

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995



SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK

STANDING ORDERS LOCAL LAW 2015

(Amended by the Standing Orders Amendment Local Law 2016)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1 – Preliminary

- 1.1 Citation
- 1.2 Application
- 1.3 Interpretation

Part 2 - Calling meetings

- 2.1 Calling Council meetings
- 2.2 Calling committee meetings
- 2.3 Notice of special council meetings
- 2.4 Failure to receive notice not to invalidate proceedings
- 2.5 Late Reports

Part 3 - Business of the meeting

- 3.1 Business to be specified on notice paper
- 3.2 Order of business
- 3.3 Leave of absence
- 3.4 Public question time
- 3.5 Petitions
- 3.6 Confirmation of minutes
- 3.7 Announcements by the person presiding without discussion
- 3.8 Matters for which meeting may be closed
- 3.9 Motions of which previous notice has been given
- 3.10 Questions by members of which due notice has been given.
- 3.11 Urgent business approved by the person presiding or by decision
- 3.12 Deputations

Part 4 - Public access to agenda material

- 4.1 Inspection entitlement
- 4.2 Confidentiality of information withheld

Part 5 - Disclosure of interests

- 5.1 Disclosure of member's interests
- 5.2 Meeting to be informed of disclosures
- 5.3 Disclosure of interest in matter raised without notice
- 5.4 Separation of committee recommendations
- 5.5 Member with an interest may ask to be present
- 5.6 Member with an interest may ask permission to participate
- 5.7 Invitation to return to provide information
- 5.8 Disclosures by employees

Part 6 - Quorum

- 6.1 Quorum to be present
- 6.2 Loss of quorum during a meeting

Part 7 - Keeping of minutes

- 7.1 Content of minutes
- 7.2 Preservation of minutes

Part 8 - Conduct of persons at Council and committee meetings

- 8.1 Official titles
- 8.2 Leaving meetings
- 8.3 Adverse reflection
- 8.4 Recording of proceedings
- 8.5 Distinguished visitors
- 8.6 Prevention of disturbance by members of the public

Part 9 - Conduct of members during debate

- 9.1 Members to indicate desire to speak
- 9.2 Priority
- 9.3 The person presiding to take part in debates
- 9.4 Relevance
- 9.5 Limitation of number of speeches
- 9.6 Limitation of Duration of Speeches
- 9.7 Members not to speak after conclusion of debate
- 9.8 Members not to interrupt
- 9.9 Re-opening discussion on decisions

Part 10 - Procedures for debate of motions

- 10.1 Motions to be stated
- 10.2 Motions to be supported
- 10.3 Unopposed business
- 10.4 Only one substantive motion considered
- 10.5 Breaking down of complex questions
- 10.6 Order of call in debate
- 10.7 Limit of debate
- 10.8 Member may require questions to be read
- 10.9 Consent of seconder required to accept alteration of wording
- 10.10 Order of amendments
- 10.11 Amendments must not negate original motion
- 10.12 Mover of motion not to speak on amendment
- 10.13 Substantive motion
- 10.14 Withdrawal of motion and amendments
- 10.15 Limitation of withdrawal
- 10.16 Personal explanation
- 10.17 Personal explanation - when heard
- 10.18 Ruling on questions of personal explanation
- 10.19 Right of reply

10.20 Right of reply provisions

Part 11 - Procedural motions

- 11.1 Permissible procedural motions
- 11.2 No debate on procedural motions
- 11.3 Procedural motions - closing debate - who may move
- 11.4 Procedural Motions - right of reply on substantive motion

Part 12 - Effect of procedural motions

- 12.1 Council (or committee) to proceed to the next business - effect of motion
- 12.2 Question to be adjourned - effect of motion
- 12.3 Council (or committee) to now adjourn - effect of motion
- 12.4 Question to be put - effect of motion
- 12.5 Member to be no longer heard - effect of motion
- 12.6 Ruling of the person presiding disagreed with - effect of motion
- 12.7 Council (or committee) to meet behind closed doors - effect of motion

Part 13 - Making decisions

- 13.1 Question - when put
- 13.2 Question - method of putting

Part 14 - Implementing decisions

- 14.1 Implementation of a decision

Part 15 - Preserving order

- 15.1 The person presiding to preserve order
- 15.2 Points of order - when to raise - procedure
- 15.3 Points of order - when valid
- 15.4 Points Of order - ruling
- 15.5 Points of order - ruling conclusive, unless dissent motion is moved
- 15.6 Points of order take precedence
- 15.7 Precedence of person presiding
- 15.8 Right of the person presiding to adjourn without explanation to regain order

Part 16 - Adjournment of meeting

- 16.1 Meeting may be adjourned
- 16.2 Limit to moving adjournment
- 16.3 Unopposed business - motion for adjournment
- 16.4 Withdrawal of motion for adjournment
- 16.5 Time to which adjourned

Part 17 - Committees of the Council

- 17.1 Establishment and appointment of committees
- 17.2 Appointment of deputy committee members
- 17.3 Presentation of committee reports

- 17.4 Reports of committees - questions
- 17.5 Permissible motions on recommendation from committee
- 17.6 Local law applies to committees

Part 18 - Administrative matters

- 18.1 Suspension of local laws
- 18.2 Cases not provided for in this Local Law
- 18.3 Enforcement

Part 19 - Common seal

- 19.1 The Council's common seal

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

SHIRE OF HALLS CREEK STANDING ORDERS LOCAL LAW 2016

Under the powers conferred by the *Local Government Act 1995* and under all other powers enabling it, the Council of the Shire of Halls Creek resolved on 18 February 2016 to make the following local law.

Part 1 - Preliminary

1.1 Citation

- (1) This Local Law may be cited as the Shire of Halls Creek Standing Orders Local Law 2016.

1.2 Application

All meetings of the Council and its committees, meetings of electors and other matters as prescribed are to be conducted in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and this local law.

1.3 Interpretation

- (1) In this local law unless the context otherwise requires –

“Act” means the *Local Government Act 1995* (as amended);

“Chamber” means the Meeting Room known as the Council Chamber;

“CEO” means the Chief Executive Officer for the time being of the Shire of Halls Creek;

“committee” means a committee of the Council;

“Council” means the Council of the Shire of Halls Creek;

“councillor” means a person who holds the office of Councillor on the Council;

“employee” means a person employed by the Shire in accordance with the Act;

“local government” means the Shire of Halls Creek;

“member” means the President, Deputy President or a councillor and includes, in the case of a committee, a member of the committee who is not the President, Deputy President or a councillor;

“person presiding” means-

- (a) in reference to a Council meeting the person who presides at the Council meeting in accordance with section 5.6 of the Act; and

- (b) in reference to a committee, the presiding member.

“Presiding member” means the presiding member of a committee or the deputy presiding member, or a member of the committee when performing a function of the presiding member in accordance with the Act;

“Regulations” means the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*;

“Simple Majority” is more than 50% of the members present and voting;

“substantive motion” means an original motion or an original motion as amended, but does not include an amendment or a procedural motion.

- (2) Unless otherwise defined herein the terms and expressions used in this local law are to have the meaning given to them in the Act and Regulations.

Part 2 - Calling meetings

2.1 Calling Council meetings

The calling of Council Meetings is dealt with in the Act.

2.2 Calling Committee meetings

- (1) An ordinary or special meeting of a committee is to be held –
 - (a) if called for in a verbal or written request to the CEO by the presiding member of the committee, setting out the date and purpose of the proposed meeting;
 - (b) if called for by at least 1/3 of the members of the committee in a notice to the CEO, setting out the date and purpose of the proposed meeting; or
 - (c) if so decided by the Council, the committee or the CEO.
- (2) An ordinary meeting of the committee is for the purpose of considering and dealing with the ordinary business of the Council or committee.
- (3) A special meeting of the committee is held for the purpose of considering and dealing with Council or committee business that is urgent, complex in nature, for a particular purpose or confidential.

2.3 Notice of Special Council meetings

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), the CEO is to convene a special meeting of the Council by giving each Council member at least 72 hours' notice of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting.
- (2) Where there is a need to meet urgently, in the opinion of the President, the CEO may give a lesser period of notice of a special meeting than mentioned in subclause (1).

2.4 Failure to receive notice not to invalidate proceedings

Failure to receive notice of meeting, called in accordance with the Act, shall not affect the validity of any meeting provided reasonable steps have been taken to serve such notice.

2.5 Late reports

In cases of urgency or other special circumstances a report by the CEO may, with the consent of the Presiding Member, be read or otherwise given to members at the meeting if it has not previously been sent to members.

Part 3 - Business of the meeting

3.1 Business to be specified on notice paper

- (1) No business is to be transacted at any ordinary meeting of the Council other than that specified in the agenda, without the approval of the person presiding or a decision of the Council.
- (2) No business is to be transacted at a special meeting of the Council other than that given in the notice as the purpose of the meeting.
- (3) No business is to be transacted at a committee meeting other than that specified in the agenda.
- (4) No business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting of the Council or a committee other than that –
 - (a) specified in the notice of the meeting which had been adjourned; and
 - (b) which remains unresolved;except in the case of an adjournment to the next ordinary meeting of the Council or the committee, when the business unresolved at the adjourned meeting is to have precedence at that ordinary meeting.

3.2 Order of business

- (1) The order of business at any ordinary and special council meetings of Council shall be as determined by the President and CEO from time to time.
- (2) Unless otherwise decided by the members present, by resolution, the order of business at any special meeting of the Council or at a committee meeting is to be the

order in which that business stands in the agenda of the meeting.

(3) Notwithstanding subclauses (1) and (2) in the order of business for any meeting of the Council or a committee, the provisions of the Act and Regulations relating to the time at which public question time is to be held are to be observed.

(4) Notwithstanding subclause (1), the CEO may include on the agenda of a Council or committee meeting in an appropriate place within the order of business any matter which must be decided, or which he or she considers is appropriately decided, by that meeting.

3.3 Leave of absence

Leave of absence is dealt with in the Act.

3.4 Public question time

(1) For a member of the public to have their question recorded in the minutes they must be present at the meeting and announce their question, otherwise their question will be processed administratively by the CEO in due course.

(2) A member of the public who raises a question during public question time, is to state his or her name and address.

(3) A question may be taken on notice by the Council or committee for a later response.

(4) 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 Council or committee as the case requires.

(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) The person presiding may decide that a question shall not be responded to where–

- (a) the same or similar question was asked at a previous meeting and a response was provided, in which case the member of the public will be directed to the relevant minutes of that meeting;
- (b) the member of the public uses public question time to make a statement, provided that the person presiding 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 person presiding has taken all reasonable steps to assist the member of the public to phrase the question in a manner that it not offensive or defamatory.

(7) The Council or committee, by resolution may agree to extend public question time.

(8) 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.

3.5 Petitions

(1) A Petition, in order to be effective, is to –

- (a) be addressed to the President of the Shire of Halls Creek;
- (b) be made by residents and/or electors of the district;
- (c) state the request on each page of the petition;
- (d) contain the names, addresses and signatures of the residents and/or electors making the request, and the date each resident and/or elector signed;
- (e) contain a summary of the reasons for the request;
- (f) state the name of the person upon whom, and an address at which, notice to the petitioners can be given;
- (g) be in the form prescribed by the Act and *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998* if it is –
 - (i) a proposal to change the method of filling the office of President;

- (ii) a submission about changes to wards, the name of a district or ward or the number of councillors for a district or ward.
- (h) not contain any language that is disrespectful to the Council or likely to be defamatory to any person
- (2) A member of the Council presenting a petition shall be limited to presenting the following information –
 - (a) a statement from the parties from whom it comes;
 - (b) the number of signatures attached to it;
 - (c) the material issues contained in it; and
 - (d) the reading of the preamble to the petition.

3.6 Confirmation of minutes

- (1) When minutes of a meeting are submitted to an ordinary meeting of the Council or committee for confirmation, if a member is dissatisfied with the accuracy of the minutes, then he or she is to –
 - (a) state the item or items with which he or she is dissatisfied; and
 - (b) propose a motion clearly outlining the alternative wording to amend the minutes.
- (2) Discussion of any minutes, other than discussion as to their accuracy as a record of the proceedings, is not permitted.

3.7 Announcements by the person presiding without discussion

At any meeting of the Council or a committee the person presiding may announce or raise any matter of interest or relevance to the business of the Council or committee.

3.8 Matters for which meeting may be closed

For the convenience of members of the public, the Council or committee may identify by decision, early in the meeting, any matter on the agenda of the meeting to be discussed behind closed doors, and that matter is to be deferred for consideration as the last item of the meeting.

3.9 Motions of which previous notice has been given

- (1) Unless the Act, Regulations or local law otherwise provide, a member may raise at a meeting such business as he or she considers appropriate, in the form of a motion, of which notice has been given in writing to the CEO.
- (2) A notice of motion under subclause (1) is to be given at least four (4) clear working days before the meeting at which the motion is moved.
- (3) A notice of motion is to relate to the good government of persons in the district.
- (4) The CEO –
 - (a) with the concurrence of the President, may exclude from the notice paper any notice of motion if the inclusion of the motion would be contrary to a provision of this local law.
 - (b) may on his or her own initiative make such amendments to the form but not the substance thereof as will bring the notice of motion into due form; and
 - (c) may under his or her name provide relevant and material facts and circumstances pertaining to the notice of motion on such matters as policy, budget and law.
- (5) No notice of motion is to be out of order because the policy involved is considered to be objectionable.
- (6) A motion of which notice has been given is to lapse unless –
 - (a) the member who gave notice thereof, or some other member authorised by him or her in writing moves the motion when called on; or
 - (b) the Council on a motion agrees to defer consideration of the motion to a later

stage or date.

(7) If a notice of motion is given and lapses in the circumstances referred to in subclause (6)(a), notice of motion in the same terms or the same effect is not to be given again for at least 3 months from the date of such lapse.

3.10 Questions by members of which due notice has been given

(1) A question on notice is to be given by a member in writing to the CEO at least four (4) clear working days before the meeting at which it is raised.

(2) If the question referred to in subclause (1) is in order, the answer is, so far as is practicable, to be included in written form in the agenda of the meeting, or otherwise tabled at that meeting.

3.11 Urgent business approved by the person presiding or by decision

(1) In cases of extreme urgency or other special circumstances, matters may, on a motion by the Presiding Member that is carried by the meeting, be raised without notice and decided by the meeting.

(2) In subclause (1), 'cases of extreme urgency or other special circumstances' means matters that have arisen after the preparation of the agenda that are considered by the Presiding Member to be of such importance and urgency that they are unable to be dealt with administratively by the Local Government and must be considered and dealt with by the Council before the next meeting.

3.12 Deputations

(1) A deputation wishing to be received by the Council or a committee is to apply in writing to the CEO who is to forward the written request to the President, or the Presiding Member as the case may be.

(2) The President, if the request is to attend a Council meeting, or the presiding member of the committee if the request is to attend a meeting of a committee, may either –

- (a) approve the request, in which event the CEO is to invite the deputation to attend a meeting of the Council or committee as the case may be; or
- (b) instruct the CEO to refer the request to the Council or committee to decide by simple majority whether or not to receive the deputation.

(3) A deputation invited to attend a Council or committee meeting –

- (a) is not to exceed five persons, only two of whom may address the Council or committee, although others may respond to specific questions from the members; and
- (b) is not to address the Council or the committee for a period exceeding 15 minutes without the agreement of the Council or the committee as the case requires.

(4) Any matter which is the subject of a deputation to the Council or a committee is not to be decided by the Council or that committee until the deputation has completed its presentation.

Part 4 - Public access to agenda material

4.1 Inspection entitlement

Members of the public have access to agenda material in the terms set out in the Regulations.

4.2 Confidentiality of information withheld

(1) Information withheld by the CEO from members of the public under Regulation 14.2,

of the Regulations, is to be –

- (a) identified in the agenda of a Council or committee meeting under the item “Matters for which meeting may be closed”; and
- (b) marked “confidential” in the agenda.

(2) A member in receipt of confidential information is not to disclose such information except to the extent permitted by Regulation 6(3) of the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007*.

Part 5 - Disclosure of interests

5.1 Disclosure of member's Interests

The disclosure of interests by members is dealt with in the Act.

5.2 Meeting to be informed of disclosures

Procedures for informing the meeting of disclosures is dealt with in the Act.

5.3 Disclosure of interest in matter raised without notice

If a member has an interest in a matter raised by way of amendment or a motion or an interest in a matter raised otherwise without notice, the member is to declare that interest at the earliest possible time and before the commencement of any consideration, discussion or voting on the matter takes place.

5.4 Separation of committee recommendations

Where a member has disclosed an interest in a matter, at a committee meeting, and the matter is contained in the recommendations of the committee to an ordinary meeting of Council or to another committee meeting that will be attended by the member, the recommendation concerned is to be separated on the agenda of that ordinary meeting or other committee meeting, from other recommendations of the committee, to enable the member concerned to declare the interest and leave the room prior to consideration of that matter only.

5.5 Member with an interest may ask to be present

(1) Where a member has disclosed the nature of his or her interest in a matter, immediately before the matter is considered by the meeting, he or she may, without disclosing the extent of the interest, request that he or she be allowed to be present during any discussion or decision making procedure related to the matter.

(2) If such a request is made, the member is to leave the room while the request is considered. If the request is allowed by the members, the member may return to the meeting and be present during the discussion or decision making procedure related to that matter, but is not permitted to participate in any way.

5.6 Member with an Interest may ask permission to participate

(1) A member who discloses both the nature and extent of an interest may request permission to take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter, or to vote on the matter.

(2) If such a request is made, the member is to leave the room while the request is considered. If it is decided at a meeting that a member who has disclosed both the nature and extent of an interest in a matter, be permitted to participate in the consideration and discussion of the matter or to vote on the matter, or both, then the member may return to participate to the extent permitted.

5.7 Invitation to return to provide information

Where a member has disclosed an interest in a matter and has left the room in

accordance with the Act, the meeting may resolve to invite the member to return to provide information in respect of the matter or in respect of the member's interest in the matter and in such case the member is to withdraw after providing the information.

5.8 Disclosures by employees

- (1) If an employee within the meaning of section 5.70 of the Act, presents a written report to a meeting, on a matter in which the employee has an interest, the nature of the interest is to be disclosed at the commencement of the report.
- (2) If such an employee makes a verbal report to a meeting in which the employee has an interest, the employee is to preface his or her advice to the meeting by verbally disclosing the nature of the interest.

Part 6 - Quorum

6.1 Quorum to be present

- (1) The quorum for meetings is dealt with in the Act.
- (2) The Council or a committee is not to transact business at a meeting unless a quorum is present.

6.2 Loss of quorum during a meeting

- (1) If at any time during the course of a meeting of the Council or a committee a quorum is not present –
 - (a) in relation to a particular matter because of a member or members leaving the meeting after disclosing a financial interest, the matter is adjourned until either –
 - (i) a quorum is present to decide the matter; or
 - (ii) the Minister allows a disclosing member or members to preside at the meeting or to participate in discussions or the decision making procedures relating to the matter under section 5.69 of the Act; or
 - (b) because of a member or members leaving the meeting for reasons other than disclosure of a financial interest, the person presiding is to suspend the proceedings of the meeting for a period of five minutes, and if a quorum is not present at the end of that time, the meeting is deemed to have been adjourned and the person presiding is to reschedule it to some future time or date having regard to the period of notice which needs to be given under the Act, Regulations, or this local law when calling a meeting of that type.
- (2) Where debate on a motion is interrupted by an adjournment under subclause (1)(b) –
 - (a) the debate is to be resumed at the next meeting at the point where it was so interrupted; and
 - (b) in the case of a Council meeting –
 - (i) the names of members who have spoken on the matter prior to the adjournment are to be recorded in the minutes; and
 - (ii) the provisions of clause 9.5 apply when the debate is resumed.

Part 7 - Keeping of minutes

7.1 Content of minutes

In addition to the matters contained in the Regulations, the content of minutes of a meeting of the Council or a committee is to include, where an application for approval is declined or the authorisation of a licence, permit, or certificate is otherwise withheld or cancelled, the reasons for the decision.

7.2 Preservation of minutes

Minutes including the agenda of each Council and committee meeting are to be kept as a

permanent record of the activities of the Shire and are to be dealt with in accordance with other relevant statutes.

Part 8 - Conduct of persons at Council and committee meetings

8.1 Official titles

- (1) Members are to speak of each other in the Council or committee by their respective titles of President, councillor or member.
- (2) Members in speaking of or addressing employees are to designate them by their respective official titles.

8.2 Leaving meetings

During the course of a meeting of the council or a committee no member is to enter or leave the meeting without first advising the person presiding, in order to facilitate the recording in the minutes of the time of entry or departure.

8.3 Adverse reflection

- (1) A Member is not to:
 - (a) reflect adversely on the character or actions of another Member or local government employee; or
 - (b) use offensive expressions in reference to any Member, local government employee or other person,unless the meeting resolves, without debate, that the question then before the meeting cannot otherwise be adequately considered.

- (2) If a Member specifically requests, immediately after their use, that any particular words used by a Member be recorded in the minutes, the person presiding is to cause the words used to be taken down and read to the meeting for verification and to then be recorded in the minutes.

8.4 Recording of proceedings

- (1) No person is to use any electronic, visual or audio recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of the Council or a committee without the written permission of the Council.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply if the record is taken by or at the direction of the CEO, with the permission of the Council or committee.

8.5 Distinguished visitors

If a distinguished visitor is present at a meeting of the Council or a committee, the person presiding may invite such person to sit beside the person presiding and will acknowledge the presence of the distinguished visitor.

8.6 Prevention of disturbance by members of the public

- (1) A reference to this clause to a person is of a person other than a member.
- (2) Any member of the public addressing the Council or the committee is to extend due courtesy and respect to the Council or committee and the processes under which they operate and must take direction from the person presiding whenever called upon to do so.
- (3) No person observing a meeting is to create a disturbance at a meeting, by interrupting or interfering with the proceedings, whether by expressing approval or dissent, by conversing or by any other means.
- (4) A person shall ensure that his or her mobile telephone or audible pager is not

switched on or used during any meeting of the Council.

(5) In the event of any such interruption –

- (a) the person presiding may use discretion and without a vote, require the person or persons interrupting to immediately leave the chamber or meeting room; and
- (b) this direction may not be challenged by moving dissent with the ruling; and

(6) Any person who being ordered to leave the chamber or meeting room fails to do so may, by order of the person presiding be removed from the chamber or meeting room.

Part 9 - Conduct of members during debate

9.1 Members to indicate desire to speak

(1) Every member wishing to speak is to indicate by show of hands or other method agreed upon by Council or committee.

(2) When invited, members are to address the Council or committee through the person presiding.

9.2 Priority

In the event of two or more members of the Council or a committee wishing to speak at the same time, the person presiding is to decide which member is entitled to be heard first. The decision is not open to discussion or dissent.

9.3 The person presiding to take part in debates

Unless otherwise prohibited by the Act, and subject to compliance with procedures for the debate of motions contained in this local law, the person presiding may take part in a discussion of any matter before the Council or committee as the case may be.

9.4 Relevance

Every member is to restrict his or her remarks to the motion or amendment under discussion, or to a personal explanation or point of order.

9.5 Limitation of number of speeches

No member of the Council is to address the Council more than once on any motion or amendment before the Council except –

- (a) the mover of a substantive motion to exercise a right to reply;
- (b) to raise a point of order,
- (c) to make a personal explanation; or
- (d) to ask a question.

9.6 Limitation of duration of speeches

All addresses are to be limited to a maximum of five minutes. Extension of time is permissible only with the agreement of a simple majority of members present.

9.7 Members not to speak after conclusion of debate

No member is to speak to any question after it has been put by the person presiding.

9.8 Members not to interrupt

No member is to interrupt another member whilst speaking unless –

- (a) to raise a point of order;
- (b) to call attention to the absence of a quorum;
- (c) to make a personal explanation under clause 10.16; or
- (d) to move a motion under clause 11(1)(e).

9.9 Re-opening discussion on decisions

No member is to re-open discussion on any decision of the Council or committee, except for the purpose of moving that the decision be revoked or changed.

Part 10 - Procedures for debate of motions

10.1 Motions to be stated

Any Member who moves a substantive motion or amendment to a substantive motion is to state its substance before addressing the other members thereon and if so required by the person presiding, shall put the motion or amendment in writing.

10.2 Motions to be supported

No motion or amendment to a substantive motion is open to debate until it has been seconded, or, in the case of a motion to revoke or change the decision made at a Council or committee meeting, unless the motion has the support required under the Regulations.

10.3 Unopposed business

(1) Upon a motion being moved and seconded, the person presiding may ask the meeting if any member opposes it.

(2) If no member signifies opposition to the motion the person presiding may declare the motion in subclause (1) carried without debate and without taking a vote on it.

(3) A motion carried under subclause (2) is to be recorded in the minutes as a unanimous decision of the Council or committee.

(4) If a member signifies opposition to a motion the motion is to be dealt with according to this Part.

(5) This clause does not apply to any motion or decision to revoke or change a decision which has been made at a Council or committee meeting.

10.4 Only one substantive motion considered

When a substantive motion is under debate at any meeting of the Council or a committee, no further substantive motion is to be accepted.

10.5 Breaking down of complex questions

The person presiding may order a complex question to be broken down and put in the form of several motions, which are to be put in sequence.

10.6 Order of call in debate

The person presiding is to call speakers to a substantive motion in the following order –

- (a) The mover to state the motion;
- (b) A seconder to the motion;
- (c) The mover to speak to the motion;
- (d) The seconder to speak to the motion;
- (e) A speaker against the motion;
- (f) A speaker for the motion;
- (g) Other speakers against and for the motion, alternating in view, if any;
- (h) Mover takes right of reply which closes debate.

10.7 Limit of debate

The person presiding may offer the right of reply and put the motion to the vote if he or she believes sufficient discussion has taken place even though all members may not have spoken.

10.8 Member may require questions to be read

Any member may require the question or matter under discussion to be read at any time during a debate, but not so as to interrupt any other member whilst speaking.

10.9 Consent of seconder required to accept alteration of wording

The mover of a substantive motion may not alter the wording of the motion without the consent of the seconder.

10.10 Order of amendments

Any number of amendments may be proposed to a motion, but when an amendment is moved to a substantive motion, no second or subsequent amendment is to be moved or considered until the first amendment has been withdrawn or lost.

10.11 Amendments must not negate original motion

No amendment to a motion can be moved which negates the original motion or the intent of the original motion.

10.12 Mover of motion not to speak on amendment

On an amendment being moved, any member may speak to the amendment, provided that if the person who moved the substantive motion does choose to speak to the amendment, the right of reply is forfeited by that person.

10.13 Substantive motion

If an amendment to a substantive motion is carried, the motion as amended then becomes the substantive motion, on which any member may speak and any further amendment may be moved.

10.14 Withdrawal of motion and amendments

Council or a committee may, without debate, grant leave to withdraw a motion or amendment upon request of the mover of the motion or amendment and with the approval of the seconder provided that there is no voice expressed to the contrary view by any member, in which case discussion on the motion or amendment is to continue.

10.15 Limitation of withdrawal

Where an amendment has been proposed to a substantive motion, the substantive motion is not to be withdrawn, except by consent of the majority of members present, until the amendment proposed has been withdrawn or lost.

10.16 Personal explanation

- (1) No member is to speak at any meeting of the Council or a committee, except upon the matter before the Council or committee, unless it is to make a personal explanation.
- (2) Any member who is permitted to speak under these circumstances is to confine the observations to a succinct statement relating to a specific part of the former speech which may have been misunderstood.
- (3) When a member makes a personal explanation, no reference is to be made to matters unnecessary for that purpose.

10.17 Personal explanation - when heard

A member wishing to make a personal explanation of matters referred to by any member then speaking, is entitled to be heard immediately, if the member then speaking consents at the time, but if the member who is speaking declines to give way, the explanation is to be offered at the conclusion of that speech.

10.18 Ruling on questions of personal explanation

The ruling of the person presiding on the admissibility of a personal explanation is final unless a motion of dissent with the ruling is moved before any other business proceeds.

10.19 Right of reply

(1) The mover of a substantive motion has the right of reply. After the mover of the substantive motion has commenced the reply, no other member is to speak on the question.

(2) The right of reply is to be confined to rebutting arguments raised by previous speakers and no new matter is to be introduced.

10.20 Right of reply provisions

The right of reply is governed by the following provisions –

- (a) if no amendment is moved to the substantive motion, the mover may reply at the conclusion of the discussion on the motion;
- (b) if an amendment is moved to the substantive motion the mover of the substantive motion is to take the right of reply at the conclusion of the vote on any amendments;
- (c) the mover of any amendment does not have a right of reply;
- (d) once the right of reply has been taken, there can be no further discussion, nor any other amendment and the original motion or the original motion as amended is immediately put to the vote.

Part 11 - Procedural motions

11.1 Permissible procedural motions

In addition to proposing a properly worded amendment to a substantive motion, it is permissible for a member to move the following procedural motions –

- (a) that the Council (or committee) proceed to the next business;
- (b) that the question be adjourned;
- (c) that the Council (or committee) now adjourn;
- (d) that the question be now put;
- (e) that the member be no longer heard;
- (f) that the ruling of the person presiding be disagreed with;
- (g) that the Council (or committee) meet behind closed doors, if the meeting or part of the meeting to which the motion relates is a matter in respect of which the meeting may be closed to members on the public under section 5.23 of the Act.
- (h) that a committee recommendation be referred back to the originating committee, or any other committee or a later Council meeting.

11.2 No debate on procedural motions

(1) The mover of a motion stated in each of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g) of clause 11.1 may speak to the motion for not more than five minutes, the seconder is not to speak other than to formally second the motion, and there is to be no debate on the motion.

(2) The mover of a motion stated in each of paragraphs (d) and (e) of clause 11.1 may not speak to the motion, the seconder is not to speak other than to formally second the motion, and there is to be no debate on the motion.

(3) The mover of a motion stated in paragraph (h) or clause 11.1 may speak to the motion for not more than five minutes; and

- (a) the seconder shall not speak other than to formally second the motion;
- (b) the presiding member of the committee concerned or in his or her absence a member thereof, may speak for not more than five minutes;

- (c) the mover of the amendment to the committee recommendation (if any) then before the presiding member of the committee may speak for not more than five minutes; and
- (d) in the event that no member has moved an amendment to the committee recommendation the presiding member may, in his or her absolute discretion allow one other member to speak against the re-committal motion for not more than five minutes.

but no other debate shall be allowed.

11.3 Procedural motions - closing debate - who may move

No member who has moved, seconded, or spoken for or against the substantive motion, or any amendment may move any procedural motion which, if carried, would close the debate on the substantive motion or amendment.

11.4 Procedural motions - right of reply on substantive motion

The carrying of a procedural motion which closes debate on the substantive motion or amendment and forces a decision on the substantive motion or amendment does not deny the right of reply to the mover of the substantive motion.

Part 12 - Effect of procedural motions

12.1 Council (or Committee) to proceed to the next business - effect of motion

The motion "that the Council (or committee) proceed to the next business", if carried, causes the debate to cease immediately and for the Council (or committee) to move to the next business of the meeting. No decision will be made on the substantive motion being discussed, nor is there any requirement for the matter to be again raised for consideration.

12.2 Question to be adjourned - effect of motion

- (1) The motion "that the question be adjourned", if carried, causes all debate on the substantive motion or amendment to cease but to continue at a time stated in the motion.
- (2) If the motion is carried at a meeting of the Council –
 - (a) the names of members who have spoken on the matter are to be recorded in the minutes; and
 - (b) the provisions of clause 9.5 apply when debate is resumed.

12.3 Council (or Committee) to now adjourn - effect of motion

- (1) The motion "that the Council (or committee) now adjourn", if carried, causes the meeting to stand adjourned until it is re-opened at which time the meeting continues from the point at which it was adjourned, unless the person presiding or a simple majority of members upon vote, determine otherwise.
- (2) Where debate on a motion is interrupted by an adjournment under subclause (1) –
 - (a) the debate is to be resumed at the next meeting at the point where it was so interrupted; and
 - (b) in the case of a Council meeting –
 - (i) the names of members who have spoken on the matter prior to the adjournment are to be recorded in the minutes; and
 - (ii) the provisions of clause 9.5 apply when the debate is resumed.

12.4 Question to be put - effect of motion

- (1) The motion "that the question be now put", if carried during discussion of a substantive motion without amendment, causes the person presiding to offer the right of

reply and then immediately put the matter under consideration without further debate.

(2) This motion, if carried during discussion of an amendment, causes the person presiding to put the amendment to the vote without further debate.

(3) This motion, if lost, causes debate to continue.

12.5 Member to be no longer heard - effect of motion

The motion "that the member be no longer heard", if carried, causes the person presiding to not allow the speaker against whom the motion has been moved to speak to the current substantive motion or any amendment relating to it, except to exercise the right of reply if the person is the mover of the substantive motion.

12.6 Ruling of the person presiding disagreed with - effect of motion

The motion "that the ruling of the person presiding be disagreed with", if carried, causes the ruling of the person presiding about which this motion was moved, to have no effect and for the meeting to proceed accordingly.

12.7 Council (or committee) to meet behind closed doors - effect of motion

(1) Subject to any deferral under clause 3.8 or other decision of the Council or committee, this motion, if carried, causes the general public and any officer or employee the Council or committee determines, to leave the room.

(2) While a decision made under this clause is in force the operation of clause 9.5 limiting the number of speeches a member may make, is suspended unless the Council decides otherwise.

(3) Upon the public again being admitted to the meeting the person presiding, unless the Council or committee decides otherwise, is to cause the motions passed by the Council or committee whilst it was proceeding behind closed doors to be read out including the vote of a member or members to be recorded in the minutes under section 5.21 of the Act.

(4) A member or an employee is not to publish, or make public any of the discussion taking place on a matter discussed behind closed doors, but this prohibition does not extend to the actual decision made as a result of such discussion and other information properly recorded in the minutes.

Part 13 - Making decisions

13.1 Question - when put

When the debate upon any question is concluded and the right of reply has been exercised the person presiding shall immediately put the question to the Council or the committee, and, if so desired by any member, shall again state it.

13.2 Question - method of putting

If a decision of the Council or a committee is unclear or in doubt, the person presiding shall put the motion or amendment as often as necessary to determine the decision from a show of hands or other method agreed upon so that no voter's vote is secret, before declaring the decision.

Part 14 - Implementing decisions

14.1 Implementation of a decision

(1) If a notice of motion to revoke or change a decision of the Council or a committee is received before any action has been taken to implement that decision, then no steps are to be taken to implement or give effect to that decision until such time as the motion of revocation or change has been dealt with, except that –

- (a) if a notice of motion to revoke or change a decision of the Council or a committee is given during the same meeting at which the decision was made, the notice of motion is of no effect unless the number of members required to support the motion under Regulation 10 of the Regulations indicate their support for the notice of motion at that meeting; and
- (b) if a notice of motion to revoke or change a decision of the Council or a committee is received after the closure of the meeting at which the decision was made, implementation of the decision is not to be withheld unless the notice of motion has the support in writing, of the number of members required to support the motion under Regulation 10 of the Regulations.

(2) Implementation of a decision is only to be withheld under subclause (1) if the effect of the change proposed in a notice of motion would be that the decision would be revoked or would become substantially different.

(3) The Council or a committee shall not vote on a motion to revoke or change a decision of the Council or committee whether the motion of revocation or change is moved with or without notice, if at the time the motion is moved or notice is given –

- (a) action has been taken to implement the decision; or
- (b) where the decision concerns the issue of an approval or the authorisation of a licence, permit or certificate has been put into effect by the local government in writing to the applicant or the applicant's agent by an employee authorised to do so;

without having considered a statement of impact prepared by or at the direction of the CEO of the legal and financial consequences of the proposed revocation or change.

Part 15 - Preserving order

15.1 The person presiding to preserve order

(1) The person presiding is to preserve order, and may call any member or other person in attendance to order, whenever, in his or her opinion, there is cause for so doing.

(2) Every member shall be entitled to direct the attention of the person presiding to any infraction of this local law by any other member.

(3) If a member persists in any conduct that the person presiding has ruled is out of order under clause 15.1, the person presiding may direct the member to refrain from taking any further part in the debate of that item, other than by voting, and the member must comply with that direction.

15.2 Points of order - when to raise - procedure

Upon a matter of order arising during the progress of a debate, any member may raise a point of order including interrupting the speaker. Any member who is speaking when a point of order is raised, is to immediately stop speaking while the person presiding listens to the point of order.

15.3 Points of order - when valid

The following are to be recognised as valid points of order –

- (a) that the discussion is of a matter not before the Council or committee;
- (b) that offensive or insulting language is being used;
- (c) drawing attention to the violation of any written law, or policy of the local government, provided that the member making the point of order states the

- written law or policy believed to be breached.
- (d) The presentation of false or misleading information.

15.4 Points of order - ruling

The person presiding is to give a decision on any point of order which is raised by either upholding or rejecting the point of order.

15.5 Points of order - ruling conclusive, unless dissent motion is moved

The ruling of the person presiding upon any question of order is final, unless a majority of the members support a motion of dissent with the ruling.

15.6 Points of order take precedence

Notwithstanding anything contained in this local law to the contrary, all points of order take precedence over any other discussion and until decided, suspend the consideration and decision of every other matter.

15.7 Precedence of person presiding

(1) When the person presiding wishes to speak during the progress of a debate, every member present shall preserve strict silence so that the person presiding may be heard without interruption.

(2) Subclause (1) is not to be used by the person presiding to exercise the right provided in clause 9.3, but to preserve order.

15.8 Right of the person presiding to adjourn without explanation to regain order

(1) If a meeting ceases to operate in an orderly manner, the person presiding may use discretion to adjourn the meeting for a period of up to fifteen minutes without explanation, for the purpose of regaining order.

(2) Upon resumption, debate is to continue at the point at which the meeting was adjourned.

(3) If, at any one meeting, the person presiding has cause to further adjourn the meeting, such adjournment may be to a later time on the same day or to any other day.

(4) Where debate of motion is interrupted by an adjournment under subclause (1), in the case of a Council meeting –

- (a) the names and members who have spoken in the matter prior to the adjournment are to be recorded; and
- (b) the provisions of clause 9.5 apply when debate is resumed.

Part 16 - Adjournment of meeting

16.1 Meeting may be adjourned

The Council or a committee may decide to adjourn any meeting to a later time on the same day, or to any other day.

16.2 Limit to moving adjournment

No member is to move or second more than one motion of adjournment during the same sitting of the Council or committee.

16.3 Unopposed business - motion for adjournment

On a motion for the adjournment of the Council or committee, the person presiding, before putting the motion, may seek leave of the Council or committee to proceed to the

transaction of unopposed business.

16.4 Withdrawal of motion for adjournment

A motion or an amendment relating to the adjournment of the Council or a committee may be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the seconder, except that if any member objects to the withdrawal, debate of the motion is to continue.

16.5 Time to which adjourned

The time to which a meeting is adjourned for want of a quorum, by the person presiding to regain order, or by decision of the Council, may be to a specified hour on a particular day or to a time which coincides with the conclusion of another meeting or event on a particular day.

Part 17 - Committees of the council

17.1 Establishment and appointment of committees

A committee is not to be established except on a motion setting out the proposed functions of the committee and either –

- (a) the names of the Council members, employees and other persons to be appointed to the committee; or
- (b) the number of Council members, employees and other persons to be appointed to the committee and a provision that they be appointed by a separate motion.

17.2 Appointment of deputy committee members

(1) The Council may appoint one or more persons to be the deputy or deputies, as the case may be, to act on behalf of a member of a committee whenever that member is unable to be present at a meeting thereof and where two or more deputies are so appointed they are to have seniority in the order determined by the Council.

(2) Where a member of a committee does not attend a meeting thereof a deputy of that member, selected according to seniority, is entitled to attend that meeting in place of the member and act for the member, and while so acting has all the powers of that member.

17.3 Presentation of committee reports

When the report of recommendations of a committee is placed before the Council, the adoption of the recommendations of the committee is to be moved by –

- (a) the presiding member of the committee if the presiding member is a councillor and is in attendance; or
- (b) a councillor who is a member of the committee, if the presiding member of the committee is not a councillor, or is absent; or
- (c) otherwise, by a councillor who is not a member of the committee.

17.4 Reports of committees - questions

When a recommendation of any committee is submitted for adoption by the Council, any member may direct questions directly relating to the recommendation through the person presiding to the presiding member or to any member of the committee in attendance.

17.5 Permissible motions on recommendation from committee

A recommendation made by or contained in the minutes of a committee may be adopted by the Council without amendment or modification, failing which, it may be –

- (a) rejected by the Council and replaced by an alternative decision; or
- (b) amended or modified and adopted with such amendment or modification; or
- (c) referred back to the committee for further consideration.

17.6 Local law applies to committees

Where not otherwise specifically provided, this local law applies generally to the proceedings of committees, except that clause 9.5, limitation on the number of speeches, does not apply to the meeting of a committee.

Part 18 - Administrative matters

18.1 Suspension of local laws

- (1) The Council or a committee may decide, by an absolute majority vote, that the operation of one or more of the provisions of these local laws be suspended.
- (2) The mover of a motion under subclause (1) is to state the clause or clauses to be suspended, and the purpose of the suspension, but no other discussion is to take place.

18.2 Cases not provided for in this local law

The person presiding is to decide questions of order, procedure, debate, or otherwise in cases where this Local Law and the Act and Regulations are silent. The decision of the person presiding in these cases is final, except where a motion is moved and carried under clause 11.1 (f).

18.3 Enforcement

- (1) The person presiding at any Council or committee meeting is authorised to enforce this local law during the course of the meeting and to liaise with the CEO where appropriate regarding the appropriate action to be taken for any breach.
- (2) No action shall be taken by the local government to institute legal proceedings for an alleged breach of this local law unless by resolution of Council.
- (3) Council may resolve to deal with any alleged breach of this local law through the application of the procedures contained within the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007*.

(4) Penalty for breach

A person who breaches a provision of these Local Laws commits an offence.

Penalty: \$1,000.00 or a modified penalty of \$100.00.

Part 19 - Common seal

19.1 The Council's common seal

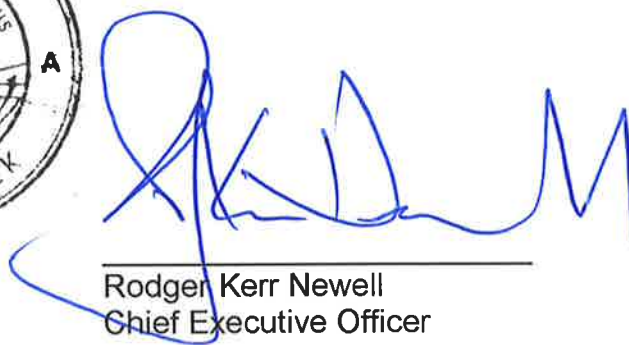
- (1) The CEO is to have charge of the common seal of the Shire, and is responsible for the safe custody and proper use of it.
- (2) The common seal of the Shire may only be used on the authority of the Council given either generally or specifically and every document to which the seal is affixed must be signed by the President and the CEO or a senior employee authorised by him or her.
- (3) The common seal of the Shire is to be affixed to any local law which is made by the Shire.
- (4) The CEO is to record in a register each date on which the common seal of the Shire was affixed to a document, the nature of the document, and the parties to any agreement to which the common seal was affixed.
- (5) Any person who uses the common seal of the local government or a replica thereof without authority commits an offence.

Dated 11 March 2016

The Common Seal of the Shire of Halls Creek was affixed under the authority of a resolution of Council in the presence of –



Malcolm Edwards
Shire President



Rodger Kerr Newell
Chief Executive Officer