

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2025, COMMENCING AT
6.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor D Watton (in the Chair) and Councillors Dixon, Grine, Hill, King, Lea, Madden, Mason, Palmowski, Pascoe.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager
Director Planning and Environment
Acting Director Corporate and Community Services (Chief Finance Officer)
Director Works and Infrastructure
People and Culture Manager
Development Services Manager
Strategic Planning Manager
Development Engineering Coordinator
Communications & Engagement Manager
Help Desk Support Officer x 2
Council Services Team Leader

The Prayer was presented by Pastor Amanda Francis.

**APOLOGIES/LEAVE
OF ABSENCE:**

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Hill

Seconded:

Councillor Mason

129

RESOLVED that the apologies tendered on behalf of Councillors Harrington and Suvaal, for unavoidable absence, be accepted and Leave of Absence granted.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea
 Seconded: Councillor Palmowski

RESOLVED that a Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor Suvaal from 16 April 2025 to 25 April 2025.

That the Leave of Absence granted to Councillor Jurd for the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 16 April 2025 be noted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:**
 Councillor Mason

130

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 March 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI3/2025

SUBJECT: **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Nil

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

The following person has been invited to address the meeting of Council:

Speakers	For / Against	Report	Page No.	Duration
Danielle O'Hara	Against	PE7/2025 - Development Application No. 8/2024/197/1 proposing a Centre-based Child Care Facility (124 Children) with Basement Level Car Parking	47	3 mins

The nominated speaker withdrew.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE7/2025

SUBJECT: **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO. 8/2024/197/1 PROPOSING A
CENTRE-BASED CHILD CARE FACILITY (124 CHILDREN) WITH
BASEMENT LEVEL CAR PARKING**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
131
RESOLVED

1. **That:**

- (i) **Development Application No. 8/2024/197/1 proposing a centre-based child care facility at 14A Fletcher Street, Nulkaba (Lot: 520 DP: 1155464) be approved pursuant to Sections 4.16 and 4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* subject to the conditions contained in this report.**
- (ii) **The reasons for the decision (having regard to any statutory requirements applying to the decision), are as follows:**

- The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, is consistent with the objectives of the applicable environmental planning instrument(s), being the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP)*, *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* and *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021*.
- The proposed development is, subject to the recommended conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP).
- Subject to the recommended conditions, the proposed development will be provided with adequate essential services required under the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP).
- The proposed development is considered to be of an appropriate scale and form for the site, and is consistent with the character of the locality.
- The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, will not result in unacceptable adverse impacts upon the natural or built environments.
- The proposed development is a suitable and planned use of the site and its approval is consistent with the public interest considering the location of the development within an Urban Release Area.
- Any issues raised in submission/s have been taken into account in the assessment report and where appropriate, conditions of consent have been imposed on the determination. Council has given due consideration to community views when making the decision to determine the application.

(iii) The details contained above be publicly notified pursuant to Section 2.22 and Clause 20(2) of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

2. That Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the proposed development, of Council's decision.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Hill	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Lea	Councillor Grine
Councillor Madden	Councillor King
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (7)	Total (3)

CARRIED

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ALL REPORTS BY ENGLOBO OR INDIVIDUALLY WITH NOMINATED EXCEPTIONS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill

132

RESOLVED

that having read and considered the reports in the agenda related to items

PE9/2025	Anomalies Planning Proposal Post Exhibition Report.....	56
PE10/2025	Exhibition of draft Development Control Plan - The Vintage	62
PE11/2025	T2025-10 Background Studies and Structure Plan for Anambah to Branxton Regional Significant Growth Area.....	66
‡ CC20/2025	Investment Report - March 2025	87
‡ CC21/2025	Resolutions Tracking Report	92
WI4/2025	Minutes of Floodplain Risk Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27 February 2025.....	93
WI6/2025	Minutes of Grants Advisory Committee meeting held Wednesday 19 March 2025	102

Council adopt the recommendations as printed in the business papers for those items.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	

Total (10)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM2/2025

SUBJECT: TARGA RALLY FOR CESSNOCK

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

133

RESOLVED

That Council formally engage with Targa Australia to express Council's interest as a venue for a Targa-style rally event in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU3/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE8/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT VILLAGES STRATEGY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
134

RESOLVED

1. That Council place the draft Villages Strategy on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days.
2. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the draft Villages Strategy.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE9/2025

SUBJECT: ANOMALIES PLANNING PROPOSAL POST EXHIBITION REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
135
RESOLVED

1. That Council note the outcomes of community consultation for Planning Proposal 18/2024/3/1 – Anomalies Planning Proposal
2. That Council forwards the Anomalies Planning Proposal to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces with a recommendation that the plan be made pursuant to Section 3.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE10/2025

SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN - THE VINTAGE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
136
RESOLVED

1. That Council places the draft 'The Vintage' Development Control Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, as required by Council's Community Participation Plan.
2. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the Draft Development Control Plan chapters if unresolved objections are received or significant amendment to the Draft Development Control Plan Chapter are made post exhibition. Where there are no unresolved objections nor significant amendments proposed post exhibition, the Draft Development Control Plan Chapters be adopted by Council pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2001*.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE11/2025

SUBJECT: TENDER - T2025-10 BACKGROUND STUDIES AND STRUCTURE PLAN FOR ANAMBAH TO BRANXTON REGIONAL SIGNIFICANT GROWTH AREA

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
137
RESOLVED

1. That Council accept the tender T2025-10 from Urbis Ltd for the Background Studies and Structure Plan for Anambah to Branxton RSGA for the lump sum of \$3,416,872 (inclusive of GST).
2. That Council allow for the acceptance of any additional Provisional Items for the Contract which will be fully funded under the grant Council was successful in securing under the Commonwealth Housing Support Program - Stream 1.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC17/2025

SUBJECT: DONATIONS UNDER SECTION 356 - RATES SUBSIDY POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
138
RESOLVED

1. That Council applies a 50% Rates Subsidy for the following Assessments in accordance with the Rates Subsidy Policy effective for the 2025-26 rating year.

Assessment	Organisation	Location
59204	Cessnock Homing Pigeon Club	Cessnock
123596	Trustees Masonic Hall	Paxton
139907	Masonic Holdings Limited	Weston
191502	Kurri Kurri Motor Cycle Club Inc	Buchanan
252916	Richmond Vale Preserv. Co-op Soc.	Kurri Kurri

2. That the General Manager write to each applicant advising of Council's decision according to the Rates Subsidy Policy.
3. That the Council approve a 50% rates subsidy for applicants who qualify for the subsidy but have not yet lodged an application for the 2025- 26 year, and delegates to the General Manager to apply the rates subsidy if the applicants supply the required information prior to 31 May 2025, up to a total of \$35,000.

FOR

Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor King
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton
Total (9)

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC18/2025

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS 2025-26 ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor King

That Council places the draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents comprising the:

- Community Strategic Plan Cessnock 2040;
- Resourcing Strategy consisting of the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Strategy;
- Delivery Program incorporating the 2025-26 Operational Plan including the budget, Revenue Policy, and Statement of Fees and Charges;

on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Mason

That Council reconvene to consider this item on Wednesday 30 April 2025 in an extraordinary Council meeting after further consultation is undertaken between Councillors and the General Manager.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor King
Councillor Mason
Councillor Watton

Total (4)

AGAINST

Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe

Total (6)

The Amendment was **PUT** and **LOST**.

The Motion was then **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

MOTION

139

Moved: Councillor Pascoe**Seconded:** Councillor King**RESOLVED**

That Council places the draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents comprising the:

- **Community Strategic Plan Cessnock 2040;**
- **Resourcing Strategy consisting of the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Strategy;**
- **Delivery Program incorporating the 2025-26 Operational Plan including the budget, Revenue Policy, and Statement of Fees and Charges;**

on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

FOR

Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe

Total (7)**AGAINST**

Councillor Dixon
Councillor King
Councillor Watton

Total (3)**CARRIED**

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC19/2025

SUBJECT: ENGAGEMENT OF ADVISOR FOR SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
140

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the report of the Institute for Regional Futures of the University of Newcastle, outlining the financial sustainability challenges for Cessnock City Council.
2. That Council authorises the General Manager to:
 - a. engage an independent advisor to provide further advice to Council on the potential for a special rate variation
 - b. report to Council on the recommendations of the advisor prior to any decision being made on a Special Rate Variation application by Council.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton
Total (9)

AGAINST

Councillor King

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC20/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - MARCH 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
141

RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for March 2025 and notes that:

- **Investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy, which is in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order.**
- **Council's month end cash and investments balance was \$63,187,380.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC21/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Lea

Seconded: Councillor Hill

142

RESOLVED

That Council receives the report and notes the information in the Resolutions Tracking Report.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI4/2025

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF FLOODPLAIN RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
143
RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Floodplain Risk Management Committee held 27 February 2025 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI5/2025

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF SECTION 355 COMMITTEES

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Mason
144

RESOLVED

1. That Council delegates the care, control and management of Council's community and recreation facilities, other Council owned and controlled land, to relevant Section 355 Committees.
2. That Council authorise the management of the Section 355 Committees to be in accordance with any practices and procedures adopted by the General Manager.
3. That Council authorise the General Manager to execute documents confirming the delegated functions with each of the appointed community representatives for each of the respective Section 355 Committees in accordance with any practices and procedures.
4. That Council establishes the following Section 355 Committees:
 - a) Cessnock Tidy Towns
 - b) Greta Tidy Towns
 - c) Kearsley Tidy Towns
 - d) Millfield Tidy Towns
 - e) North Rothbury Tidy Towns
 - f) North Rothbury Bushcare
 - g) Paxton Tidy Towns
 - h) Weston Tidy Towns.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Grine
Councillor Hill
Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton

Total (9)

AGAINST

Councillor King

Total (1)

CARRIED

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI6/2025

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
145
RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Grant Advisory Committee Meeting held 19 March 2025 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN9/2025

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SIGNAGE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
146
MOTION

That the matter be deferred to the next Ordinary Council meeting.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor King
Councillor Grine	Councillor Watton
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Total (8)	Total (2)

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Nil

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 7.21pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 21 May 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**