



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF THE BOULIA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD ON Wednesday 24 April 2024
COMMENCING AT 9:00 am**

1 Meeting Opening with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Please note:

In some instances, due to unforeseen circumstances, the sequence of the Ordinary Meeting of Council on the meeting day may vary from the order of the agenda issued. The corresponding meeting minutes will follow the outline of the originally issued agenda, however the resolution numbers noted will be in accordance with the actual sequence of the meeting on the day.

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9 am.

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional carers of the land on which Council meets, the 'Pitta Pitta' people, and paid Council's respects to the elders past and present.

The Mayor also acknowledged past and present service personnel.

It has been noted that the Mayor has reminded all Councillors in regards to registration of interests and declaration of contact with or engagement of lobbyists.

2 Present

Councillors: Councillor Eric (Rick) Britton
Councillor Sam Beauchamp
Councillor Jack Neilson
Councillor Jan Norton
Councillor Julie Woodhouse

Officers: Ms Lynn Moore (Chief Executive Officer)
Mrs Kaylene Sloman (Director of Corporate & Financial Services)
Mr Henry Mascarenhas (Director of Works and Operations)

3 Apologies / Leave of Absence

There were no apologies or leaves of absence for this meeting.

4 Declaration of Interests

Moved: Cr Britton

Seconded: Cr Neilson

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* (Part 2 and 3), the following declarations of interest were made and dealt with:

Councillor	Agenda Item Number	Matter to be discussed	Declaration Type	Particulars of the interest	How the matter was dealt with
Cr Britton	11.1.5	Town Common Policy Changes	Declarable Conflict of Interest	Cr Britton and his wife/business partner own property adjoining the Town Common.	All other Councillors agreed that Cr Britton could stay in the room and take part in discussion and vote in the matter.
Cr Woodhouse	11.2.3	Endorsement of Council Support for Boulia Easter Races Event	Declarable Conflict of Interest	Cr Woodhouse is a volunteer Executive Member (Treasurer) of the Boulia Turf Club who organise the Easter Races Event.	All other Councillors agreed that Cr Woodhouse could stay in the room and take part in discussion and vote in the matter.
Cr Neilson	11.2.3	Endorsement of Council Support for Boulia Easter Races Event	Declarable Conflict of Interest	Cr Neilson is a volunteer Executive Member (President) of the Boulia Turf Club who organise the Easter Races Event.	All other Councillors agreed that Cr Neilson could stay in the room and take part in discussion and vote in the matter.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.1

Carried

5 Mayoral Minutes

5.1 Great Artesian Basin Carbon Sequestration Fight

PURPOSE:

To discuss with Councillors the Great Artesian Basin Carbon Sequestration Fight taking place at present and the request for financial support in the fight from Colin Boyce MP, Federal Member for Flynn.

Moved: Cr Britton

Seconded: Cr Norton

That Council provide a letter of support to Colin Boyce MP regarding AgForce's legal battle in the Great Artesian Basin Sequestration Fight but at this stage no financial support be provided by Council.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.2

Carried

5.2 Australian Institute of Company Directors Training - Mayoral Training Brief

PURPOSE:

To provide to Councillors a brief on the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Training completed by the Mayor.

Moved: Cr Neilson

Seconded: Cr Woodhouse

1. That the Australian Institute of Company Directors Training - Mayoral Training Brief report be received for information.
2. That a future budget allocation be considered in the 2024-2025 budget for Councillor and Management attendance at future Australian Institute of Company Directors AICD (or like) training.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.3

Carried

6 Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motions to be noted at this meeting.

7 Request to Address Council in a Public Forum

There were no requests to address Council in a Public Forum.

8 Petitions

There were no petitions presented to Council.

9 Deputations

Mr Gideon Genade from Gideon Town Planning will be addressing the Council at 11 am via Teams to discuss the draft conditions that have been raised for the Ergon Energy Development Application - application number DA2023/02, Boulia Solar Farm, Lot 101 Selwyn Road Boulia, also presented to Council via late report.

10 Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Britton

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th March 2024 be accepted.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.4

Carried

Moved: Cr Neilson

Seconded: Cr Beauchamp

That the minutes of the Post Election Meeting held on 28th March 2024 be accepted.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.5

Carried

11 Reports

11.1 Works and Operations

TITLE:	Director of Works and Operations March 2024 Report	DOC REF: 11.1.1
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To inform Council of the current utilisation and activities of the Works and Operations Department in line with all works and operations being undertaken for March 2024.

Moved: Cr Beauchamp

Seconded: Cr Britton

That Council receive the Director of Works and Operations March 2024 Report for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.6

Carried

TITLE:	Engineering Service Report – News brief for March 2024	DOC REF: 11.1.2
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To inform Council on the progress of various projects by George Bourne & Associates on behalf of Council through an information update.

Moved: Cr Neilson

Seconded: Cr Britton

That the Engineering Services Report – News brief for March 2024 be noted.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.7

Carried

Mr Graham Smerdon (Council's Rural Lands Protection Officer) entered the meeting at 9.45 am.

Mr Smerdon left the meeting at 10.40 am.
Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.40 am.

Meeting resumed at 11 am.

Mr Gideon Genade from Gideon Town Planning joined the meeting via Teams at 11 am to discuss the late report regarding the Ergon Energy Solar Farm Development Application (Development Application number DA2023/02).

Mr Genade left the meeting at 11.42 am.

TITLE:	Foreman Roads, Utilities and Services Report March 2024	DOC REF: 11.1.3
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To inform Council of the current utilisation and activities of the Town Department during the month of March 2024.

Moved: Cr Beauchamp

Seconded: Cr Britton

That Council receive the Foreman Roads, Utilities and Services March 2024 Report for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.10

Carried

TITLE:	Foreman Road Maintenance and Construction Report March 2024	DOC REF: 11.1.4
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To inform Council of the current utilisation and activities of the Works Department in line with the Council works program for March 2024.

Moved: Cr Neilson

Seconded: Cr Norton

That Council receive the Foreman Roads, Construction and Maintenance March 2024 Report for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.11

Carried

TITLE:	Rural Lands Protection Officer March 2024 Report	DOC REF: 11.1.5
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of current activities relating to weed management, pest control, animal management and stock routes.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 (Part 2 and 3), it is noted that Cr Britton has made a declaration of interest regarding this item (11.1.5) and as per resolution number 2024/04.1, all other Councillors have agreed that Cr Britton can stay in the room and take part in discussion and vote in the matter.

Moved: Cr Neilson

Seconded: Cr Norton

1. That the Rural Lands Protection Officers Report for March 2024 be received for information.
2. That Council proceeds with obtaining quotes to purchase metal 1080 signs for later resale to local properties.
3. That the adoption of the Town Common Policy (policy 124) as presented be deferred until further notice. Councillor workshop to be held to discussed contents further.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.8

Carried

TITLE:	Systematic Inspection Program - extension of time	DOC REF: 11.1.6
---------------	---	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To request Council endorsement of an extension of time on the Systematic Inspection Program that was to be carried out between October 2023 and March 2024.

Moved: Cr Britton

Seconded: Cr Neilson

That Council endorse an extension of time to 30th November 2024 for the Systematic Inspection Program October 2023 to March 2024 (original Council resolution number.: 2023/10.18).

Resolution No.: 2024/04.12

Carried

11.2 Office of the Chief Executive

TITLE:	Chief Executives Report March 2024	DOC REF: 11.2.1
---------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of relevant activities undertaken through the office of the CEO.

Moved: Cr Beauchamp

Seconded: Cr Neilson

That the CEO Report for March 2024 be received for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.13

Carried

TITLE:	Action List Update March 2024	DOC REF: 11.2.2
---------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To present to Council an updated Action List.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Woodhouse

That Council receive the Action List update for March 2024 for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.14

Carried

TITLE:	Endorsement of Council Support to 2024 Easter Racing Event	DOC REF: 11.2.3
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To seek Council endorsement of the in-kind support provided for the 2024 Easter Races Event.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 (Part 2 and 3), it is noted that Cr Neilson and Cr Woodhouse have made a declaration of interest regarding this item (11.2.3) and as per resolution number 2024/04.1, all other Councillors have agreed that Cr Neilson and Cr Woodhouse can stay in the room and take part in discussion and vote in the matter.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Britton

That Council endorse the in-kind support of \$11,385.40 for the Boulia Turf Club for the 2024 Easter Races event.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.15

Carried

TITLE:	Councillors Remuneration Levels 2024-2025	DOC REF: 11.2.4
---------------	---	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

Council to consider remuneration levels for 2024-2025 financial year. Review of remuneration is required by Chapter 8 - Administration, Part 1 - Councillors, Division 1 - Councillor remuneration, (s.247[1-7], s.248 [1-4]) of the *Local Government Regulation (LGR) 2012*.

Moved: Cr Britton

Seconded: Cr Neilson

1. That the Council determine the Councillor remuneration payable to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors for the 2024-2025 budget to be:

Proposed rates as per the Tribunal Rates from 1/7/2024	2024-25	<i>Annual Base meeting fee (75%)</i>	<i>Annual attendance at 12 meeting pa (25%)</i>	<i>Monthly Base meeting fee 75% split</i>	<i>Monthly meeting attendance (12) 25% split</i>
Mayor 100%	\$119,393	\$89,545	\$29,848	\$7,462.06	\$2,487.35
Dep Mayor 100%	\$68,880	\$51,660	\$17,220	\$4,305.00	\$1,435.00
Councillor 1 100%	\$59,695	\$44,771	\$14,924	\$3,730.94	\$1,243.65
Councillor 2 100%	\$59,695	\$44,771	\$14,924	\$3,730.94	\$1,243.65
Councillor 3 100%	\$59,695	\$44,771	\$14,924	\$3,730.94	\$1,243.65
Total Annual cost	\$367,358	\$275,519	\$91,840		

2. That the CEO advise the Chair of the Tribunal of the new remuneration for 2024-25 (via LGRcenquiries@dlgrma.qld.gov.au)
3. That the 2024-2025 budget allocation for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors be set at \$ 367,358 (excluding superannuation, travel and accommodation costs).

Attendance at meetings by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillors is taken to be part of the normal remuneration paid and will not be compensated further by Council. Payment of expenses as per the Councillor Remuneration and Expenses Re-imbusement policy (Policy 111) will still apply.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.16

Carried

TITLE:	Delegations to CEO and CEO to Staff - review	DOC REF: 11.2.5
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

Council as a Local Authority is required to undertake a wide range of powers and functions that are prescribed in legislation and necessary for the good governance of the Shire. Council is required to determine the functions of a Local Authority that are to be delegated to the CEO and to review those delegations on an annual basis.

Moved: Cr Woodhouse

Seconded: Cr Beauchamp

1. That all the powers referred to in the document entitled “Register of Delegations – Council to CEO” attached to this report are hereby delegated by Council to the Chief Executive Officer of Council pursuant to section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.
2. That Council note in the Register of Delegations current delegations from the CEO to other staff.
3. That all previous delegations be updated to reflect the changes, accepted by delegates and then published on the website.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.17

Carried

TITLE:	Policy Reviews - Study Policy, Standing Orders and Model Meeting Procedures, Councillor Code of Conduct, Investigation Policy	DOC REF: 11.2.6
---------------	---	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

Regular review of Council policies ensures that Council maintains an up-to-date guide for staff to refer to in the day-to-day management of the Council. This report deals with the review of several policies.

Moved: Cr Britton

Seconded: Cr Neilson

That the following policies, as presented, be adopted:

- Policy 129 Councillor Code of Conduct Policy
- Policy 132 Study Policy
- Policy 150 Investigation Policy
- Policy 151 Model Meeting Procedures and Standing Orders Policy

Resolution No.: 2024/04.18

Carried

TITLE:	Request for Views - Proposed Declaration of Special Wildlife Reserves - Pilungah and Ethabuka	DOC REF: 11.2.7
---------------	---	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of the request for views received regarding the proposed declaration of special wildlife reserves at Pilungah and Ethabuka.

Moved: Cr Britton

Seconded: Cr Neilson

That a response be sent to the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation advising that Council have no objection to the proposed declaration of special wildlife reserves at Pilungah and Ethabuka.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.19

Carried

TITLE:	WHS Report	DOC REF: 11.2.8
---------------	------------	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To inform Council of progressions and or issues of concerning regarding WH&S. Ongoing monitoring with projects to ensure correct and completed WHS paperwork is submitted and identify potential hazards and any documentation requirement shortfalls with

evidentiary documents held in Magiq and Pulse. Adopt various alerts/updates into regular toolbox talks and training.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Neilson

That the Workplace Health and Safety Report for March 2024 be received for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.20

Carried

11.3 Corporate Services

TITLE:	Director of Corporate & Financial Services March 2024 Report	DOC REF: 11.3.1
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of the activities of the Director of Corporate and Financial Services.

Moved: Cr Woodhouse

Seconded: Cr Beauchamp

That the Director of Corporate & Financial Services March 2024 report be received for information purposes.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.21

Carried

TITLE:	Policy Review - 115 Employee Travel and Training, 125 Telecommunication Policy, 135 Flag Flying Policy	DOC REF: 11.3.2
---------------	--	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To review and update Council's policies in accordance with the adopted procedure to ensure that policies made by Council are compliant with legislation and are reviewed in a timely manner.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Beauchamp

That policy 115 Employee Travel Policy, policy 125 Telecommunication Policy and policy 135 Flag Flying Policy be adopted as presented and that a copy of the updated policies be made available in the Councillor Information Hub.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.22

Carried

TITLE:	Budget Review Operational and Capital Budgets as at 31st March 2024	DOC REF: 11.3.3
---------------	---	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To provide a Budget Review to 31st March 2024 based on trends to date.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Britton

That the Budget Review to 31st March 2024 as presented to Council be received and that the revised budget variations for Operational and Capital Budgets as shown be adopted.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.23

Carried

TITLE:	Financial Report for March 2024	DOC REF: 11.3.4
---------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

Financial Summary as at 31 March 2024.

Moved: Cr Beauchamp

Seconded: Cr Britton

That the Finance Report for March 2024 be received for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.24

Carried

11.4 Community Services

TITLE:	Community Services Report March 2024	DOC REF: 11.4.1
---------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with an update of the activities associated with Councils' community development activities.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Neilson

That the Community Services Report for March 2024 be received for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.25

Carried

TITLE:	Min Min Encounter & Boulia Heritage Centre Report – March 2024	DOC REF: 11.4.2
---------------	---	---------------------------

PURPOSE:

To report on the day-to-day operations of the Min Min Encounter and to promote tourism in the Shire and surrounding region.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Britton

That the Min Min Encounter & Boulia Heritage Centre Report March 2024 be received for information.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.26

Carried

12 Late Reports

TITLE:	Development Application for a Material Change of Use for a Renewable Energy Facility (Solar Farm), File Number DA2023/02	DOC REF: Late Report
---------------	--	--------------------------------

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with a summary of the development application proposal by Ergon Energy for a Renewable Energy Facility (Solar Farm) at Boulia and advise of the proposed conditions to be placed on the a application.

Moved: Cr Norton

Seconded: Cr Woodhouse

That the recommendations A, B, C as outlined in the 'Development Application for a Material Change of Use for a Renewable Energy Facility (Solar Farm), File Number DA2023/02' report be approved with the addition of the following conditions:

1. That appropriate measures and chemicals are used so as to ensure there is no impact on ground water.
2. That appropriate measures be taken to ensure that weed management issues are addressed and toilet approved chemicals are used on the land.
3. That an advisory note be included that Council prefers local contractors to be utilised during construction.

Resolution No.: 2024/04.9

Carried

13 Closed Session

There were no closed session reports presented to Council.

14 General Business

There was no general business to be noted at this meeting.

15 Meeting Closure

The Mayor closed the meeting at 4 pm.

16 Confirmed

Minutes confirmed 31st May 2024
Resolution No.: 2024/05.1