



# **UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**Special Council Meeting  
Tuesday, 27 January 2026**

**Date: Tuesday, 27 January 2026**

**Time: 4:00pm**

**Location: Council Chambers, York Town Hall, York**

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**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF YORK  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YORK TOWN HALL, YORK  
ON TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2026 AT 4:00PM**

**1 OPENING**

1.1 Declaration of Opening

*Cr Chris Gibbs, Shire President, declared the meeting open at 4.00pm.*

1.2 Acknowledgement / Disclaimer

The Shire President advised the following:

*“The York Shire Council acknowledges the Ballardong people of the Noongar Nation who are the Traditional Owners of the country where this meeting is being held and recognise their continuing connection to land, water, sky and culture. We pay our respects to all these people and their Elders past, present and emerging.*

*In accordance with Regulations 14I and 14J of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, notice is given that this meeting is being video and audio recorded to facilitate community participation and for minute-taking purposes. By being present at a meeting, members of the public consent to the possibility that their image and voice may be recorded. Audio recordings are published on the Shire’s website following the meeting and may be released upon request to third parties.*

*Members of the public are reminded that, in accordance with Section 6.16 of the Shire of York Local Government (Council Meetings) Local Law 2016, nobody shall use any visual or vocal recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of Council without the written permission of the Presiding Member.*

*I wish to draw attention to the Disclaimer Notice contained within the agenda document and advise members of the public that any decisions made at the meeting today can be revoked in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996. Therefore, members of the public should not rely on any decisions until formal notification in writing from the Shire has been received.*

*Any plans or documents in agendas and minutes may be subject to copyright. The express permission of the copyright owner must be obtained before copying any copyright material.”*

1.3 Standing Orders

*Nil*

1.4 Announcement of Visitors

*Nil*

1.5 Declarations of Proximity Interest

*Nil*

1.6 Declaration of Financial Interests

*Nil*

## 1.7 Disclosure of Interests that May Affect Impartiality

*Nil*

**2 ATTENDANCE**

## 2.1 Members

*Cr Chris Gibbs, Shire President; Cr Denese Smythe, Deputy Shire President*

*Cr Elaine Ashford; Cr Monique Hutchinson; Cr Kevin Pyke; Cr Kevin Trent (from 4.04pm);  
Cr Melissa Welsh*

## 2.2 Staff

*Alina Behan, Temporary Chief Executive Officer; Anneke Birlson, Acting Executive  
Manager Corporate & Community Services; Vanessa Green, Council & Executive Support  
Officer*

## 2.3 Apologies

*Nil*

## 2.4 Leave of Absence Previously Approved

*Nil*

## 2.5 Number of People in the Gallery at Commencement of Meeting

*There were zero (0) people in the Gallery at the commencement of the meeting.*

**3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Public Question Time is conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulations. In addition to this the Shire's *Local Government (Council Meetings) Local Law 2016* states:

**6.7 Other procedures for question time for the public**

- (1) A member of the public who wishes to ask a question during question time must identify themselves and register with a Council Officer immediately prior to the meeting.
- (2) A question may be taken on notice by the Council for later response.
- (3) When a question is taken on notice the CEO is to ensure that—
  - (a) a response is given to the member of the public in writing; and
  - (b) a summary of the response is included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Council.
- (4) Where a question relating to a matter in which a relevant person has an interest is directed to the relevant person, the relevant person is to—
  - (a) declare that he or she has an interest in the matter; and
  - (b) allow another person to respond to the question.
- (5) Each member of the public with a question is entitled to ask up to 2 questions before other members of the public will be invited to ask their questions.
- (6) Where a member of the public provides written questions then the Presiding Member may elect for the questions to be responded to as normal business correspondence.

- (7) The Presiding Member may decide that a public question shall not be responded to where—
- (a) the same or similar question was asked at a previous meeting, a response was provided and the member of the public is directed to the minutes of the meeting at which the response was provided;
  - (b) the member of the public uses public question time to make a statement, provided that the Presiding Member has taken all reasonable steps to assist the member of the public to phrase the statement as a question; or
  - (c) the member of the public asks a question that is offensive or defamatory in nature, provided that the Presiding Member has taken all reasonable steps to assist the member of the public to phrase the question in a manner that is not offensive or defamatory.
- (8) A member of the public shall have 2 minutes to submit a question.
- (9) The Council, by resolution, may agree to extend public question time.
- (10) Where any questions remain unasked at the end of public question time they may be submitted to the CEO who will reply in writing and include the questions and answers in the agenda for the next ordinary Council meeting.
- (11) Where an answer to a question is given at a meeting, a summary of the question and the answer is to be included in the minutes.

*Public Question Time commenced at 4.03pm.*

3.1 Written Questions – Current Agenda

*Nil*

3.2 Public Question Time

*Nil*

*As there were no questions, Public Question Time concluded at 4.03pm.*

**4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

*Nil*

**5 MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

5.1 Matters for which the Meeting may be closed

**RESOLUTION**

**010126**

**Moved: Cr Chris Gibbs**

**Seconded: Cr Denese Smythe**

**That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 5.23(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*:**

**SY001-01/26 - Confidential - Appointment of a Senior Officer - Executive Manager Infrastructure & Development Services**

**This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 5.23(2)a and c of the Local Government Act 1995, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with a matter affecting an employee or employees and a contract entered into, or which may be entered into, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting.**

**In Favour:** Crs Chris Gibbs, Denese Smythe, Elaine Ashford, Monique Hutchinson, Kevin Pyke and Melissa Welsh

**Against:** Nil

**CARRIED 6/0**

*The doors were closed at 4.04pm.*

*At 4:04pm, Cr Kevin Trent entered the meeting.*

**SY001-01/26 - CONFIDENTIAL - APPOINTMENT OF A SENIOR OFFICER - EXECUTIVE MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**RESOLUTION**

**020126**

**Moved:** Cr Denese Smythe

**Seconded:** Cr Melissa Welsh

**That, with regards to the Appointment of a Senior Officer - Executive Manager Infrastructure & Development Services, in accordance with Section 5.37(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council:**

- 1. Accepts the recommendation from the Temporary Chief Executive Officer contained in the Recruitment Report, as presented in confidential Appendix 1, regarding the employment of the Executive Manager Infrastructure & Development Services as a Designated Senior Officer.**
- 2. Notes that the Temporary Chief Executive Officer will negotiate the terms and sign the contract with the preferred candidate which is aligned to the conditions advertised. A contract term of three (3) years will be offered.**

**In Favour:** Crs Chris Gibbs, Denese Smythe, Elaine Ashford, Monique Hutchinson, Kevin Pyke, Kevin Trent and Melissa Welsh

**Against:** Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

**RESOLUTION**

**030126**

**Moved:** Cr Chris Gibbs

**Seconded:** Cr Denese Smythe

**That Council opens the meeting to the public at 4.12pm.**

**In Favour:** Crs Chris Gibbs, Denese Smythe, Elaine Ashford, Monique Hutchinson, Kevin Pyke, Kevin Trent and Melissa Welsh

**Against:** Nil

**CARRIED 7/0**

5.2 Public Reading of resolutions to be made public

*The Shire President read aloud the one (1) resolution made Behind Closed Doors for the purpose of the audio recording.*

**6 CLOSURE**

*The Shire President thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.13pm.*