



**DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 324 COMMERCIAL STREET WEST, MOUNT GAMBIER**

**ON MONDAY 2 JULY 2018 AT 5.32PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Elected Members**

Mayor Richard Sage  
Cr BJ Collins  
Cr AH Hill  
Cr SE Little  
Cr JA Reis  
Cr GW Saunders

**Council Officers**

DJ Singe, Chief Executive Officer  
GK Maxwell, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
JF Fetherstonhaugh, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
AA Schutz, Works Manager  
JA O’Hehir, Executive Support Officer

**Other Attendees**

Sandra Morello, The Border Watch

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cr BJ Bain  
Cr BR Kuhl  
Cr GR Slarks

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr GM Clayfield - Leave of absence granted for period from 4 June 2018 to 15 August 2018 inclusive.

**18096 – ATTENDANCE**

1. Request for Leave of Absence – Cr Graham Slarks - [9.33.3/14] Item 2.1  
Council considered a request from Cr Graham Slarks for a leave of absence from Council from 2 July 2018 until 6 August 2018.

Moved Cr Collins that Council grant a leave of absence to Cr Graham Slarks from 2 July 2018 until 6 August 2018.

Seconded Cr Saunders

CARRIED

## District Council of Grant – Minutes of Meeting held 2 July 2018

### 18097 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. Moved Cr Hill that the:
  1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Wednesday 20 June 2018; and the
  2. Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held Monday 25 June 2018; be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct records of the proceedings of those meetings.Seconded Cr Collins CARRIED

### 18098 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. ABC Radio Interview – 26 June 2018

Moved Cr Hill that his questions of Mayor Sage and the Mayor's answers relating to Mayor Sage's ABC radio interview on Tuesday 26 June 2018 on the breakfast morning program, be recorded in the minutes.

Seconded Cr Collins CARRIED
1. You mentioned some four times that Council neglected had to include items in the 2018/2019 budget. With the exception of the cattle throughput reduction estimate which incidentally I pursued at a previous Council meeting and you attempted to argue against. What items have been ignored in the budget that were fully debated in Council?

*Mayor responded that there were other items that had not been debated – that was his point. He had tried to raise the items that he thought should be considered but he was shut down and told he was leading the meeting.*
2. You stated that the budget was rushed and blamed staffing levels as a contributing factor. This statement has been interpreted by some as a slur on the ability of staff to do their job competently. What is your reaction to this statement?

*The Mayor stated reference was not included in that interview in regards to the capability to Council's staff. He said the staffing levels at the time made it very difficult for the Acting CEO to assist us in the process and Council didn't have the usual number of meetings to determine the budget.*
3. Do you consider it appropriate to refer to a staff members personal circumstances (illness) to support your arguments? Once again what is your reaction to this question?

*The Mayor said that he did not mention any staff member by name on the radio interview.*
4. The timeline for budget workshop deliberations was passed at the Council meeting of 5 February 2018. The records show that you were present at the meeting. Why did you ignore that resolution and publicly make statements contrary to the agreed timeline?

*The Mayor said that Council did not have all the workshops that were proposed in the adopted program.*

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5. Can you illuminate to Council on your communications tower plans at the Saleyards and advise when and where these plans have been discussed in Council?

*The Mayor stated that the tower had been discussed at numerous meetings of the Saleyards Committee. With regards to the tower we are still waiting for confirmation from our local member and the roll out. Council money may be needed to entice the erection of the tower through some form of partnership.*

*Cr Reis called a Point of Order - Cr Hill you have now had six minutes which is over time and you are supposed to have five minutes please get to the point.*

*Cr Hill – Sorry if you can't see the point Cr Reis. The time limit is applicable to debate, not the asking of questions.*

6. Although a Division was not called at either meeting the original vote to support the proposed budget was passed five (5) in favour and one (1) against. At the Special Meeting the Rescission Motion failed on a vote of Council five (5) and one (1) against. Do you consider that the initial part of your interview accurately expressed the views of the majority of Councillors and the 5:1 vote at both meetings?

*Mayor responded that if Cr Hill really listened intently to the interview he actually said that he didn't agree with passing the budget. That's not Council agreeing, I didn't agree with it. At the end of the day Council passed the resolution to move on with the budget and that's where we are at the present time.*

7. Section 58 of the Local Government Act states that the Principal Member is the Council Spokesperson unless the Council determines otherwise. You were clearly identified as the Mayor. Why did you proceed to express so many personal opinions?

*The Mayor said that he was asked question and he didn't dodge any questions that he is asked, just as he was facing the questions being asked tonight.*

8. Why do you continue to raise budget considerations from the Chair rather than including them in a formal Council Agenda and therefore enable them to be dealt with by staff in order for them to be researched and discussed by Council in an informed manner?

*The Mayor said "If you go back to some of those items that have been previously mentioned Cr Hill they have been before the Council".*

9. Is it appropriate to imply publicly that Elected Members have been derelict in their duties in not debating the budget when in fact some of us had a lot to say about the budget?

*The Mayor said that two members had debated the budget and he did not consider that to be a lot of debate for 10 members.*

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10. Finally, do you consider yourself a team player, respecting fellow Councillors and listening to their views? If so, would you consider an apology is warranted from you for what could only be called a “train wreck” interview (my words) that cast severe doubts on the capacity of both staff and Councillors to do their respective jobs properly?

*The Mayor said, “I don’t think I said anything out of malice”. He said he was highlighting issues for discussion and issues likely in the future. “As you pointed out recently Cr Hill, Norman Waterhouse don’t know what they are talking about regarding rate capping”.*

*The Mayor recommended everyone take note of imminent information to be released.*

*The Mayor apologised to Cr Hill maintaining the line of questioning was undeserved.*

*Cr Hill and the Mayor exchanged views on the frequency of their phone call history.*

*Cr Hill made a point that the rate capping had not been passed by the Upper House and noted a view that the Lower House had not either.*

*Cr Hill denied referring to legal people; or any matters imminent. “All I can say is, if you want to put the rates up with something that hasn’t happened, don’t approve them. I have finished my questions.*

*The Mayor thanked Cr Hill.*

### **18099 – CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES (AND RECOMMENDATIONS)**

1. Audit Committee – [9.14.1/8] Item 10.1  
Council were provided with the District Council of Grant Audit Committee meeting minutes of Tuesday 26 June 2018.  
  
Moved Cr Hill that Council adopt the minutes of the District Council of Grant Audit Committee meeting held Tuesday 26 June 2018.  
Seconded Cr Collins CARRIED

### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **18100 – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

1. Remuneration Tribunal – Council Members Allowances - [9.33.2/1] Item 12.1.1  
Council was provided with information regarding the Remuneration Tribunal regarding Council Members’ allowances in accordance with section 76 of the *Local Government Act 1999 (the Act)* and section 24 of the *City of Adelaide Act 1998*.  
  
Moved Cr Collins that Council endorse the (draft) letter for submission to the Remuneration Tribunal for consideration in determining the allowance payable to Elected Members of the District Council of Grant from November 2018.  
Seconded Cr Reis CARRIED

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### **18101 – DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

1. Application for Financial Assistance – Limestone Coast Football Association - [7.31.3/1] Item 12.2.1  
Council considered the request for sponsorship of \$3,500 from the Junior Country Soccer Championships being held on 25 and 26 August 2018.  
  
Moved Cr Collins that Council provide sponsorship to the Limestone Coast Football Association to the value of \$1,000 towards the Junior Country Soccer Championships for the 2018-2019 Financial Year.  
Seconded Cr Hill CARRIED
  
2. Monthly Financial Report – May 2018 - [7.11.1/2] Item 12.2.2  
Council were provided with an overview of Council's monthly financial position.  
  
Moved Cr Collins that the Financial Report for May 2018 be received.  
Seconded Cr Little CARRIED

### **18102 – CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from the Minister for Environment and Water – Sandyridge Holdings - [5.89.1/1 & A2849] Item 13.1  
Council were provided with correspondence regarding Sandyridge Holdings.  
  
Moved Cr Collins that Council receive and note the correspondence.  
Seconded Cr Saunders CARRIED
  
2. Letter from the Acting Chief Operating Officer, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure – Port MacDonnell Breakwater – [2.85.1/28] Item 13.2  
Council were provided with correspondence regarding Port MacDonnell Breakwater.  
  
Moved Cr Hill that Council receive and note the correspondence.  
Seconded Cr Collins CARRIED

### **18103 – QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

1. Current Laws Regarding Illegal Dumping – [5.71.3/7]  
Cr Hill advised that he has had discussions with the Member for Mount Gambier, Troy Bell, regarding the deficiencies of current laws regarding illegal dumping.  
  
Moved Cr Hill that Council's Senior Staff to prepare a written submission for the Member for Mount Gambier, Mr Troy Bell, pointing out the deficiencies in the areas in current laws surrounding illegal dumping to be provided to the Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon David Speirs, MP.  
Seconded Cr Collins CARRIED

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2. Disabilities SA - [4.3.2/8]

Mayor Sage advised Council that Disabilities SA Mount Gambier closed as of Friday 29 June 2018.

Moved Cr Hill that Council:

1. Write to the Minister for Human Services, the Hon Michelle Lensink, MP, requesting that Disabilities SA Mount Gambier be reinstated; and
2. Provide support to communities regarding the grant funding available under the South Australian Healthy Towns challenge for Rural and Regional Towns.

Seconded Cr Reis

CARRIED

Meeting closed at 6.25pm

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MAYOR

/ /2018