

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Devonport City Council  
held on Monday, 28 October 2024, in the Aberdeen Room, level 2, paranapple centre,  
137 Rooke Street Devonport, and live streamed from 5:30pm**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:**

Cr A Jarman (Mayor)  
Cr S Sheehan (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr G Enniss  
Cr A Moore  
Cr L Murphy  
Cr J Wilczynski  
Cr D Viney

**Council Officers:**

General Manager, M Atkins  
Deputy General Manager, J Griffith  
Executive Manager, M Skirving  
Executive Manager, K Lunson  
Executive Coordinator, C Jordan  
Finance Manager, N Maggs  
Infrastructure Manager, J Bellchambers  
Community Services Manager, K Hampton  
Governance Officer, C Delphin

**Electors:**

Julie Argent	Douglas Janney	Vicki Sharman	Robert Whiteway
Julia Jakimow	Peter Birkett	Shane Warren	Garth Jackson
Robert Vellacott	John Rich	Scott Russell	Gabriel Meredith
Malcolm Gardam	Rodney Russell	Craig Martin	Grenville Archer
Doula Papas			

**Other:**

Nil			
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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**

Devonport City Council acknowledges and pays respect to the palawa-pakana people as the traditional and original owners of lutrawita and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather. We also acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal elders past and present.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Welcome and introductions by Mayor Alison Jarman.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

All persons in attendance are advised that it is Council policy to record Council Meetings, in accordance with Council's Digital Recording Policy. The digital recording of this meeting will be made available to the public on Council's website for a minimum period of six months. Members of the public in attendance at the meeting who do not wish for their words to be recorded and/or published on the website, should contact a relevant Council Officer and advise of their wishes prior to the start of the meeting.

**1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING GUIDELINES**

The Mayor outlined the AGM Guidelines.

**2 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

MOVED: Cr Murphy

SECONDED: Cr Viney

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 October 2023, as attached, be confirmed.

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
OUTCOME	CARRIED

**5 TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT**

The General Manager tabled the 2023/2024 Annual Report.

**6 SUBMISSIONS/QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TO THE ANNUAL REPORT**

MOVED: Cr Murphy

SECONDED: Cr Hollister

That submissions and questions, and the subsequent answers, on the 2023/2024 Devonport City Council Annual Report, be noted.

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
OUTCOME	CARRIED

## 7 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

## 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

### **Mr Bob Vellacott, 11 Cocker Place, Devonport**

Mayor, Devonport City Council's notice for the Annual General Meeting states that motions from the floor will not be accepted.

I also note and for your information, the following in regard to the Annual General Meeting on the 9th of December 2019, page 14 of that agenda, the following part and I quote

“Officers comments - Section 72B of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides that a motion can be moved by an elector at the Annual General Meeting.

Mayor, I am now somewhat confused in as much with an officer of this Council stated clearly that section 72B of the *Local Government Act* provides that a motion can be moved by an elector at the Annual General Meeting. There is no indication whatsoever that it has to be a notice of motion. However, the notice of this Annual General Meeting states that a motion from the floor will not be accepted. Well may it be said that it is Council's policy, however, Mayor, you should be completely aware that your policies or rulings cannot conflict with acts of Parliament. This ruling of non-acceptance of a motion from the floor other than a procedural motions for this evening's meetings, appears to be an outright breach of the intent of the Act.

**Q1** I now ask Mayor, will you comply with section 72B of the *Local Government Act*, if not then I formally move the following procedural motions being that electors here present at this the 2023/2024 AGM request the chairperson to comply with the provisions of section 72 B of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which provides an motion can be moved by an elector at any Annual General Meeting.

### **Response**

The Mayor advised that the General Manager would provide a response.

The General Manager referred Mr Vellacott to the guidelines that were adopted at the meeting of the 21 December 2020, that under the *Local Government Act*, Council has the authority to set its own guidelines under which an AGM will be held and made that decision at that point that motions need to be provided on notice.

The General Manager elaborated that the intent of that decision was to ensure there was openness and transparency and to ensure that, like most organisations, that motions are on the agenda and therefore if people are interested in the topics, they have the opportunity to come along to the meeting and discuss those. Council has followed that process since December 2020.

Mr Vellacott asked if he was correct in saying that he did not believe that this to be an amendment of the Act, and that he believes the Act takes precedence.

The General Manager reconfirmed that the Act permits Council's to make their own guidelines.

The Mayor further advised that she could not accept the motion as it was not received in writing prior to the meeting, and that Mr Vellacott had previously provided motions prior to the meeting. The Mayor further reiterated that the guidelines were endorsed in 2020.

Mr Vellacott referred to back to the Officer's comments from the 2019 Annual General Meeting, which permitted motions from the floor. The Mayor responded that that was prior to the adoption of the AGM Guidelines in 2020. The Mayor reconfirmed to Mr Vellacott that she would not be accepting the notice of motion from the floor.

**Q2** Mayor and councillors, according to the financial statement in the 2023/24 Annual Report, as I understand the total debt was \$44 million and 671 dollars, and it is being reduced by approximately \$1million per year.

What plans has council in place to significantly reduce the time to reduce the debt and accumulated interest costs?

### **Response**

The General Manager responded that the rate at which Council pays off its debt is something that officers regularly monitor, and it's also a topic that our audit committee regularly discuss. At the moment, they believe it's in our best interest because of the fixed rates that we have and also the rate we get on the interest we receive for our cash in hand that we're best to just pay it off at the set rate. However, we do have a number of fixed loans that will come due during the coming years and at that point, Council will make a decision whether it chooses to pay down some of those chunks or to refinance those amounts.

### **Mr Douglas Janney, 23 Watkinson Street, Devonport**

**Q1.** Page 41, financial performance. Totally expenses have gone up from 23 actual - 44.156 to 48102 but the estimate was 2 million less than that at 46.035. Please explain.

### **Response**

The General Manager advised that in part user charges related with the convention centre, owing to a greater amount of use than was anticipated and that parking income in excess of what was anticipated.

The Finance Manager further advised that expenditure is \$2million above budget, which was the result of the \$1.5 million grant made to the Devonport City Soccer Club, which was not in the budget originally and that the remainder is predominantly materials, due to increased inflation costs.

### **Mr Malcolm Gardam, 4 Beaumont Drive, Miandetta**

Just sitting there it prompted me to try to ask this question. It's to do with the recording of meetings and we've got a bit of an example already here tonight on that one. I know that for some time that sitting in the gallery is difficult to hear Councillors speak due to not speaking into the microphone or not having it turned on or just speaking too softly.

But when you listen to the streaming versions of the Council meetings, everyone's very clear, even those that probably offend the most from being hard to hear.

My question is, do the audio recordings still rely on the speakers as the speaker using the microphone, and if not, then what is the source of the audio recordings these days?

**Response**

The Deputy General Manager responded that the source of the audio recordings includes ceiling mounted speakers, microphones and a Microsoft Teams system, and in the background this is being streamed to YouTube, and that there are multiple microphones in the room. The quality of the audio from the microphones may diminish if the speaker is not close enough, but the quality of the microphones are such that they can pick up the audio on the recordings very well.

Mr Gardam further stated that the microphones pick up the audio extremely well for those who listen on the occasion, and asked a follow question, asking if do the microphones in the gallery area pick up everything that the gallery is saying and can be vetted later on? Or is it filtered so that the streaming just goes out to the YouTube channel?

**Response**

The Mayor responded that there are two speakers at the front that are picking up a recording.

**9 CLOSURE**

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:50 pm.

Minutes confirmed 27 October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Jarman', with a large loop at the end of the name.

Chairperson - Mayor Alison Jarman