



# **Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday 25 October 2016  
Ordinary Meeting 6:25PM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,  
Stuart Highway, Katherine

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 25 OCTOBER 2016

### MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2016

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**1. Welcome to the Country**

**2. Opening Prayer**

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

**3. Present**

Mayor Fay Miller  
Deputy Mayor Toni Tapp-Coutts  
Alderman Lis Clark  
Alderman Henry Higgins  
Alderman Robert Phillips  
Alderman Peter Gazey  
Alderman Steven Rose

**In attendance**

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer  
Mr David Moore – A/Director of Works and Services  
Ms Sophie Henderson – Community Services Executive  
Manager  
Ms Sarah Bevington – Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)

Video Link

Director of Corporate and Community Services - Ms Claire Johansson

7 x members of the Katherine Community  
1 x member of the Media

**4. Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Nil

**5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOVED: Higgins / Clark

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 27 September 2016 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

**6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Nil

**7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Member Disclosure of Interest and Declared Interest

Nil

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### 8. Mayoral Business to be Considered

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Mayoral Business to be considered

#### Mayor's Calendar of Events for September 2016

Somerville Morning Tea  
Meeting with a member of the public x 5  
Triple J Radio Interview  
Rodeo / Camp draft Meeting  
Brolga Judging Panel Teleconference  
Food Ladder – Official Opening  
Australian Local Government Women's Association NT Executive Meeting Darwin  
Elected Members Workshop  
ABC Grassroots Radio Interview  
Australian Local Government Women's Association NT - teleconference  
Women of the World (WOW) Festival x 2 days  
Local Government Association Northern Territory - Executive Meeting - teleconference  
Meeting with TIO Manager  
Site Inspection – Brolga Judging – Katherine Outback Experience  
Katherine Regional Economic Development Committee Meeting  
Young Territory Author Awards Presentation  
Site Inspection – Brolga Judging – Mataranka Road House  
Savannah Way Board Meeting – teleconference  
Elected Members Workshop – Mojo Collective  
Elected Members Workshop  
Katherine Town Council – Tourism Workshop  
Meeting – Department Chief Minister  
Open Forum  
Council Meeting  
Nitmiluk Tours Board Meeting  
Funeral  
Ongoing Professional Training for Celebrants

#### Mayoral Business

Last Tuesday 18 October 2016 the CEO Robert Jennings, Deputy Mayor Toni Tapp-Coutts, Alderman Henry Higgins' wife Vicki, and myself attended the opening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly in Parliament House, Darwin. This special occasion is the swearing in of the New Government, the declaration of the Speaker of the House and for maiden speeches for newly elected members.

It was an honour to wear the Katherine Town Council Mayoral robes and chain, along with the Lord Mayor of Darwin Katrina Fong Lim, Mayor of Palmerston Ian Abbott and Mayor of Litchfield Maree Bredhauer and to be seated in the Advisors boxes next to Madam Speaker on the floor of Parliament.

We were fortunate to hear the new Member for Katherine Sandra Nelson's maiden speech during the afternoon, along with the Member for Arnhem Selena Uibo.

Tuesday evening Deputy Mayor Toni Tapp-Coutts and myself attend the AGM for ALGWA NT (Australian Local Government Women's Association) in the Darwin City Council meeting room. At that meeting I was reelected as Deputy Vice President and Deputy Mayor Toni Tapp Coutts, as a new member to the association, was elected to the committee. As an association we are focusing on encouraging and mentoring women to stand for the 2017 Local Government elections. The gender balance right across Australia has some way to go to be balanced.

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Saturday evening saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chamber of Commerce NT Customer Service Awards held in Katherine, at Mahogany Restaurant. Congratulations to all the nominees. It is a great honour to be nominated. I congratulate the overall Business Winner of the perpetual Chief Ministers trophy – Visions owned and operated by Danni David.

I especially want to congratulate Faith Williams, manager of the Katherine Visitor Information Centre, and her staff Tiffany Brown, Loveena Kruger (who was also nominated for an individual award), Vivianne Haefler and Jack Mealor. The Katherine Visitor Centre was the winner of the Outstanding Government Category. That tops of what has been a great year for the KVIC. Well done to all of you.

The Katherine Museum also had a very successful night being acknowledged as the winner of the People's Choice Award, in addition to being the winner of the Outstanding Non-Government Category. Well done to Simmone Croft and her team. A very deserving win.

Katherine has lost 2 ladies recently who have contributed much to our community.

I first of all pay my respects to Maureen Dunham who was born in Katherine to the O'Shea family on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1933. The O'Shea family were pioneers who played a significant part in Katherine with O'Shea Terrace named after the family. Maureen married Peter Dunham, son of another well known pioneer family.

Maureen was the mother of 5 children (2 who predeceased her), Grandmother of 12 and Great Grandmother of 11. Maureen passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016. A short service was held at the Katherine Cemetery on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Maureens ashes have been scattered over the O'Shea graves in Katherine cemetery, the Low Level and Crystal Rapids – all special places for Maureen and her family.

I also pay my respect to Iris MacNamara who was born on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1937 and died on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Katherine Hospital. Iris and her late husband John MacNamara were avid supporters of many things in the Katherine community, but especially the Katherine Museum and the community gardens at the front. Their passion and commitment to the Museum for many, many years has definitely contributed to the great collection and attractions that are evident at the Museum for locals and tourists to enjoy. Iris is survived by her two children Anne and Kevin and their families.

We sadly say goodbye to 2 women who played an important part in our Katherine community.

### **9. Correspondence and Documents to be Tabled**

**9.1** Letter to Minister Gerry McCarthy - Minister for Housing & Community Development, Essential Services and Public Employment – Congratulations and Partnership Offer

**9.2** Letter to the CEO Alister Trier - Department of Mines and Energy – Submission on Terms of Reference for the panel undertaking the enquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

CARRIED: 7 / 0

### **10. Petitions**

Nil

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### 11. Questions

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

#### 11.1 With Notice

Nil

#### 11.2 Without Notice

Nil

### 12. Notice of motion

Nil

### 13. Report of Officers

#### 13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2016

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Chief Executive Officer Reports

MOVED: Clark / Gazey

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of September 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Alderman Clark questioned the increase in dog complaints each month.
- Alderman Phillips noted that he often sees the Council ranger (Karmen) out working on the dog issues in town.
- Mayor Miller noted that we need to have a discussion around the dog issue in Katherine and what Council can do.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted there is a brochure that will be sent out to the community residents with dog ownership information and the Council Rangers have been out to the communities assisting with dog issues and education.
- Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts noted all the lost dogs that residents are posting on Facebook .

#### 13.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2016

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works and Services Division Reports

MOVED: Gazey / Higgins

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of September 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

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- Mayor Miller questioned the number of blocked toilets and if they are being misused.
- The Acting Director of Works and Services noted that foreign objects are being flushed including items of clothing.
- Alderman Gazey made comment regarding page 7 on the September sprinkler replacements being low due to staff resignation.
- Alderman Rose noted the excellent work Council is doing with Jobfind and questioned how many participants we have.
- The Acting Director of Works and Services noted we have between two (2) and eleven (11) participants daily.
- Alderman Gazey made comment to the forty dogs impounded for the quarter.
- Mayor Miller noted that the town is looking really good and she has received a lot of positive comments on how great the town is looking from the community and visitors and that the Point of Sale Interventions (POSI) has a lot to do with the town looking good overall.
- Mayor Miller questioned how the no pet sign at the tick market will be monitored.
- The Acting Director of Works and Services noted that the community markets will be undertaking the monitoring.
- Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts is on the market committee and they are having issues currently monitoring pets in the community market.
- Mayor Miller questioned the patrols on the unauthorised campers.
- The Acting Director of Works and Services noted the Rangers are patrolling each day at the Hot Springs after 4pm.
- Alderman Gazey questioned if the rangers are working Saturday and could they reinforce the dog issues at the community markets.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised Council will install the signage and the markets can monitor, if they have issues after this then Council will look into how we can further assist.

### 13.3 **MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2016**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Corporate and Community Services Reports

MOVED: Phillips / Tapp-Coutts

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Corporate and Community Services Division for the month of September 2016 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller asked for further information on the average sales at the Visitor Information Centre per visitor being down.
- The Community and Community Services Manager noted the Director of Community and Community Services will provide a response to Elected Members.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted that we would take this question on notice.

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### 13.4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2016

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Higgins / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of September 2016.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

### 13.5 MUNICIPAL PLAN – QUARTERLY REVIEW

File: Local Governance / Media Relations / Administration

MOVED: Phillips / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That Council notes the status of the quarterly review of the Municipal Plan for 2016/2017 as at the 30 September 2016.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller noted the Communications Officer has been a good move for Council and Naomi is doing a great job.
- Mayor Miller noted the typo on page 33 for 'Need Trees' should be Neem Trees.

### 13.6 WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

File: Community Relations / Committee / Katherine Water Advisory Committee

MOVED: Higgins / Tapp-Coutts

#### **That it be recommended that Council:**

1. Nominate appropriate Council Representatives to the Katherine Water Advisory Committee.
2. That the completed Expressions of Interest be forwarded to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by 28 October 2016.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller noted we need to nominate tonight for Council to have positions on the Water Advisory Committee.
- Alderman Higgins questioned if the appropriate Council Representatives to the Katherine Water Advisory Committee can be an employee of Council.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted yes it can be an employee or Elected Member.
- Alderman Higgins put forward a motion to nominate Alderman Rose to represent Council on the Water Advisory Committee

MOVED: Higgins / Gazey

CARRIED: 6 / 0

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- Alderman Higgins put forward a motion to nominate Alderman Lis Clark to represent Council on the Water Advisory Committee.

MOVED: Higgins / Gazey

CARRIED: 6 / 0

- Alderman Rose stated that water is everything and we need to get the balance right between the farming community and the town for everyone's benefit.

### 13.7 ACQUITTAL FAMILY SAFE ENVIRONMENT FUND GRANT

File: Finance / Grant Funding / Department of Local Government and Community Services

MOVED: Higgins / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the acquittal for the 2015/2016 Family Safe Environment Fund Grant be received and noted and the acquittal be forwarded to the Department of Local Government and Community Services.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

### 13.8 ACQUITTAL SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANT – REVITALISATION OF HOT SPRINGS

File: Finance / Grant Funding / Department of Local Government and Community Services

MOVED: Clark / Higgins

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the acquittal for the 2015/2016 Special Purpose Grant be received and noted and the acquittal be forwarded to the Department of Local Government and Community Services.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Alderman Higgins noted that the surplus is out by \$100,000 and it was agreed to have this amended figure to be \$51,959.

### 13.9 KATHERINE TERRACE MAIN STREET – FREE WIFI

File: Technology and Telecommunications / General Correspondence

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That Council approves the Business Proposal to the local Katherine businesses to advertise, for a fee, as a part of the free Wi-Fi on Katherine Terrace.

CARRIED: 7 / 0



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- Alderman Rose questioned why it will still be free WiFi if people have to pay.
- Mayor Miller noted this is for businesses to advertise on the free WiFi in Katherine Terrace.

### 14. Reports from Representatives on Committees

File: Community Relations / Committees / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

The following meetings/activities were attended by the Elected Members in September:

#### **Deputy Mayor Toni Tapp-Coutts**

Elected Members Workshop x 3  
Open Forum  
Council Meeting  
St Joseph's College - Book Week  
Relay for Life  
Katherine Region of Writers Meeting  
Katherine Community Market Meeting  
Food Ladder Opening  
Local Government presentation - Library  
Wurli Meeting with CEO, staff and Alderman Gazey  
Police Remembrance Day  
Speaker - Women of the World Festival  
Royal Life Saving Week - Story reading at Katherine Library  
Site Meeting Showgrounds

#### **Alderman Peter Gazey**

Elected Members Workshop x 2  
Open Forum  
Council Meeting  
Katherine Community Markets  
YMCA Board Meeting  
Wurli Meeting with CEO, staff and Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts

#### **Alderman Steven Rose**

Elected Members Workshop x 3  
Open Forum  
Council Meeting  
Police Remembrance Day  
Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting  
Site Meeting Showgrounds

#### **Alderman Rob Phillips**

Elected Members Workshop x 3  
Open Forum  
Council Meeting  
Showgrounds Advisory Committee  
Katherine Historic Society  
Site Meeting Showgrounds

#### **Alderman Donald Higgins**

Elected Members Workshop x 3  
Open Forum  
Council Meeting  
Site Meeting Showgrounds  
Food Ladder Opening

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### **Alderman Lis Clark**

Elected Members Workshop x 3  
Open Forum  
Council Meeting  
Somerville Morning Tea  
Premises Standards Training  
Museum Master Planning Meeting  
Showgrounds Advisory Committee  
Adult Learning – Katherine Library  
Food Ladder Opening  
Katherine Film Festival  
Women of the World Festival  
Canonisation of Sister Teresa  
Site Meeting Showgrounds  
Local Government presentation - Library

### **15. Late Agenda**

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts moved a motion to include the Late Agenda items.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

### **15.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD ON THE 17 OCTOBER 2016**

File: Finance / Audit / Audit Committee

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Phillips

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That Council receives, notes and endorses the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on the 17 October 2016.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Mayor Miller noted that this report is to endorse the minutes and recommendations.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted we have a new auditor that has found a lot of good areas for Council to work on and the Asset Management Plan is looking good.

### **15.2 ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016**

File: Local Governance / Compliance / Annual Report

MOVED: Rose / Phillips

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That the 2015/2016 Annual Report and Audited Financial statements having been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and Local Government (Accounting) Regulations be endorsed, received and noted.
2. That pursuant to Section 199 of the *Local Government Act* that the 2015/2016 Annual Report be forwarded to the Minister and be published in the Katherine Times for details pertaining to access to copies and in its entirety on Council's website.

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CARRIED: 7 / 0

- Alderman Rose stated that it is a fantastic report and Council has done an outstanding amount of work and it has made a huge difference to the town.
- Alderman Rose noted he has been on Council six (6) years and this is the best result he has seen.
- Mayor Miller noted that it is the most comprehensive report she has seen in her time on Council.

### 15.3 THE LEASE AND OTHER ASSOCIATED MATTERS FOR THE KATHERINE CIVIL AIRPORT

File: Legal Documents / Lease / Katherine Civil Airport

MOVED: Higgins / Gazey

**That it be recommended that Council:**

1. Accept this report with associated attachments;
2. Conditional to:
  - a. the \$825k Airport Apron works contract from the Department of Transport being signed;
  - b. the reference to responsibility for 'Taxiway Alpha' being removed; and
  - c. the 'Taxiway Echo' being amended to 'part of Taxiway Echo', determine to continue with the management of the Katherine Civil Airport as per the lease conditions;
  - d. Conditional on the acceptance on a 10+10+10 year contract**
3. Authorise the Mayor and CEO to sign the lease and operating deed and use the common seal on the documents once part 2 of this resolution is satisfied;
4. Increase the income rates as per the Airport Revenue Review and any amended recommendations after discussions with stakeholders over a two year period; and
5. Provide updates to stakeholders on the resolution by Council.

CARRIED: 6 / 1

- The Chief Executive Officer noted that a lot of the attachments in this report have come to Council already and noted that in the revenue review that the passenger manifest has not been received from Katherine Aviation as Council had not requested it.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted that we could alter the wording to be clearer with respect to part 4.
- Alderman Rose noted that the intent is there through consultation with the users, that Council does have to have the money and it needs to be put into place with an agreement over a two year period.
- Alderman Rose noted the contract length of 20 years + 10 years and review after 30 years is too long and that we should look at 10 years with a review after that time, 30 years is too long.
- Alderman Rose noted we need a Draft Management Plan within 4 months and within 6 months we need a Master Plan in place and that clause 27.2 point 24 Council does not have the power to block residential development and that Development Consent Authority controls this.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted that it states "if in the Councils power."
- Alderman Rose noted the depreciation of 12 – 15 years and we work on 10 years in other documents and if that was taken into account.

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- The Chief Executive Officer noted if Council proceed with the 10 year reviews Elected Members would need to propose an amendment.
- Alderman Higgins noted he has reservations about the airport and that as Council we have to manage it and make it work, increase revenue review and that recommendation point 3 Airport Revenue Review rental income of 112 sq. metres needs to be reviewed before we go further with rental charges.
- The Chief Executive Officer noted that this document is to be reviewed after discussions with stakeholders and Elected Members can look at the amendments.

MOVED: Higgins / Rose

- Alderman Higgins proposed an amended to point two (2) to add a fourth point (d), conditional on the acceptance on a 10+10+10 year contract and that number 4 of the officer recommendations should read "Increase the income rates as per the Airport Revenue Review and any amended recommendations after discussions with stakeholders over a two year period."

CARRIED: 6/1

- Alderman Clark noted that she is very concerned taking on the airport lease and that she has carefully considered the pros and cons. Alderman Clark is worried that we do not know if Council is assured we will have businesses and Council cannot afford to take on something if we are running it at another loss. Alderman Clark is concerned at the amount of expense Council is taking on over the 10 year period.
- Mayor Miller noted that Council will not be running at a profit but we need to have the airport open.
- Alderman Rose noted that the tourism doors will be open with the work being done and that there will be more opportunity for visitors with the regular passenger transport and that Airnorth have the opportunity to grow the tourist side of their business and that there is talk of flying mangoes overseas from here. Alderman Rose sees the opportunity for Katherine Airport moving ahead.
- Mayor Miller noted that it is a scary thing but she is an optimist.
- Alderman Clark noted that in the next ten (10) years she does not believe Council will see a return.
- Alderman Phillips agrees with Alderman Clark and he noted that mangoes are currently being flown out through Townsville and that he believes there is opportunity for tourism through the airport and he likes to be optimistic with caution.

Alderman Clark voted against the motion.

### 16. General Business

- Alderman Phillips mentioned (further to the Mayoral Report) that Maureen Dunham parents ran Kirby's for many years and she was a great woman.
- Alderman Higgins mentioned the Customer Service Awards hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and that it was a successful night and congratulated all business and individuals nominated. Alderman Higgins noted the mention of the sky bridge and of the 120 people at the event, he did not receive one negative comment and that Katherine needs an icon like this.
- Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts totally supports Alderman Higgins and she hopes the airport can be part of this development for Katherine.

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- Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts attended the opening of the Parliament last week and she noted the Arafura Games in the Ministers speech and requested that the Chief Executive Officer or Mayor request Katherine try to get some activities here and have Katherine on the agenda. Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts thought that we could hold a Katherine Kilometre event similar to the Mitchell Street Mile. Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts noted that sport is a big thing in this town.
- Mayor Miller noted this is certainly something we can speak to Kate Worden Assistant Minister for bringing back the Arafura games about.
- Alderman Rose noted that the ultra-marathon is something that could come big with extra promotion.
- Alderman Gazey noted that this weekend is the Toy Run as well as the Show and Shine at the Katherine Country Club and people should get along and support the events on Saturday.
- Mayor Miller noted the glass walk icon at Nitmiluk and that there will need to be a lot of negotiation with Jawoyn as this is their land we need to consult with them, this decision needs to come from them with Councils support.
- Mayor Miller noted that it is important that we show them the benefit of having this at Nitmiluk.

### 17. Confidential Items

Mayor Miller moved a motion for the meeting to be closed to the public.

Members, Council has resolved to use Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act to discuss and resolve confidential issues which come before it.

Section 65 (2) states that Council is able to close a meeting, which means that all members of the public and press will be asked to leave the Council Chambers, to discuss specific issues in relation to matters referred to in regulations 8 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations.

Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts Your Worship, I wish to second that the meeting be closed to the public to discuss issues relating to matters as stipulated in regulations 13 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations.

Meeting Closed 7:30PM

Mayor Miller called for a motion to open the meeting to the public  
Deputy Mayor Tapp-Coutts Your Worship, I move the motion that the meeting be open to the public.

Meeting opened 7:34PM

### 18. Next Ordinary Council Meeting

The eleventh Ordinary Council Meeting for 2016 will be held on Tuesday 22 November 2016.

### 19. Meeting Closed

The meeting was closed 7:35PM.

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