



SHIRE COUNCIL

# CONFIRMED MINUTES

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POST-ELECTION STATUTORY MEETING OF

BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL

HELD MONDAY

6th APRIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JUNDAH

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**BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE POST-ELECTION STATUTORY MEETING**  
**HELD COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JUNDAH**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**  
**COMMENCING AT 1.34 PM**

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**BARCOO SHIRE COUNCIL**  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE POST-ELECTION STATUTORY MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JUNDAH,  
ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016  
COMMENCING AT 1.34 PM

ATTENDANCE :	Cr Bruce Scott, Mayor Cr Michael Pratt Cr Jill Fitzgerald Cr Dianne Pidgeon Cr Peter Batt
OFFICER'S PRESENT	Mr Bob O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer Annette McBride, Executive Assistant and Minute Clerk
GUESTS	Nil

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**1. COMPLETION OF RETURN OF REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

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The following Register of Interests were distributed to the following Councillors: -

- Cr Bruce Scott, Mayor
- Cr Michael Pratt
- Cr Jill Fitzgerald
- Cr Dianne Pidgeon
- Cr Peter Batt

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**2 OATH OF THE OFFICE**

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- Councillor Bruce Scott, Mayor took the Oath of the Office
- Councillor Dianne Pidgeon took the Oath of the Office
- Councillor Jill Fitzgerald took the Oath of the Office
- Councillor Peter Batt took the Oath of the Office
- Councillor Mike Pratt took the Oath of the Office

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**3 COMMENCEMENT OF POST ELECTION MEETING**

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The Mayor welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting at 1.42 PM.

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**4 ELECTION REPORT**

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Council received and noted the Election Report.



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## 5. MAYORAL ADDRESS TO COUNCIL

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Cr Bruce Scott

Mayoral Speech

I am once again grateful for the opportunity to lead Barcoo Shire and help progress the betterment of the shire and the whole central west region.

It is my vision that Barcoo Shire is the most open, transparent and accountable local government in Queensland and Australia. It is that old saying – we not only have to be compliant and accountable in what we do, we have to be seen to be by the general public.

We need to bring the community along this journey and make the relationship between council as a total entity and community, as inclusive as humanly possible. This will take some work, because from what I am hearing out there in voter land, there are some serious doubts (founded or unfounded) about some of the council's current practices. I am not suggesting that there is anything untoward happening, but there is an element of unrest and dissatisfaction that needs to be addressed and we need understand why.

The whole community satisfaction of their council, is weighed and measured and found wanting or excepting by not only the actions of councillors, but the actions of the entire council – councillors, CEO, senior officers and staff. We need to make sure that this organisation measures up to community expectations.

Community satisfaction is a direct measure of how we will be treated by state and federal governments and businesses and organisation wanting to engage or do business with council. It is all about respect, respect for yourself, respect for the community, respect for our staff, respect for decision making processes, respect for the other levels of government and their administration, respect for the culture, values and attitude we want for the shire – and respect comes directly from the actions, culture and values set right here in this room or wherever we meet and with whoever we meet.

If we as a council and CEO and senior managers think it is good enough or ok to just bump along and things will continue as they are or have always been – well that attitude is not in my ethos and therefore not in my plan. I want the community to not have one doubt about Barcoo Shire, I want the community to be sick of us asking questions of them and how they feel and how they would like their interest's progressed.

This is not about not wanting to make a decision; it is about having the confidence that we are making the right decision with the best information available and with the community's best interests in mind. Included in this process, which should go without saying: is proper and expert due diligence sitting behind the process.

To have good governance and good consistent decision making, we need robust policies and plans that aren't just collecting dust on the shelf. We have to implement strategies that give us a long-term purpose and planning direction and help in our delivery of our community and governance expectations.

Risk management is a huge part of our role and it is a big part of what we are looked at for. We need to be brave in this process: which means I will be expecting you as councillors to ask questions, probe recommendations and decisions if unsure or doubt exists, follow gut feelings and make decisions without fear

or favour. We live and work in very small communities, so every decision has an impact on someone you know or are close to – this is why we need to be progressive but careful, fiscally responsible but not mean, have empathy but be solid and apply fairness – but overall, be consistent.

Bob, I am looking to you to be one of the important drivers of a shire with a good culture of doing the right thing, and has not only good values, but the right values consistent with community expectations. This is about managing your senior team's performance and them managing their area of responsibility's performance through an auditable and documented process. I will have high expectations in your leadership, and will be reviewing this with you and with council regularly.

It isn't about looking over your shoulder, it is about being on the same page with whatever we say and do. As one very senior CEO of a very large company said to me – "if I didn't come away from a board meeting a little bruised, I thought that the board wasn't doing its job". No one should be concerned about asking you any question, and you shouldn't be afraid in saying it as it is – and if there is an unpleasant issue to address, I want the council to share the responsibility and support you through whatever it is.

From a council / board governance perspective, I think we have ended up with an ideal situation from the results of the local government election. In the new council, we have a good mix of past council history and past knowledge and a good injection of renewal. I am of the opinion that this is very healthy and in line with all the principals of succession planning and progressivity.

We need to get as much training as we need to execute our duty, and I have some ideas on having this delivered outside of the normal LGAQ councillor training. There are some good trainers out there, who I believe, can deliver good value and good content. I also believe we need to have some workshops as a council and with the senior executive team – so we all understand the expectations and philosophy of each and everyone who is responsible and accountable for decision making and giving direction, thinking alike, and all on the same page, particularly with organisational values and culture.

In this term, I am expecting a great deal from you as councillors. I want you to be available, approachable and willing to listen, and I want you continually thinking of ways to better deliver the expectations of our communities. Decision making and risk management isn't just about being risk adverse, it is about being brave, but setting a realistic risk appetite so the shire can flourish rather than stagnate. I am going to be expecting complete transparency, and any conflicts of interests or perceived conflict-of-interest, will be dealt with openly and fairly and in the best interests of the shire. As a friend and governance and probity lawyer once said to me "conflicts-of-interests are not necessarily a bad thing – it is about how the conflict-of-interest is handled, that has the potential to be harmful".

I want us to meet regularly with the community, and having a regular community invite to morning tea on council meeting days would, I feel, be a good start to building a strong relationship.

I am greatly looking forward to this term,

Bruce Scott

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6. INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR ADDRESS TO COUNCIL

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Cr Pratt

- Looking forward to the next exciting 4 years

Cr Batt

- Looking forward to once again being on Council for the next 4 years

Cr Fitzgerald

- Looking forward to her term on Council and hoping to assist positively with a struggling community

Cr Pidgeon

- Is very privileged to be working with Council and hopes to contribute positively

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7. SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

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Resolution No.: 2016.04.01

*That Council adopt the following Schedule of Dates for Council's General Meeting for 2016-*

<i>DATE</i>	<i>VENUE</i>	<i>STARTING TIME</i>
<i>Friday, 22 April 2016</i>	<i>Council Chambers, Jundah</i>	<i>9:00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 18 May 2016</i>	<i>Community Hall, Stonehenge</i>	<i>9:00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 15 June 2016</i>	<i>Council Chambers, Jundah</i>	<i>9:00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 20 July 2016</i>	<i>Council Chambers Jundah</i>	<i>9:00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 17 August 2016</i>	<i>Windorah Community Centre</i>	<i>9:00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 21 September 2016</i>	<i>Council Chambers, Jundah</i>	<i>9:00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 19 October</i>	<i>Council Chambers Jundah</i>	<i>9.00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 16 November</i>	<i>Community Hall Stonehenge</i>	<i>9.00AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December</i>	<i>Windorah Community Centre</i>	<i>9.00AM</i>

MOVED: Cr Fitzgerald

SECONDED: Cr Pratt

CARRIED 5/0



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8. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

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Resolution No.: 2016.0.02

*That Council appoint Councillor Pratt as Deputy Mayor.*

MOVED: Cr Fitzgerald

SECONDED: Cr Batt

CARRIED 5/0

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9. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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To be confirmed at later meetings.

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10. APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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To be confirmed at later meetings.

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11. CONSIDERATION OF EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

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*Council received and noted the policy. The Expenses and Reimbursement Policy to be brought back to the next General Meeting for review and adoption.*

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12. CONSIDERATION OF REMUNERATION POLICY

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*Council received and noted the policy. The Remuneration Policy to be brought back to the next General Meeting for review and adoption.*

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CEO provided updates on the following:

- Optic Fibre
- Corporate Plan
- Operational Plan
- Drought Funding
- Works Program

- Flood Damage
- Capital Works Program

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned for afternoon tea, the time being 4:01 PM.

The meeting resumed, the time being 4:38 PM.

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14 COUNCILLOR GENERAL BUSINESS

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Cr Fitzgerald

- Bringing to attention the current condition of the Jundah Community Hall.  
Action: CEO/Executive Assistant

Cr Scott

- Look at online/electronic requests for maintenance/ complaints.

Action: Executive Assistant

Cr Scott

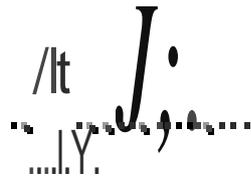
- Noted Cr Fitzgerald is a 3'd generation Councillor

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15 CONCLUSION

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There being no further business the Mayor declared the Meeting closed at 5:40 PM.



MAYOR

*22.04.2016*

DATE