



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

21 APRIL 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION
CENTRE (CAC)





MINUTES

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE (CAC), 47 COLE STREET,
SORELL ON 21 APRIL 2026

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MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
21 APRIL 2026

The meeting commenced at 6.03 pm.

AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

I would like to advise that an audio-visual recording is being made of this meeting. I also remind everyone present to be respectful and considerate towards others attending the meeting. Language or behaviour that could be perceived as offensive, defamatory, or threatening to any person attending the meeting, or to those listening to the recording, will not be tolerated.

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – MAYOR GATEHOUSE

[^](#)

I would like to begin by paying respect to the traditional and original owners of this land the Mumirimina people, to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are custodians of this land.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

[^](#)

Mayor J Gatehouse
Deputy Mayor M Larkins
Councillor M Miró Quesada Le Roux
Councillor B Nichols
Councillor M Reed
Councillor N Reynolds
Councillor B Shaw
Chief Executive Officer R Higgins
General Manager Operations J Hinchin

3.0 APOLOGIES

[^](#)

Councillor S Campbell
Councillor C Torenus

4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

[^](#)

The Mayor requested any Councillors to indicate whether they had, or were likely to have, an interest in any item on the agenda.

No Councillor indicated they had, or were likely to have interest in any items on the agenda.



5.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 17 MARCH 2026



RECOMMENDATION

"That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 March 2026 be confirmed."

43/2026 NICHOLS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

6.0 MAYOR'S REPORT



RECOMMENDATION

"That the Mayor's communication report as listed be received."

44/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.



7.0 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS



RECOMMENDATION

"That the Council resolve by absolute majority to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the CEO in accordance with the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*."

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 10 (7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025*, the Council by absolute majority may approve the consideration of a matter not appearing on the agenda, where the CEO has reported:

- a) The reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda; and
- b) That the matter is urgent; and
- c) That advice has been provided under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.



8.0 COUNCIL WORKSHOPS REPORT

△
The following Council Workshop was held:

Date	Purpose	Councillor Attendance	Councillor Apologies
31 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised 10 year Capital Program for new / upgrade projects (as part of FY 26/27 budget prep and LTFP review) • Draft Fees & Charges 26/27 • Councillor reps sought for Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee • New planning / sub applications and advertised applications – Councillor notification process • Update on fuel and civil contracting / supply cost impacts • LGAT General Meeting 10th April • First Home Buyers Supply Program – Federal funding submission update • Councillor Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dunalley Marina ○ Sorell Business Association and Peter Kenyan Report ○ Community Precinct project update ○ LG reform update and caretaker period impacts ie. SB Structure Plan ○ LGAT Service Award nominations ○ LGAT potential motions on advocacy / reform ○ Policy Updates ○ Registration to work with vulnerable people proposal – update 	Mayor J Gatehouse Deputy Mayor M Larkins Councillor B Nichols Councillor M Reed Councillor N Reynolds Councillor C Torenius	Councillor B Shaw Councillor S Campbell Councillor M Miró Quesada Le Roux

9.0 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

△
Nil

10.0 COUNCILLOR MOTIONS ON NOTICE

△
Nil



11.0 WORKGROUP REPORTS



RECOMMENDATION

"That the workgroup reports as listed be received."

45/2026 LARKINS/REED

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

Councillor Reed congratulated the Community Relations Team on engagement activities.

12.0 PETITIONS STILL BEING ACTIONED



Petition	Tabled at Council Meeting	Status
Withdrawal of the Blue Lagoon Draft Management Plan	18 th July 2023 ordinary Council meeting – S.58(2) LGA 1993.	<p>Council laid the matter on the table for further consultancy on review and options assessment for stormwater management at Blue Lagoon. Variation to the operating budget approved at August 2023 Council meeting to facilitate this - \$50k.</p> <p>Final consultant reports received April 2024.</p> <p>Council staff continue to progress matters with Red Handfish research team (NHRT) in first instance through exchange of consultant reports, development of an interim water level management SOP and ongoing engagement prior to determining further actions.</p> <p>Exchange of all project materials expanded to relevant state and federal agencies.</p> <p>Engagement with NRM EAG has also occurred.</p> <p>Alternative permanent outfall design exiting at Boat Ramp underway. Detailed LIDAR survey and tidal level data indicate drain grade and tidal inundation limitations. Alternate approaches being investigated between Council and consultant. Two options completed. Original</p>



		<p>concept via Kannah and Boat Park to ramp most feasible / least cost. Revised PM Plan required to finalise planning, required budget and impacts of associated maintenance works of lagoon as per mechanical cumbungi removal.</p> <p>Preferred design concept to be distributed for community engagement then Reserve Management Plan update and completion and revised EPBC process to be undertaken concurrently to meet CERMP project funding timing commitment.</p>
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13.0 PETITIONS RECEIVED



At the time of preparation of this agenda no petitions had been received.

14.0 LAND USE PLANNING



The Mayor advised in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 Regulation 29 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, the intention of the Council to act as a planning authority pursuant to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* is to be noted.

In accordance with Regulation 29, the Council will act as a planning authority in respect to those matters appearing under item 14 on this agenda, inclusive of any supplementary items.

14.1 SORELL PLANNING AUTHORITY MINUTES



RECOMMENDATION

"That the minutes of the Sorell Planning Authority ("SPA") Meeting of 14 April 2026 be noted."

46/2026 REED/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.



15.0 GOVERNANCE

△
Nil reports.

16.0 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

△
Nil reports.

17.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

17.1 △ HIRE FEES FOR YOUTH HUB

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolves to endorse the proposed hire rates for the Youth Hub at 11 Fitzroy Street, Sorell as outlined in this report."

47/2026 LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

18.0 FINANCE

△

18.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINANCIAL REPORT MARCH 2026 YTD

RECOMMENDATION

"That the Executive Summary – FINANCIAL REPORT MARCH 2026 YEAR-TO-DATE be received and noted by Council."

48/2026 NICHOLS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw



Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

Councillor Shaw congratulated CEO & Staff for Council's strong financial position.

18.2 2025-2026 CAPITAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council resolve pursuant to Section 82 of the Local Government Act 1993 to accept and adopt the below adjustments to the 2025/2026 Capital Budget estimates."

49/2026 REED/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

19.0 PLANNING

△
Nil Reports.

20.0 HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE

△
Nil Reports.

21.0 ROADS AND STORMWATER

△
Nil Reports.

22.0 FACILITIES AND RECREATION

△
Nil Reports.



23.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

△

In accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, Council will conduct a Public Question Time.

At each meeting the Mayor will invite those members of the public present to ask questions. When requested please:

- Stand up; and
- State clearly your name and address.

This time is allocated for questions from the public. Questions are to be kept brief and specific to the topic to which they relate.

Members of the public are reminded that questions and any answers to such questions are not to be debated.

Questions may be submitted to Council in writing at least seven (7) days before an ordinary Council meeting.

Sharon Fotheringham of Forcett questioned complaints about barking dogs. If Council attends to these in a certain time frame or just when they can? And does Council advise the complainant of the outcome?

The General Manager Operations advised the complainant is advised of the outcome and each one that is reported, is attended to within Council's Customer Service Charter and a copy of that charter can be provided. Sharon further asked with the resetting of electoral boundaries, has there been any obvious negative or positive effects on Sorell from this and did Council have any input? Will the outcome be different now compared to when first proposed?

The CEO advised the 4 south eastern Council Mayors put in a joint submission 10 years ago informed (in part) by the forecast growth in the South East which has subsequently been exceeded. Positive or negative outcomes are not yet known.

The Mayor advised the goal is still to build a healthy strong community with infrastructure regardless of electoral boundaries or elected members.

Eleanor Coombe of Midway Point asked for clarification about correspondence for her submitted question on notice regarding Flyaway Park for the next Council meeting, as she won't be able to attend.

The CEO advised that the question on notice response will be provided directly and that the project manager will also be in contact prior to the meeting.

Bob Brakey of Dunalley asked if the construction of the eastern end of the Dunalley pathway will be in the 26/27 budget.

The CEO advised it is in consideration for next year's capital projects but can't confirm as the draft budget has not yet been finalised.

Diedre Biggar of Dodges Ferry would like to know what's happening regarding her tree issue after seeing the meeting notice with the Crown Solicitor and the Public Trustee.

The Mayor advised Council don't know the outcome yet but, the meeting demonstrates staff are still working through the issues noting Council's position has not changed.

Gillian Williamson of Penna questioned what are Council's plans for improving the safety of pedestrians on the western part of Shark Point Road, Penna.

The CEO advised he was approached by residents in that area some years ago about the issue who similarly requested a path. It is currently not in consideration for next years budget, however, remains a listed project as part of Council's long-term planning but not one that has been factored into the financial modelling. These projects are currently being reviewed.

Debra Salter of Carlton asked when the consultation report for Ferry Hall will be ready and will there be an opportunity for community members to provide comments on it before it is accepted by Council.

The CEO advised he can take the question on notice and report back with further information.

The Mayor advised the feedback is currently being reviewed in preparation for the report with the General Manager Operations confirming the report will be shared but the date is not yet known.



24.0 CLOSED MEETING

△

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in his opinion the listing of agenda item/s:

Reference	Item
24.1	Confirmation of the Closed Council Minutes of the Council Meeting of 17 March 2026 – <i>Regulation 40(3)</i>
24.2	Disclosure of confidential information – <i>Regulation 17(7)</i>
24.3	Sorell Audit Panel Summary and Meeting Minutes February 2026 – <i>Regulation 17(2)(h)</i>

As prescribed items in accordance with Regulations 17 and 40 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, and therefore Council may by absolute majority determine to close the meeting to the general public.

RECOMMENDATION

“That the meeting be closed to the public to enable Council to consider agenda items 24.1 - 24.3 which are confidential matters as prescribed in Regulations 40 and 17 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025.”

50/2026 LARKINS/SHAW

“That the recommendation be accepted.”

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

The open meeting concluded at 7:07pm



CLOSED MEETING

Members are advised that items listed below in the CLOSED SESSION AGENDA are classified as CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

A Councillor must not discuss any item listed in a CLOSED SESSION AGENDA with any person (except another elected member, the General Manager or the author of a report to the closed session of Council or a Council Committee) without a specific resolution of the Council or a Council Committee that considered the report.

Section 338A (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that a Councillor must not disclose information:

- (a) seen or heard by the Councillor at a meeting or part of a meeting of a council or council committee that is closed to the public that is not authorised by the council or council committee to be disclosed; or*
- (b) given to the Councillor by the mayor, deputy mayor, chairperson of a meeting of the council or council committee or the general manager on the condition that it be kept confidential.*

Section 338A (3) states that a member must not disclose information acquired as such a member on the condition that it be kept confidential.

Additionally, Section 339 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that:

- (1) A councillor or a member must not make improper use of any information acquired as a councillor or member.*
- (3) Improper use of information includes using the information –*
 - (a) to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage or to avoid, directly or indirectly, a disadvantage for oneself, a member of one's family or a close associate; or*
 - (b) to cause any loss or damage to any council, controlling authority, single authority, joint authority or person.*



The closed meeting commenced at 7:08 pm.

24.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE CLOSED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 17 MARCH 2026

51/2026 [△]
REYNOLDS/LARKINS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

24.2 AUTHORISATION TO DISCLOSE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

52/2026 [△]
LARKINS/NICHOLS

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

24.3 SORELL AUDIT PANEL SUMMARY AND MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2026

53/2026 **NICHOLS/REED**

"That the recommendation be accepted."

The motion was put.

For: Gatehouse, Reed, Nichols, Larkins, Miro Quesada, Reynolds, Shaw

Against:

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

The closed meeting concluded at 7:12 pm.



25.0 ACRONYMS



AGM	Annual General Meeting
AFL	Australian Football League
AIR	Australian Immunisation Register
ASU	Australian Services Union
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWTS	Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems
BEST	Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania
CAC	Community Administration Centre
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLRS	Councillors
CRM	Customer Request Management
CRDSJA	Copping Refuse Disposal Site Joint Authority
DEDTA	Department Economic Development, Tourism & The Arts
DECYP	Department for Education, Children and Young People
DPAC	Department of Premier & Cabinet
DPFEM	Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
DSG	Department of State Growth
DST	Destination Southern Tasmania
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
EOI	Expressions of Interest
EOFY	End of Financial Year
EPA	Environment Permit Authority
EWaste	Electronic Waste
FMAC	Fire Management Assessment Committee
GM	General Manager
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
LPS	Local Provisions Schedule
LTFP	Long Term Financial Plan
MAST	Marine & Safety Tasmania
MEMC	Municipal Emergency Management Committee
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RTI	Right to Information
SBIP	School Based Immunisation Program
SEI	South East Irrigation
SERDA	South East Region Development Association
SES	State Emergency Service
SPA	Sorell Planning Authority
STCA	Southern Tasmanian Councils Association
STRWA	Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority
STRLUS	Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy
SWSA	Southern Waste Strategy Association
SWS	Southern Waste Solutions
TasCAT	Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
TAO	Tasmanian Audit Office



MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

21 APRIL 2026