

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025, COMMENCING
AT 6.30PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Interim General Manager (Director Planning and Environment)
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Development Services Manager)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
People and Culture Manager
Strategic Planning Manager
Communications & Engagement Manager
Principal Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Support Officer
Council Services Team Leader

The Prayer was presented by Pastor Courtney Watton

The Mayor acknowledged the sudden passing of Council employee, Graham Hill

**LEAVE OF
ABSENCE:**

MOTION

Moved:

Councillor Jurd

Seconded:

Councillor Palmowski

250

RESOLVED that a Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor Dixon from 5 November 2025 to 23 November 2025.

That a Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor Harrington from 3 November to 28 November 2025.

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton
Councillor Lea

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Harrington
 Seconded: Councillor Jurd

251
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 September 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI10/2025

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

That Councillors now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

CC65/2025 - Drainage Easement Request – George Jeffery Park Kearsley - Councillor Madden declared a Non Pecuniary Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is the Vice President of the Kearsley Crushers Rugby League football club who use George Jeffrey Park as their home ground. Councillor Madden advised that he will remain in the Chamber and take part in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced him in carrying out his public duty.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

Nil

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

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dixon **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
252
RESOLVED

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

‡ GMU3/2025	Christmas Closure 2025	39
‡ CC66/2025	Annual Disclosures of Interests in Written Returns	66
‡ CC67/2025	Investment Report - September 2025.....	69
WI11/2025	Update of Council's Cemetery Policy.....	75

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM12/2025

SUBJECT: VACANCY IN CIVIC OFFICE - RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR ROSA GRINE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

253

RESOLVED

That Council notes the vacancy in civic office and that the NSW Electoral Commission is currently conducting a countback process to fill the casual vacancy in Ward D.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU10/2025

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT NO. GMU3/2025

SUBJECT: CHRISTMAS CLOSURE 2025

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Dixon

Seconded: Councillor Jurd

254

RESOLVED

That Council notes its offices, including Libraries and Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) will close from 12 noon Wednesday, 24 December 2025 and reopen on Monday, 5 January 2026.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE26/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS PLANS - POST EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Harrington **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
255
RESOLVED

1. That Council adopt the draft Cessnock City Wide Section 7.11 Infrastructure Contributions Plan and the draft Cessnock Section 7.12 Infrastructure Contributions Plan.
2. That Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the draft plan, of Council's decision.
3. That Council write to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and the NSW Treasurer, requesting that the current development contributions caps be reviewed and increased to reflect current construction and infrastructure delivery costs, or alternatively, that the caps be indexed annually to account for inflation and cost escalation, whichever is higher. Further, that a copy of this correspondence be provided to Local Government NSW and the Hunter Joint Organisation, seeking their support in advocating for this review on behalf of member councils.
4. That Council undertake biennial reviews of the Infrastructure Contributions Plans to ensure actual development activity and contribution revenue remain in line with predicted growth and budget forecasts with findings reported to Council at a Councillor briefing.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE27/2025

**SUBJECT: DRAFT VINEYARDS PLACE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONTROL PLAN - POST EXHIBITION**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Palmowski **Seconded:** Councillor Dixon
256

RESOLVED

1. That Council adopt the Draft Cessnock Vineyards District Place Strategy and Draft Cessnock Vineyards District Development Control Plan chapter.
2. That Council notify submission makers of the Council's decision.
3. That Council write to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure seeking its endorsement of the Draft Cessnock Vineyards District Place Strategy.

FOR

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Jurd
Councillor King
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Watton
Councillor Lea

Total (10)

AGAINST

Councillor Madden
Councillor Hawkins

Total (2)

CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE28/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN CHAPTERS - 'TOURIST ACCOMMODATION ON RURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS' AND 'SIGNAGE AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING' - POST EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
257
RESOLVED

1. That Council adopt Draft Chapter 'D4 Tourist Accommodation on Rural and Conservation Lands' and Draft Chapter 'D5 Signage and Outdoor Advertising' of the Cessnock Development Control Plan.
2. That Council notify in writing the submission makers of Council's decision.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC65/2025

SUBJECT: DRAINAGE EASEMENT REQUEST - GEORGE JEFFERY PARK KEARSLEY

Councillor Madden declared a Non Pecuniary Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is the Vice President of the Kearsley Crushers Rugby League football club who use George Jeffery Park as their home ground. Councillor Madden remained in the Chamber and took part in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Harrington **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
258

RESOLVED

1. That Council consents to granting an easement for drainage purposes burdening Council land, being George Jeffery Park (lot 2882 DP 1158212) and benefiting 80 Caledonia Street, Kearsley (lot 156 DP 755215);
2. That Council delegates the General Manager to negotiate compensation payable for the easement in accordance with independent valuation.
3. That Council authorises the General Manager to execute all documentation related to granting the easement and compensation payable.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC66/2025

SUBJECT: ANNUAL DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN WRITTEN RETURNS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dixon **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
259

RESOLVED

That Council notes the tabling of the annual disclosures of interests in written returns the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025, in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC67/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2025

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dixon **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
260
RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for September 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 \$93,412,710.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC68/2025

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor King
261

RESOLVED

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI11/2025

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF COUNCIL'S CEMETERY POLICY

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Dixon

Seconded: Councillor Jurd

262

RESOLVED

1. That Council places the draft Cemetery Policy 2025 on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
2. That, if no relevant submissions are received during the public exhibition period, the draft Cemetery Policy 2025 be considered final and adopted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN13/2025

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EMAIL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR RESIDENTS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Harrington
263
RESOLVED

That Council, investigate an opt-in notification system for residents based on their location. This system would provide timely information regarding:

1. **Development Applications, Residents would receive updates on DAs in their area, ensuring they are informed about proposed developments that may affect their community, while helping with the cost of notifications, we could reach a bigger area, while keeping it cheaper.**
2. **Upcoming Events: Notifications about local events, community gatherings, and Council initiatives would be shared to encourage participation and engagement.**
3. **Promote the new system through existing Council communication channels to maximise participation.**

FOR	AGAINST
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Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	

Total (12)

Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN14/2025

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF COLLABORATION WITH CESSNOCK JAIL FOR COST SAVING INITIATIVES

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor King
264
RESOLVED

1. That the General Manager investigate and provide a report to Council on logistics, resource implications, potential benefits and/or limitations of a collaboration with Cessnock Correctional Centre for the provision of selected maintenance services and procurement opportunities for goods able to be produced at the Centre.
2. The Correctional Services be invited to a future public forum on services they provide.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN15/2025

SUBJECT: ADVERTISING, SPONSORSHIP AND NAMING RIGHTS PROGRAM

Councillor Pascoe left the meeting, the time being 7.40pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
265

RESOLVED

That the General Manager investigate and report to Council on implications, resource requirements, projected returns on investment and any logistical impacts for existing users of relevant Council facilities for an advertising, sponsorship and potential naming rights program for Council facilities.

Councillor Pascoe returned to the meeting, the time being 7.42pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Harrington	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Lea	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN16/2025

SUBJECT: CHARLTON STREET - NEW PARKING RULE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

1. That Council revoke the new front to kerb parking rule recently changed on Charlton Street Cessnock.
2. That Council seek alternative solutions to meet the intended purpose of the change.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Palmowski **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe

That the General Manager investigate alternative solutions to address concerns in relation to pedestrian safety and parking arrangements on Charlton Street and report to Council before the end of 2025.

Councillor King moved a Motion of Dissent from the Mayor's ruling in regard to accepting the Amendment.

FOR

Councillor Jurd
Councillor King

Total (2)

AGAINST

Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harrington
Councillor Hill
Councillor Madden
Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Pascoe
Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Watton
Councillor Lea

Total (10)

The Motion of Dissent was **PUT** and **LOST**.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Palmowski **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe

That the General Manager investigate alternative solutions to address concerns in relation to pedestrian safety and parking arrangements on Charlton Street and report to Council before the end of 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Hill	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Palmowski	Councillor Harrington
Councillor Pascoe	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Hawkins	Councillor King
Councillor Lea	Councillor Madden
	Councillor Mason
	Councillor Watton
Total (5)	Total (7)

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

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

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

266

RESOLVED

1. That Council revoke the new front to kerb parking rule recently changed on Charlton Street Cessnock.
2. That Council seek alternative solutions to meet the intended purpose of the change.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Hill
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Jurd	Councillor Pascoe
Councillor King	Councillor Lea
Councillor Madden	Councillor Hawkins
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Watton	
Total (7)	Total (5)

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Hill briefly spoke on the positive of Councillors recent tour of Council facilities.

Councillor King advised that the Austar Committee meeting had been cancelled due a high number of apologies.

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8.19pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 19 November 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**