



**Date:** Tuesday, 8 November 2022  
**Time:** 3.03 pm  
**Location:** Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

# **MINUTES**

## **Special Council Meeting**

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEDDERBURN  
ON TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 3.03 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Dan Straub (Mayor), Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Linda Jungwirth and Cr Wendy Murphy.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer), Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing), Steven Phillips (Director Operations), Amanda Wilson (Director Corporate) and Lisa Clue (Manager Governance).

**1 OPENING AFFIRMATION**

The Opening Affirmation was read by the Mayor

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Acknowledgement of Country was read by the CEO

**3 APOLOGIES**

Nil

**4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil

**5 MAYORAL REPORT****5.1 MAYORAL REPORT****File Number:** FOL/19/126475**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report for 2021/2022.

**REPORT**

Outgoing Mayor, Cr Dan Straub reported on his term as Mayor in 2021/22 including welcoming new CEO, Lincoln Fitzgerald and a number of new staff, whilst also acknowledging current staff.

Cr Straub also spoke of Council's Community Vision 2031 and new Council Plan; the 2021/22 budget which showed Council to be debt free and in a strong cash position; the welcome return of events across the shire following easing of COVID restrictions; completion of projects and continuation of works; community engagement during development of Council's strategic documents and continued advocacy through a number of regional and state associations.

Cr Straub then thanked his fellow Councillors, Council staff and members of the community for their commitment and care and for working together to help the shire be resilient, vibrant and provide a chance to look forward to a positive future.

**RESOLUTION 2022/109****Moved:** Cr Dan Straub (Mayor)**Seconded:** Cr Gavan Holt

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report for 2021/2022.

**CARRIED**

**6 DECISION REPORTS**

Cr Straub handed over to Chief Executive Officer, Lincoln Fitzgerald to act as Temporary Chairperson for the next two items on the Agenda.

**6.1 MAYORAL TERM - 2022/23**

**File Number:** FOL/19/126475

**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance

**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirms that the Mayoral term for 2022/23 be for a period of one year.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

At its meeting on 9 November 2021, Council resolved that the (2021/22) Mayor be elected for a term of one year.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 26(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, states that before a Mayor is elected, the Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one year or a two year term.

The past practice has been to elect the Mayor for a one-year term. There is no limitation on Council re-electing the same person as Mayor during the Council term.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Nil

**COST/BENEFITS**

There are minimal administrative costs associated with the election or re-election of a Mayor.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Not applicable

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable

**RESOLUTION 2022/110**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council confirms that the Mayoral term for 2022/23 be for a period of one year.

**CARRIED**

**6.2 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR 2022/23**

**File Number:** FOL/19/126475

**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance

**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council elect a Councillor to be Mayor of the Loddon Shire for the 2022/23 year.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

The 2022/23 Mayor Elect was discussed in the Confidential Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25 October 2022.

**BACKGROUND**

The Local Government Act 2020 requires a Mayor to be elected on a day that is as close to the end of the current Mayor's term as is reasonably practicable.

At a Special Council meeting on Thursday 9 November 2021, Cr Straub was elected Mayor for a one year term.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer will be the temporary Chairperson for the election of the Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer will call for nominations for the position of Mayor of the Loddon Shire Council for 2022/23. If multiple candidates nominate, an election process will be conducted.

The elected Mayor may take the opportunity to give an acceptance speech.

**COST/BENEFITS**

The Councillor Expenses and Support Policy, details claimable expenses for Councillors and the provision of Mayoral vehicle.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Not applicable

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

No applicable

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION**

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for 2022/2023 Loddon Shire Council Mayor.

Cr Beattie nominated Cr Straub.

Cr Straub accepted the nomination.

As there were no further nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Straub elected Loddon Shire Council Mayor for 2022/2023 and invited Cr Straub to deliver his Mayoral acceptance speech.

Cr Straub thanked his fellow Councillors for their support and confidence in him, following a tremendous twelve months.

He then undertook to continue the legacy that has been developed and acted upon by past Councillors and Mayors of the Loddon Shire in the best interest of the people councillors are elected to represent and to continue to work closely with the Loddon Shire CEO, staff and the Councillor group to continue to deliver on the Council Plan, shaped by the community vision.

Cr Straub thanked the community for its ongoing dedication and leadership to areas and towns throughout the shire and in closing, thanked close friends and family, including his parents, wife and daughters, as he works to provide and support for a prosperous future for the next generation who wish to live, work and thrive here in the Loddon Shire.

Councillors responded, congratulating Cr Straub, acknowledging his great support and leadership to both councillors and the community over the past year, and as they look forward to working with him, as Mayor over the coming year.

The Chief Executive Officer congratulated Cr Straub on behalf of Council staff, who look forward to working with the Mayor and councillor group over the coming year, including implementing the Council Vision and working through challenges ahead and thriving in the future.

The Chief Executive Officer then invited the newly elected Mayor to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Unconfirmed

**6.3 APPOINTMENT OF ACTING MAYOR****File Number:** FOL/19/126475**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council appoint an Acting Mayor when required in accordance with section 20B of the Local Government Act 2020.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

At the Special Meeting held on 9 November 2021, Council chose to appoint an Acting Mayor as required.

**BACKGROUND**

Loddon Shire Council historically has chosen to appoint an Acting Mayor as required, instead of appointing an individual Councillor as Deputy Mayor.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

As it has done previously, Council may resolve to appoint an Acting Mayor as required in accordance with section 20B of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act). Alternatively, Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor in accordance with section 20A of the Act and Council's Governance Rules.

**COST/BENEFITS**

Not applicable

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Not applicable

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable

**RESOLUTION 2022/111**

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council appoint an Acting Mayor when required in accordance with section 20B of the Local Government Act 2020.

**CARRIED**

**6.4 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES****File Number:** FOL/19/126475**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the appointments to committees as attached to this report.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Councillors have discussed the list of committee representation as attached at the October 2022 Council Forum and the October 2022 Council Meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

Council has historically adopted committee representation at the annual Special Meeting to elect the Mayor.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

These committees are largely advisory or management committees established by Council or external committees on which it is appropriate that Council has representation. Should Council be asked to nominate representatives for any further Committees, nominations may be made at any time of the year.

**COST/BENEFITS**

Not applicable

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Not applicable

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable

**RESOLUTION 2022/112**

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council adopts the appointments to committees as attached to this report.

**CARRIED**



**NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 22 November 2022 at Wedderburn commencing at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.26 pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2022

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**CHAIRPERSON**

*Unconfirmed*