



Brighton Council

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE BRIGHTON COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES
OLD BEACH AT 1.05 P.M. ON TUESDAY,
17th DECEMBER 2013**

PRESENT: Cr Foster (Mayor); Cr Taylor (Deputy Mayor); Cr Curran; Cr Garlick; Cr Geard; Cr Gray; Cr Jeffries; Cr Owen and Cr Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr R Sanderson (General Manager); Mr H Macpherson (Municipal Engineer); Mr J Dryburgh (Manager Strategic Planning) and Mrs J Banks (Manager Governance & Human Services)

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

1.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 19th NOVEMBER 2013.

Cr Geard moved, Cr Curran seconded that the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the 19th November 2013, be confirmed.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

1.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 10TH DECEMBER 2013.

Cr Garlick moved, Cr Geard seconded that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 10th December 2013, be confirmed.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF 10TH DECEMBER 2013.

Cr Gray moved, Cr Geard seconded that the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of the 10th December 2013, be confirmed.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

2. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

All members were present.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND DEPUTATIONS:

There was no requirement for public question time.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

In accordance with Part 5, Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have an interest in any item on the agenda; and

Part 2 Regulation 8 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*, the Chairman of a meeting is to request Councillors to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda.

Accordingly, Councillors are requested to advise of any interest they may have in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the Council has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005*.

There were no declarations of interest.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS:

5.1 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

FILE REFERENCE: 0205-6

AUTHOR: Mayor
(Cr T Foster)

The Mayor's communications were as follows:

- Nov 21 GM and I met with Simon Touma and Paul Taylor to discuss Army Camp proposals.
- Nov 25 I had a meeting at the Pontville APOD with the DIAC Director Gabriella Stoyanoff prior to her return to Canberra.
- Nov 26 Launched the "Great Spaces Project" at the Health Centre.
- Nov 26 Microwise Board Meeting
- Nov 27 GM and I met with senior personnel from Police, Fire and Ambulance to continue discussions on co- location of Emergency Services in Brighton Municipality.
- Dec 02 Meeting with Rotary District Governor Bruce Buxton and immediate past District Governor Peter Murfett re Brighton Units.
- Dec 02 Meeting in Hobart with Chairman of Taswater Miles Hampton.
- Dec 04 Meeting with Tasmanian Greens Kim Booth to discuss his proposed EGM Legislation.
- Dec 04 Meeting with Andrew Bullock at Industrial Centre.

- Dec 05 Along with some Councillors and Staff attended the funeral service for Dudley Clark.
- Dec 06 Launched the Christmas Pageant Parade.
- Dec 06 Meeting with GM and Senior Management.
- Dec 06 Meeting with Greg Hudson re Microwise.
- Dec 10 GM and I met with Minister David O'Byrne.
- Dec 10 Emergency Services Committee meeting.
- Dec 10 Council AGM
- Dec 10 Planning Committee Meeting
- Dec 11 GM, DGM and I met with Tony and Ingrid Harrison to discuss " Brighton Going Places" branding.
- Dec 16 Liberal Party Christmas drinks at Wrest Point.
- Dec 17 Ordinary Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor's communications be received.

DECISION:

Cr Jeffries moved, Cr Garlick seconded that the report be received.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

5.2 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

FILE REFERENCE: 0205-6

Southern Waste Strategy Board Joint Authority – Cr Geard representative.

5.3 CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (STCA), LGAT, TASWATER AND JOINT AUTHORITIES:

Correspondence and reports from the STCA, LGAT, Taswater and Joint Authorities e.g. Southern Waste Authority are received periodically by Council.

If any Councillor wishes to view documents received contact should either be made with the Manager Governance and Human Services or General Manager.

6. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS:

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005, it was reported that there were no workshops held since the last Council meeting.

(This includes workshop, seminar or meeting, other than a meeting that is conducted by or on behalf of the council for the councillors.)

7. NOTICE OF MOTION:

Cr Foster vacated the Chair for the following item. Deputy Mayor (Cr Taylor) acted as Chairperson.

7.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (POWERS TO REGULATE ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINES) AMENDMENT BILL 2012

AUTHOR: Cr T Foster (Mayor)

Cr Foster had given notice to move the following motion:-

1. That Brighton Council support the Tasmanian Greens Amendment Bill that would allow municipal regulation of the operation of electronic gaming machines;
2. that the Mayor be authorised to write to other Tasmanian Councils seeking their support for the Bill; and
3. to write to Finance Minister, Scott Bacon and Liberal Shadow Treasury spokesperson Peter Gutwein expressing our support for the Legislation.

DECISION:

Cr Foster moved, Cr Owen seconded:-

1. *That Brighton Council support the Tasmanian Greens Amendment Bill that would allow municipal regulation of the operation of electronic gaming machines;*
2. *that the Mayor be authorised to write to other Tasmanian Councils seeking their support for the Bill; and*

3. *to write to Finance Minister, Scott Bacon and Liberal Shadow Treasury spokesperson Peter Gutwein expressing our support for the Legislation.*

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

Cr Taylor vacated the Chair and Cr Foster resumed as Chairperson.

8. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA:

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005, the Council, by absolute majority may approve the consideration of a matter not appearing on the agenda, where the General Manager has reported:

- (a) the reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda, and
- (b) that the matter is urgent, and
- (c) that advice has been provided under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005.

DECISION:

The General Manager advised that there were no supplementary agenda items.

9. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

9.1 PLANNING COMMITTEE – 10/12/13:

The recommendations of the Planning Committee Meeting of 10th December 2013 were submitted to Council for adoption.

Cr Gray moved, Cr Owen seconded that the recommendations of the Planning Committee Meeting of the 10th December 2013, be confirmed.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

10. COUNCIL ACTING AS PLANNING AUTHORITY:

In accordance with the provisions of Part 2 Regulation 25 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005, the intention of the Council to act as a planning authority pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* is to be noted. In accordance with Regulation 25, the Council will act as a planning authority in respect to those matters appearing under Item 10. on this agenda, inclusive of any supplementary items.

There were no planning reports on this agenda.

11. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:

11.1 HOBART UNITED SOCCER CLUB WAIVER OF GROUND HIRE FEES – GUNN OVAL:

FILE REFERENCE:

AUTHOR: Council Services Officer
(Mrs C Harper)

Background:

Hobart United Soccer Club has been playing in our municipality since 2006 with Thompson Oval as a home ground. They assisted in Council's successful application for funding the upgrade of the lights on Thompson Oval by providing a letter of support. They state that they were invited to use Thompson Oval at no cost in 2006 and for the past 6 years have used the ground for their home games, and that their support for the funding application would provide them with free use of the ground indefinitely.

In 2013 season they were transferred to Gunn Oval to assist in dealing with issues of mixed use of Thompson Oval with AFL and Premier League Soccer.

Council has been unable to find any formal agreement between the club and Council which reflects any such agreement. We have requested any copies of any documentation they have to be produced, but to date none have been forthcoming.

On receiving a request to provide details for invoicing of match game fees and several communications between Council and Hobart United, they have written to the Mayor requesting to have the match fees waived on an ongoing basis i.e. indefinitely.

Consultation:

Aubert Ruzigandekwe (Hobart United), Moses Otto (Hobart United), Callan Cooper (Hobart United), Janine Banks (Manager Governance & Human Services), Gillian Brown (Executive Officer), Cathy Harper (Council Services Officer), John Klug.

Risk Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

The full cost of ground hire in 2013 is \$19/hr, with a match going for 1.5 hours the full charge would be \$28.50. Through Council's current policy of a 50% discount for contributing to the health and wellbeing of the community being applied this would mean the discounted match fee would be \$14.25. Approximately 15 games per season the full cost to Hobart United would be \$213.75

If Council did waive the fees this may set a precedent for other clubs to seek the same arrangement.

Other Issues:

Nil

Assessment:

Hobart United is not a financially strong club and in the past six years has not grown as quickly as they anticipated or developed their junior base and following as it was hoped they would. They have a very strong immigrant and refugee base and are still establishing themselves in the Tasmanian community.

As per Council's Policy junior sporting clubs are provided free use of Council grounds.

To keep them playing in the municipality they require the support of Council to be able to provide a home ground at minimal cost.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.

2. Council waive all charges for ground hire on an ongoing basis.
-

RECOMMENDATION:

Council waive the fees for the past seasons and charge the 50% discounted fee from the 2014 season onwards which applies to other senior sporting clubs within our municipality.

DECISION:

Cr Geard moved, Cr Jeffries seconded that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

11.2 BRIGHTON FOOTBALL CLUB & OLD BEACH CRICKET CLUB BUILDING LEASES:

FILE REFERENCE: BRIGHTN/325 & JETTY/84

AUTHOR: Council Services Officer
(Ms C Harper)

Background:

The Brighton Football Club lease on the clubrooms and Thompson Oval is due for renewal in December this year. The Old Beach Cricket Club will be entering into a lease agreement for the new clubrooms that are being constructed at 84 Jetty Rd, Old Beach.

To ensure equity across the municipality with both of these large and integral community/sports organisations now is a good opportunity to ensure that equity is provided by Council in support of these groups. Previously both groups have been well supported by Council in differing ways. As the cricket club is about to enter into the same type of tenure in its new clubrooms as the football club receives it is Council's opportunity to be seen to equally support both organisations.

Ordinary Council Meeting

17/12/13

The Brighton Football Club lease is ten years old and another ten year lease is not an option, the maximum term for leases now is five years, with options for extensions. The existing lease terms are that the football club have the clubrooms year round with a lease on Thompson oval from March to September each year.

Currently the football club as part of their lease are enjoy 155 hours of ground use for free; therefore Council does not receive any funds from the use of the ground during the football season. All of the ovals used by any senior cricket association do earn income throughout the cricket season.

The lease is a standard agreement provided to Council by its legal advisors with some clauses altered to suit this situation.

Feedback was obtained from both the Old Beach Cricket Club and Brighton Football Club. The points they would like to vary from the existing lease form are.

Old Beach Cricket Club :-

Graffiti, Vandalism, Plate Glass insurance/damage responsibility.

Running Costs, Water/Sewer, Rates, security monitoring, testing and tagging, waste removal and sanitary servicing.

Brighton Football Club:-

Graffiti, Vandalism, Plate Glass insurance/damage responsibility.

Running Costs, Water/Sewer, Rates.

The club would also like to know that there will still be a general understanding that Council continue to be supportive, especially for unforeseen circumstances.

Clarification of maintenance versus building upgrade/improvements and relevant responsibilities.

Priority use of Thompson Oval for the club during the March to September football season.

Pre and post season meetings to be held between the Club and Council.

Consultation:

Cr Peter Geard, Greg Hunt & Garry Faulks (Old Beach Cricket Club), Brendan Parker & Donna Howlett, (Brighton Football Club), Janine Banks (Manager Governance and Human Resources), Gillian Browne (Executive Officer), Wendy Young (Executive Assistant), Cathy Harper (Council Services Officer).

Risk Implications:

Neither club will agree to lease agreements.

Financial Implications:

There will be a minimal increase in the revenue raised on ground hire by the introduction of fees for football game days.

Other Issues:

Traditionally Brighton Council has provided greater support to these clubs and it may be felt that not enough support will be provided under the new arrangements. However in comparison with other municipalities and sporting clubs, those within our municipality will still enjoy strong support from Council.

The football club has currently a very strong and capable committee who have continued to bring improvements in both financial control and club ethos, which will enable them to continue to become a more vital organisation within the community.

Assessment:

There is currently inequity between the groups in regard to ground control as Council has previously declined Old Beach Cricket's request to lease Cloak Oval and therefore to implement consistency in control of grounds, Thompson Oval should also no longer be leased to the football club. Excluding the oval from the lease will have no impact on the club's use of the ground as the same access will be available as is currently available under the lease. This will still provide free grounds access for training purposes and payment being received for game/match days.

The suggested nominal hire fee of ten dollars (\$10) per week is far from the commercial rates of \$230/week for the football clubrooms and \$192/week for the cricket club based on current AAV amounts. This nominal amount will have minimal impact on their financial situation and is still an amount where Council is heavily supporting both clubs to sustain their viability and yet enjoy their own facilities. This amount will be increased by CPI each year.

Both Clubs will be responsible for all services and general daily maintenance on the buildings as per the draft lease. This will also include payment for power, removal of rubbish, regular servicing of heating/cooling appliances, lighting on grounds, painting and alarm monitoring.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
2. Council agree to some other lease agreement with both clubs.
3. Council enter into differing lease agreements with each club.

RECOMMENDATION:

Council enter into 5 year agreements (with negotiated specified conditions) as per the draft leases with both the Old Beach Cricket Club on the new clubrooms at 84 Jetty Road, Old Beach and the Brighton Football Club for the Clubrooms at 325 Brighton Road, Pontville.

DECISION:

Cr Owen moved, Cr Gray seconded that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

11.3 PROPOSED RELOCATION OF BRIGHTON COUNCIL OFFICES:

FILE REFERENCE: P40461000210

AUTHORS: Manager Strategic Planning
(Mr J Dryburgh)

Background:

It has long been suggested that the current location of the Brighton Council offices is inappropriate. At present the offices are disconnected from the main residential and commercial centres of the Council Area and are effectively car dependent. Most other Council offices around the state, and indeed the world, are located within a town centre, reflecting the importance of Councils within their communities and helping to stimulate activity and community. The strategic importance of relocating the council offices has been represented within Council's Strategic Plan for several years.

A report was endorsed by Council in November 2012 resolving to allow staff to investigate the relocation of the council offices into Bridgewater. Work was carried out, which included the development of concept plans for extensions to the Civic Centre. This was considered to be the most feasible site within the Bridgewater commercial centre due to land tenure, cost and the need to purchase and demolish houses for the development of some sites. Nevertheless, there were still found to be significant constraints to the utilization of the civic centre site for new offices. These constraints include the need to build to three levels in an L-Shape around the existing building to achieve the required floor area, the cost of the required design and the loss of parking area and the lack of suitable area to create additional parking.

As councillors have been advised previously, there is serious interest from Uniting Care Tasmania (currently leasing Council-owned 84 Jetty Road) to relocate to the existing council offices should council relocate themselves. This is very important, as it provides a use and ongoing income through rent for council's existing offices.

This report recommends that Council now resolve to allow further investigation into the development of new Council offices in Brighton, for the reasons outlined below.

Discussion:

As mentioned above there are significant constraints and costs in establishing a suitable site and developing it for new council offices within the central areas of Bridgewater. However, as investigations have progressed strong arguments as to why Brighton may be a better location have emerged, both in terms of best providing for council operations for the long term and in terms of overall public benefit.

Like Bridgewater, Brighton is centrally located within the Municipal area - a similar distance from the Tea Tree, Old Beach and Dromedary municipal boundaries. This is considered to be a good thing both in terms of the operational efficiency of Council but also in terms of Council's public interface and accessibility.

From a strategic basis, there is a strong case for locating the council offices in Brighton. Firstly, Brighton is a small but growing township undergoing an important transition brought about by the highway bypass. Council strategy, including the *Brighton Town Centre Local Area Plan 2012*, suggest that the town centre of Brighton should be consolidated and that a community services precinct should be developed in order to create a strong attractive town and to effectively cater for predicted residential growth.

Secondly, the development and location of council offices can act as a significant driver of economic and community development. It is thought that given the scale and density of the commercial and service hub at Bridgewater that the development of new council offices in this area would not generate a noticeable economic stimulus to the area. However, this prospect in Brighton is very different. Brighton is a regional township, predominantly containing small to medium scale local businesses. It is thought that the development of the new council offices in Brighton - bringing with it the development phase and then the ongoing benefits of 30-40 employees as well as the many regular visitors to council offices - would provide a very tangible economic stimulus, helping the viability of existing and new businesses.

One site that should be investigated further for new offices is the area identified as the community services precinct, which now includes the new medical centre, bowls club, one private parcel and two Council-owned properties. Strategically, the development of council offices on this site would ensure the development of this community services occurs and would include medical and dental services, local government offices, federal political offices and a community/bowls club.

Other sites within the Brighton town centre should also be investigated, such as, but not limited to: the old hospital building within the former army camp and the school farm area. The old hospital building and school farm site are similarly close to the town centre, though in less predominant locations. The old hospital building could provide a strong overall economic benefit to council, given the site and building will need to be addressed at some stage regardless of the development of new council offices. The old hospital site would also provide the opportunity for a civic building within the context of the master plan for the former parade ground as an iconic public space. There may be other potential sites, but they should be close to the town centre.

The purpose of this report is to seek formal Council resolution to allow further investigations into the relocation of the Council Offices, which would result in another report back to Council presenting the findings of these investigations, potentially including detailed plans, costing and timeframes.

Consultation:

Initial consultation has been held with Council's General Manager, Deputy GM, Municipal Engineer, Manager Strategic Planning and architect Michael Cooper.

Risk Implications:

There are no risk implications to further investigating the feasibility of relocating the council offices to Brighton.

Financial Implications:

The investigation will require some Council expenditure for items such as consultant's advice and concept plan preparation. These costs can be absorbed into the existing budget.

The financial implications of building new council offices can only be broadly estimated at this stage. Based on indicative costs for buildings per square metre of floor area, fit out, site works and professional fees, and assuming that the council offices would need to be approximately 1,500m² in area the estimated cost would be in the region of \$3-3.5 million (excluding GST and any required purchase of land). This estimate assumes the construction of a new building, rather than the rebuild and modification of an existing building, such as the old hospital building.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
 2. Council does not adopt the recommendation.
-

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council staff investigate developing new Council offices in Brighton and prepare a proposal for budget deliberation.

DECISION:

Cr Gray moved, Cr Garlick seconded that the recommendation be adopted with the word 'budget' being removed.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Garlick	Cr Curran
Cr Geard	Cr Foster
Cr Gray	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

11.4 DUDLEY CLARK PARK – JORDAN RIVER, BRIGHTON:

FILE REFERENCE: Jordan River

AUTHOR: Municipal Engineer
(Mr H Macpherson)

Background:

Ken Midson and Paul Sutcliffe approached Council some time ago wanting to thank Brighton Council for their support over the years with the idea of putting something back into the community. The idea was to develop a park along the Jordan River that Council has plans to develop in the future. They wanted to donate their time and machinery to help do the works with the intent that Council would consider calling it the Dudley Clark Park. Once the design was finished and works were agreed on we have had significant rain and the level of the Jordan River has been too high for the works to commence. Unfortunately on the 30th November Dudley Clark passed away before the works could be completed. It has been requested that Council still consider naming the park after Dudley Clark.

Consultation:

Municipal Engineer, General Manager, Deputy General Manager , Ken Midson, Paul Sutcliffe

Risk Implications:

All the contractors that are currently proposing to do the works Council currently use so they will all have the relevant insurances.

Financial Implications:

The labour and plant/machinery will be donated as part of the project. Some money will be required for materials. There is money in the budget to continue to concrete the walkway along the Jordan. It is proposed to use this money and start at the Polonia Bridge and work past the park as far as the money will go. Recently a grant was received to widen this section of footpath to 2.5m for shared use. Some additional money will be required for landscaping works.

Other Issues:

Part of the park will be donated to Council as public open space of the adjoining subdivision commenced by Dudley Clark.

Concept plans of the park have been drawn up with the intent to tweak the plan onsite if required.

Assessment:

Dudley Clark has been an integral part of the development of the Brighton Township and the Municipality.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
2. That Council does not approve the dedication of the new park in Dudley Clark's Memorial

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council agree to dedicate the new park as the Dudley Clark Park once it has been completed.

DECISION:

Cr Geard moved, Cr Curran seconded that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	

Cr Geard
Cr Gray
Cr Jeffries
Cr Owen
Cr Taylor
Cr Williams

11.5 .JORDAN RIVER LEARNING FEDERATION CHANGES:

FILE REFERENCE: 850

AUTHOR: General Manager
(Mr R Sanderson)

Background:

After the Bridgewater High School was destroyed by fire the Department of Education established a high level reference group to investigate the future needs of the area and make recommendations of the best schooling model for the future. Mayor Foster was a member of this group.

The recommendations were adopted by the government and new facilities were constructed and a new way of schooling was established for the Bridgewater, Herdsmans Cove and Gagebrook areas. A new structure, the Jordan River Learning Federation, was set up to run the schooling from early years through matriculation. A major initiative was the adoption of a middle school structure that was recognised as a great success overseas.

The Department of Education has gradually unravelled this schooling structure and Jordan River Learning Federation. Its latest change is to drop the middle school structure.

The disappointing part of these changes is that the recommended model put up by the reference group has not been given enough time to be properly evaluated.

The Mayor and federal senators have tried unsuccessfully to meet with the Minister of Education to discuss this matter.

The matter is put to Council for consideration.

Consultation:

Mayor Foster

Risk Implications:

None identified

Financial Implications:

No material implications.

Other Issues:

The broad community has been ignored by the Department of Education for the areas covered by the Jordan River Learning Federation.

Assessment:

Many changes have been made or are proposed by the Department of Education without due process of local consultation. Council will recall the proposed new local school areas that has greatly upset many Brighton residents. Apparently as a result of these proposals numbers at the Brighton Primary School have dropped for next year.

The dropping of the middle school is the latest example of the Department's lack of broad community consultation.

Options:

1. Do nothing
2. Adopt the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council express its concern over the changes in schooling structures and arrange a meeting with the opposition education spokesman to discuss these matters.

DECISION:

Cr Owen moved, Cr Jeffries seconded that Council support the School Community and Education Department for reverting to the same model as the majority of public education in Tasmania.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	Cr Geard
Cr Foster	Cr Taylor
Cr Garlick	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Williams	

Cr Gray left the meeting during Item 11.5 at 6.40pm

11.6 MICROWISE - UPDATE REPORT:

FILE REFERENCE: 0838-3

AUTHOR: General Manager
(Mr R Sanderson)

The General Manager provided an update on the progress of Microwise at the Council meeting.

Options:

1. As per the recommendation.
 2. Not receive the report.
-

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be received.

DECISION:

Cr Jeffries moved, Cr Garlick that the report be received.

CARRIED

VOTING RECORD

In favour	Against
Cr Curran	
Cr Foster	
Cr Garlick	
Cr Geard	
Cr Jeffries	
Cr Owen	
Cr Taylor	
Cr Williams	

12. QUESTION ON NOTICE:

There were no questions on notice.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

Confirmed:

(Mayor)

Ordinary Council Meeting

17/12/13

Date:

21st January 2014