of rail infrastructure.
2. Notes that preliminary work is being progressed by Glen Innes Severn Council in relation to the rail corridor, including Council's commitment of up to \$170,000 (Resolution 2.05/24, part 4) toward investigation and feasibility activities, and further notes that, given this public investment, it is essential that the scope of works comprehensively assesses all viable options (Resolution 2.05/24 part 5 d)), including implied integrated rail-with-trail models, to ensure informed and accountable decision-making.
3. Recognises that removal of existing rail infrastructure constitutes a permanent and irreversible decision with significant long-term economic, transport, and strategic consequences.
4. Requests a detailed, independent, and evidence-based investigation into integrated corridor models, including:
 - a. Rail-with-trail (co-location) options,
 - b. Parallel trail alignments utilising existing road reserves or adjacent land,
 - c. Staged development approaches that preserve future rail options.
5. Requires that all cost assumptions—including claims that off-formation trail construction is significantly more expensive—be independently verified and publicly reported.
6. Engages with Transport for NSW and the NSW Government to:
 - a. Clarify the strategic status of the corridor,
 - b. Identify funding pathways that support integrated transport and tourism outcomes,
 - c. Advocate for investment that does not preclude future rail use.

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

For

Cr A Parsons
Cr D Scott

Against

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

The division was declared LOST by 5 votes to 2.

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr M Elphick

17.05/26 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

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

9 CORRESPONDENCE, MINUTES, PRESS RELEASES

9.1 CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESS RELEASES

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr A Parsons Seconded Cr T Alt

18.05/26 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

19.05/26 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

20.05/26 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

21.05/26 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

Cr Alt left the meeting room at 10.13am.

Moved Cr M Elphick Seconded Cr C Sparks

22.05/26 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	Lease Refinancing - Komatsu Excavator Model PC240LC_11	(d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

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

For

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

Against

Nil

The division was declared carried by 6 votes to 0.

CARRIED

The live streaming of the Meeting was paused at 10.13am.

All members of the public and the Interim Chief Financial Officer left the meeting room at 10.13am.

The meeting adjourned for a short break at 10.14am.

Cr Alt returned to the meeting room at 10.18am.

The meeting resumed at 10.19am.

12.1 LEASE REFINANCING - KOMATSU EXCAVATOR MODEL PC240LC_11

REPORT FROM: Corporate and Community Services

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr M Elphick

23.05/26 RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

1. Approves the refinancing of the lease for the Komatsu Excavator Model PC240LC_11, for the remaining residual balance of \$133,000, and
2. Authorises to affix the Common Seal of the Glen Innes Severn Council to execute the National Australia Bank (NAB) Corporate Market Loan of \$133,000 over a three-year term with no residual remaining at the end of the term of the lease.

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

Moved Cr T Alt

Seconded Cr M Elphick

24.05/26 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 10.28am.

The Mayor read out the Confidential Closed Resolution relating to Item 12.1 as listed above.

The Meeting closed at 10.29am.