



Published Minutes

Special Council Meeting

Friday, 2 October 2026

Date:	Friday 2 October 2026
Time:	1:00 PM
Location:	Clem Thompson Sports Pavillion, Stadium Road, Tom Price
Distribution Date:	Tuesday, 6 October 2026



Shire of Ashburton

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Darren Kennedy
Acting Chief Executive Officer
6 October 2026

These minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Special Council Meeting held on Friday, 2 October 2026.

Presiding Member _____

Date _____

Disclaimer

The Shire of Ashburton warns anyone who has an application lodged with Council must obtain, and should only rely on, written confirmation of the outcomes of the application following the Council meeting, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by Council in respect of the application. No responsibility whatsoever is implied, or accepted, by the Shire of Ashburton for any act, omission, statement, or intimation occurring during a Council meeting. Artificial intelligence tools may have been used in the preparation of these Minutes.

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1 Declaration Of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 1:03pm.

1.1 Acknowledgement Of Country

As representatives of the Shire of Ashburton Council, we respectfully acknowledge the local Indigenous people, the traditional custodians of this land where we are meeting upon today and pay our respects to them and all their elders past and present.

2 Announcement Of Visitors

There were no visitors to the meeting.

3 Attendance

Shire President's Declaration

In accordance with regulation 14C(2)(b) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, I have approved Councillors Fox, Noone and Rogers to attend this meeting via electronic means, noting that they are in instantaneous communication with the meeting.

Cr Fox Declaration

In accordance with regulation 14CA(5) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, I declare that I can maintain confidentiality during the meeting including any closed part of the meeting.

Cr Noone Declaration

In accordance with regulation 14CA(5) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, I declare that I can maintain confidentiality during the meeting including any closed part of the meeting.

Cr Rogers Declaration

In accordance with regulation 14CA(5) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, I declare that I can maintain confidentiality during the meeting including any closed part of the meeting.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr Kennedy Declaration

In accordance with regulation 14CA(5) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, I declare that I can maintain confidentiality during the meeting including any closed part of the meeting.

3.1 Present

Elected Members:	SP A Smith Cr A Sullivan Cr R de Pledge Cr K White Cr T Fox Cr L Rumble JP Cr B Noone Cr C Rogers	Shire President Paraburdoo Ward Ashburton-Tablelands Ward Onslow Ward Pannawonica Ward (electronic means) Paraburdoo Ward Tom Price Ward (electronic means) Tom Price Ward (electronic means)
Employees:	D Kennedy L Milne	Acting Chief Executive Officer (electronic means) ICT Coordinator
External Parties:	C Burman	External Minute Taker (electronic means)
Guests:	Nil	
Members of Public:	There were no members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.	
Members of media:	There were no members of the media in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.	

3.2 Apologies

Cr K Day Tom Price Ward

3.3 Approved Leave Of Absence

Nil

4 Declaration By Members

4.1 Due Consideration By Elected Members To The Agenda

Elected Members were requested to note they have given due consideration to all matters contained in this agenda.

4.2 Declaration Of Interest

A member who has an Impartiality, Proximity or Financial interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting must disclose the nature of the interest either in a written notice, given to the Chief Executive Officer, prior to the meeting, or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest must not preside at the part of the meeting which deals with the matter, or participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision-making process relative to the matter, unless the disclosing member is permitted to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The following declarations of interest are disclosed –

Item 6.1 Corrective Action Required Following Council Resolution Of 22 Sept 2026, Item 19.2	
Name	SP A Smith
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	I declare an impartiality interest in this matter due to my professional work with Mr Woodward through Council business and confirm that I will consider the matter objectively, impartiality and on its merits.
Name	Cr K White
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	Impartiality
Name	Cr L Rumble JP
Nature of interest	Impartiality
Interest description	Impartiality

5 Announcements By The Presiding Member And Councillors Without Discussion

Nil

6 Confidential Matters

Council Decision: 176/2026

Procedural Motion

That Council move behind closed doors at 1:12pm, pursuant to clause 6.2 of the *Shire of Ashburton Standing Orders Local Law 2012* to consider the following confidential items.

6.1 Corrective Action Required Following Council Resolution Of 22 Sept 2026, Item 19.2

Pursuant to sub section 5.23(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* which provides:

- (b) a complaint that alleges a behavioural breach under the local government's adopted code of conduct (as defined in section 8A.2(1)) and any information relating to the complaint**

Moved Cr De Pledge

Seconded Cr Fox

Carried: 8/0

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr D Kennedy and Mr L Milne left the meeting at 1:13pm

SP A Smith disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 4.2).

Cr K White disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 4.2).

Cr L Rumble JP disclosed an impartiality interest in Item 6.1 (detailed in Item 4.2)

6.1 Corrective Action Required Following Council Resolution of 22 Sept 2026, Item 19.2

File Reference	CO-01
Applicant or Proponent(s)	Not Applicable
Author	Shire President
Previous Meeting Reference	Ordinary Council Meeting 22 September 2026 - Item 19.2 – 174/2026
Disclosure(s) of interest	Author – Impartiality
Attachments	Under Separate Cover - Shire President's Briefing Paper - Confidential

Reasons for Confidentiality

Section under the Act	<i>This matter is to be considered behind closed doors pursuant to s.5.23(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995 as the subject matter relates to:</i>
Sub-clause and Reason:	<i>“s.5.23(2)(b) a matter relating to the recruitment or employment of the CEO or a senior employee, including the following — (i) the termination of employment; (ii) a review of performance under section 5.38.”</i>
Section under the Act	<i>This matter is to be considered behind closed doors pursuant to s5.23(4)(g) of the Local Government Act 1995 as the subject matter relates to:</i>
Sub-clause and Reason:	<i>“r.4A(b) a complaint that alleges a behavioural breach under the local government’s adopted code of conduct (as defined in section 8A.2(1)) and any information relating to the complaint.”</i>

Report Purpose

This report and relevant attachment have been circulated to Shire of Ashburton elected members under separate cover.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Motion

That Council:

1. With immediate effect ends the suspension of the Chief Executive Officer, Keith Woodward, which was resolved in relation to Item 19.2 at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 September 2026.
2. Clarifies that the suspension of the Chief Executive Officer was not on disciplinary grounds.
3. Adopts Option 2 in the Shire President's Briefing Paper.
4. Revokes paragraph 8 of Council's resolution in relation to Item 19.2 at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 September 2026.
5. Authorises the Shire President to provide written notice to the Chief Executive Officer of Council's decision in paragraph (1) above.
6. Authorises the Shire President to arrange for the letter in Attachment 4 of the Shire President's Briefing Paper to be sent on the Shire's behalf.
7. Pursuant to Standing Order 5.5, returns the matters the subject of this resolution to Council for further consideration at a later date.

Council Decision 177/2026

Moved Cr A Sullivan

Seconded Cr L Rumble JP, Cr K White

Resolution

That Council:

1. **With immediate effect ends the suspension of the Chief Executive Officer, Keith Woodward, which was resolved in relation to Item 19.2 at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 September 2026.**
2. **Clarifies that the suspension of the Chief Executive Officer was not on disciplinary grounds.**
3. **Adopts Option 2 in the Shire President's Briefing Paper.**
4. **Revokes paragraph 8 of Council's resolution in relation to Item 19.2 at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 September 2026.**
5. **Authorises the Shire President to provide written notice to the Chief Executive Officer of Council's decision in paragraph (1) above.**
6. **Authorises the Shire President to arrange for the letter in Attachment 4 of the Shire President's Briefing Paper to be sent on the Shire's behalf.**
7. **Pursuant to Standing Order 5.5, returns the matters the subject of this resolution to Council for further consideration at a later date.**

**For: A Smith, A Sullivan, L Rumble JP, K White, B Noone, R De Pledge,
 C Rogers and T Fox**

Against: Nil

Carried by Absolute Majority 8/0

Council Decision: 178/2026

Procedural Motion

That Council re-open the meeting to the public at 1:37pm.

Moved: Cr R De Pledge

Seconded: Cr K White

Carried: 8/0

Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr D Kennedy and Mr L Milne returned to the meeting at 1:37pm.

7 Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at 1:00pm on Tuesday 20 October 2026 at Ashburton Hall, Ashburton Avenue, Paraboradoo.

8 Closure Of Meeting

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 1:39pm.