



**MINUTES
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
17TH MARCH 2026**

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1. NOTICE OF MEETING

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council was held on:

Date: 17th March 2026
Time: 5.00 pm
Location: Council Chambers
22 Cameron Road, Batchelor NT 0845

Any member of Council and staff who may have a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest regarding any item of business to be discussed at a Council meeting should declare that conflict of interest to enable Council to manage the conflict and resolve it in accordance with its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2019*.

The Ordinary Meeting of Council was open to the public.

The meeting was recorded for minuting purposes only.



Natasha Chapman

Acting Chief Executive Officer.

MINUTES

ORDINARY GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR

ON 17TH MARCH 2026

The President of the Council, Mr. Ross McGorman declared the meeting open at 5:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land commonly referred to as Coomalie. I pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

3. PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

President	Ross McGorman
Deputy President	Chris Whatley
Councillor	Sharon Beswick
Councillor	Mae Mae Morrison
Councillor	Alan Roe (via electronic means)
Councillor	Greg Strettles

STAFF PRESENT

Acting Chief Executive Officer	Natasha Chapman
Council and Community Services Manager	Emma Dunne
Executive Services Coordinator	Terrill Forrest

VISITORS PRESENT

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Date: 17th March 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil.

PURPOSE

This report is to table for Council's record any apologies and requests for leave of absence received for the Ordinary General Meeting held on 17th March 2026.

NIL

5. ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

Date: 17th March 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil.

PURPOSE

This report is to table, for Council's record, any requests, and permissions for Electronic Attendance.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/001

That Council acknowledges and accepts Clr. Roe's attendance to the meeting of 17th March 2026 via electronic means.

Moved: Clr. Morrison

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Date: 17th March 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil.

PURPOSE

Members and Staff are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by the Council at a meeting of the Council by:

- 1) In the case of a matter featured in an officer's report or written agenda item by disclosing the interest to the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised.
- 2) In the case of a matter raised in general debate or by any means other than the printed agenda of the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised. Under disclosure, the member or staff member must abide by the decision of Council on whether he/ she shall remain in the meeting and/ or take part in the issue. The Council may elect to allow the member or staff member to provide further and better particulars of the interest prior to requesting him/ her to leave the Chambers.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/002

That Council receives the declarations of interest as listed for the Ordinary General Meeting held 17th March 2026.

21.4 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROCESS REPORT – Clr. Beswick

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

7. MOVING AGENDA ITEMS FROM PUBLIC TO CONFIDENTIAL

NIL

8. MOVING AGENDA ITEMS FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO PUBLIC

NIL

9. PETITIONS

Public Question – Redacted details in the OGM financials.

Answer: Redacted information is related to transactions to either ratepayers or staff members where privacy legislation requires protection of details.

DRAFT

10. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

10.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF 17th FEBRUARY 2026

Date: 17th March 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: [DRAFT Public Meeting Minutes of 17th February 2026](#)

PURPOSE

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 17th February 2026 are submitted to Council for confirmation that those Minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/003

That the Public Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 17th February 2026 be confirmed they are a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

11. PRESIDENT REPORT

Date: 17th March 2026
Author: Ross McGorman, President
Attachment: NIL

PURPOSE

To update Council on the activities of the President since the last Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) for the period of February 2026 to March 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/004

That Council receives and notes the President's Report for the period of February 2026 to March 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Points of Interest from TOPROC meeting
 - Waste Collection and management – coordinated
 - Outstanding rates – offer extended from Palmerston Council to discuss their strategy
- Training 2-day course – very useful, depreciation of roads and drainage systems

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Date: 17th March 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment: Nil

PURPOSE

To update Council on the activities of the Chief Executive Officer since the last Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) for the period of February 2026 to March 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/005

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officers Report for the period February 2026 to March 2026.

Moved: Clr. Morrison

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

13. FINANCE REPORTS

13.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Date:	17 th March 2026
Author:	Luke Ackland, Acting Corporate Services Manager Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Nil

PURPOSE

To provide a summary of the financial position of Council for the period ending 28th February 2026. In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 – Part 2 Division 7*, the preceding month's financial report must be presented to Council. Regulation 17(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* requires a monthly report from the Chief Executive Officer to provide council with the actual income and expenditure for the year to date; the most recently adopted annual budget; and details of any material variances between the most recent actuals and the most recently adopted annual budget.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/006

That Council;

a) notes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) certifies to the best of her knowledge, information, and the belief that the internal controls implemented by Council are appropriate, and that Council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of Council; and

b) receives and notes the monthly financial report for February 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Payment queries
- Resourcing cost for emergency management

14. REPORTS REQUIRING DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

14.1 ACQUITTAL OF COMMUNITY PLACES FOR PEOPLE GRANT 2022/23

Date:	17 th March 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Acquittal – COMMUNITY PLACES FOR PEOPLE GRANT 2022-23

PURPOSE

An acquittal of the Community Places for People Grant (CPP) 2022-23 funds expended by 27 February 2026 is required to be laid before Council prior to being submitted to the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Community Development in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in the Grant Agreement and the final acquittal extension letter.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/007

That Council;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Acquittal of Community Places for People Grant 2022/23; and

b) approves the acquittal report for the Community Places for People Grant 2022/23 to be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development before the final acquittal due date of 30th April 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Scope of work of project including in the grant application

14.2 ACQUITTAL OF WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT 2023/24

Date: 17th March 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: [Acquittal Waste and Resource Management Grant 2023/24](#)

PURPOSE

An acquittal of the Waste and Resource Management Grant (WaRM Grant) 2023/24 funds expended by 27 February 2026 is required to be laid before Council prior to being submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in the Grant Agreement and final extension letter.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/008

That Council;

a) receives and notes the report entitled Final Acquittal of Waste and Resource Management Grant 2023/24; and

b) approves the acquittal report for the Waste and Resource Management Grant 2023/24 to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development before the reporting due date of 30th April 2026.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

14.3 ATTENDANCE AT LGANT APRIL 2026 SYMPOSIUM

Date:	17 th March 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	NIL

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval of elected members to attend the LGANT General Meeting and April 2026 Symposium in Darwin on 14th and 15th April 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/009

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled LGANT General Meeting and April 2026 Symposium Attendance; and
- b) confirms the attendance of President McGorman, Deputy President Whatley, Clr Beswick, Clr Morrison and the A/CEO at the LGANT April 2026 Symposium to be held on 14th and 15th April 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Roe

Carried

14.4 LGANT GENERAL MEETING CALL FOR MOTIONS

Date: 17th March 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment: [LGANT FORM – CALLS FOR MOTIONS](#)

PURPOSE

To seek Council's consideration of any requests for Calls for Motions for the LGANT General Meeting to be held on 15 April 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/010

That Council;

a) receives and notes the report entitled LGANT April 2026 General Meeting Call for Motions; and
b) requests the Chief Executive Officer to discuss with LGANT the below options to be submitted as Call for Motions, if not already on the LGANT Agenda:

1. LGANT advocacy for increased Disaster Relief funding from NT and Federal Government, specifically relating to local government infrastructure
2. LGANT to develop an independent support and advocacy network for elected members
3. LGANT to coordinate Collective waste management service provision across the Top End Region of Councils
4. LGANT to advocate to reinstate NT Government funding specifically for road maintenance support relating to local council roads being used for the benefit of NT Government initiatives

Moved: Clr. Roe

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

14.5 NOMINATIONS TO REPRESENT LGANT ON THE NT HERITAGE COUNCIL

Date:	17 th March 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	LGANT Representative Nomination Form Excerpt from Heritage Act 2011 – Functions of Heritage Council Heritage Council Annual Report 2024-25 (issued separately due to file size)

PURPOSE

To seek nominations from members to represent LGANT on the NT Heritage Council.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/011

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Nominations to Represent LGANT on the NT Heritage Council;
- b) nominates President Ross McGorman to represent LGANT on the NT Heritage Council; and
- c) submits the nomination form to LGANT for Clr. Ross McCorman by the due date of 8th April 2026.

Moved: Clr. Morrison

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

14.6 REQUEST FOR BUS HIRE BY BATCHELOR SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Date:	17th March 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Policy 4.3 Coomalie Council Community Bus Policy Policy 2.4 Coomalie Community Grants Policy

PURPOSE

To seek Council's consideration of an application to hire the Community Bus by the Batchelor Seventh Day Adventist Church for church related activities on one Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning each month.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/012

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Request for Bus Hire by Batchelor Seventh Day Adventist Church;
- b) defers the decision regarding the application by Batchelor Seventh Day Adventist Church for the use of the Community Bus, pending additional information regarding numbers of community youth expected to attend the program; and
- c) requires that any agreement for recurring use of the Community Bus by the Batchelor Seventh Day Adventist Church be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure usage requirements are current.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

5/1 Carried

Against: Clr. Beswick

Discussion Points:

- Outside the Shire use
- Number of participants

14.7 CHINNER ROAD MAINTENANCE REPORT

Date:	17 th March 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	NIL

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a summary of the road maintenance status and prioritisation of works relating to infrastructure management.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/013

That Council;

- a) receives and notes report entitled Chinner Road Maintenance Report; and
- b) determines that Chinner Road will be identified as a priority in the 2026/27 Annual Shire Plan and Budget with an allocation of funds to be made in the budget.

Moved: Clr. Strettles

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Road used to service agricultural purposes, tourism and residential properties.

14.8 REGIONAL AND REMOTE BURIAL AREAS GRANT 2025-26 PROPOSAL

Date: 17th March 2026
Author: Emma Dunne, Council and Community Services Manager
Attachment: NIL

PURPOSE

For Council to consider projects to submit an application for the Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant 2025-26.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/014

That Council;

- a) receives and notes the report entitled Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant 2025-26 Proposal;
b) approves the below project ideas in order of priority for the grant application:

1. Extension of columbarium
2. Shoring equipment for use when undertaking burials
3. Additional rocks in the memorial section
4. Selective clearing of the currently “unmaintained” section of the cemetery parcel to prepare it for future use; and

c) directs the A/CEO to submit an application for the approved project ideas by the application closing date of 10th April 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Extension of new Columbarium requirements

Procedural Note:

Clr. Morrison left the meeting at 7:21pm.

Clr. Morrison returned to the meeting at 7:22pm.

15. REPORTS FOR RECEIVING AND NOTING

15.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY OGM 2026

Date: 17th March 2026

Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Attachments: [Actions for the February OGM 2026.](#)

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/015

That Council;

a) receives and notes the Actions for the February OGM 2026; and

b) remove items # 7, 10, 11, 13, 15

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

Discussion Points:

- Local Horses update

Procedural Note:

DP Whatley left the meeting at 7:37pm.

DP Whatley returned to the meeting at 7:38pm.

15.2 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REGISTER

Date: 17th March 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment: [Complaints and Compliments tables](#)

PURPOSE

To update Council on complaints and compliments received during February 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/016

That Council receives and notes the Complaints and Compliments Register during February 2026.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Strettles

Carried

15.3 NTEC 2025 GENERAL ELECTION REPORT

Date: 17th March 2026
Author: Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment: [NTEC 2025 General Election Report](#)

PURPOSE

To provide Council with the NT Electoral Commission (NTEC) 2025 General Election Report outlining the key details and data from the general election held in August 2025 for Coomalie Community Government Council.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/017

That Council receives and notes the report entitled NTEC 2025 General Election Report.

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

15.4 LGANT BOARD MEETING COMMUNIQUE

Date:	17 th March 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	LGANT Board Meeting Communique

PURPOSE

To table the LGANT Board Meeting Communique following the board meeting held on 25 February 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/018		
That Council receives and notes the report entitled LGANT Board Meeting Communique.		
Moved:	DP Whatley	
Seconded:	Clr. Strettles	Carried

16. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION.

16.1 INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL.

Date:	17 th March 2026
Author:	Natasha Chapman, Acting Chief Executive Officer.
Attachment:	Incoming and outgoing correspondence tables.

PURPOSE

Council is provided with items of correspondence both received and sent during the months of February 2026 to March 2026.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/019		
That Council receives and notes the items of incoming and outgoing correspondence as tabled for February 2026 to March 2026 period.		
Moved:	Clr. Roe	
Seconded:	DP Whatley	Carried

Discussion Points:

- History Sharing Information Project

Procedural Note:

Clr. Beswick left the meeting at 8:00pm.
Clr. Beswick returned to the meeting at 8:01pm.

17 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

17.1 LGANT CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKSHOP

Verbal update of the workshop provided by Clr. Beswick.

18. USE OF THE COMMON SEAL.

NIL

19. LATE ITEMS AND URGENT BUSINESS.

NIL

20. GENERAL BUSINESS.

NIL

DRAFT

21. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/020

That Council close the meeting to the general public in accordance with Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

Moved: Clr Strettles

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

Procedural Note:

The meeting was closed to the public at 8:03pm.

The confidential meeting opened at 8:12pm.

21.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL MEETING MINUTES OF 17TH FEBRUARY 2026

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(e) information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

21.2 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS FOR THE MARCH OGM 2026

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(e) information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

21.3 WASTE COLLECTION BUSINESS MODEL

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(c) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to:

- i. Cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

21.4 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROGRESS REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(f) subject to subregulation (2) – information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.

21.5 INSURANCE CLAIM PROGRESS REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51

(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual; and

(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity

22. CONFIDENTIAL GENERAL BUSINESS

22.1 MOTION: CONFLICT OF INTEREST CHECK

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity

23. CONFIDENTIAL LATE REPORT

23.1 GRADING AND ROAD MAINTENANCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL: Regulations 51(1)(c) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to:

- i. Cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

MOTION: EXTENSION OF MEETING

RESOLUTION CONF2026/03/17/028

That Council approves to extend the meeting past 10:00pm for a maximum of 15 minutes to complete the last items of business.

Moved: Clr. Morrison

Seconded: DP Whatley

Carried

24. DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE COUNCIL.

NIL

25. RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

RESOLUTION 2026/03/17/029

That Council re-opens the meeting to the general public in accordance with Regulation 51 of *the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

Moved: DP Whatley

Seconded: Clr. Morrison

Carried

Procedural Note:

The meeting was reopened to the public at 10:07pm.

26. NEXT MEETING.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on **21ST APRIL 2026 at 5:00pm.**

27. CLOSURE OF MEETING.

The meeting closed at 10:09pm.