Shire of
CUE
Queen of the Murchison

Confirmed Minutes

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

17 March 2026

SHIRE OF CUE
Ordinary Meeting of Council
MINUTES

Held in the Council Chambers, 73 Austin Street Cue on
Tuesday, 17 March 2026 commencing at 6:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The meeting was opened at 06:23 PM

The Presiding Member welcomed those present and read the following disclaimer:

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Cue for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during this Meeting.

It is strongly advised that persons do not act on what is heard at this Meeting and should only rely on written confirmation of council's decision, which will be provided within fourteen (14) days of this Meeting.

PRESENT:
Shire President Les Price
Councillor Ron Hogben **via telephone*
Councillor Julie Humphreys
Councillor Norm Lyon
Councillor Jacquie Lacy
Councillor Cian Lyon **entered the chamber 7:15pm*

STAFF:
Chief Executive Officer Richard Towell
Deputy Chief Executive Officer Lisa Keen **via Teams*
Executive Assistant Janelle Duncan
Contract Environmental Health Officer Maurice Walsh
Finance Officer Melanie Page **entered the chamber 6.25pm*

GALLERY:
Ms Catherine Willett

2 APOLOGIES ON BEHALF OF ABSENT ELECTED MEMBERS AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Ross Pigdon

3 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Nil

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

06:25pm Mrs Melanie Page entered the chamber

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Council Decision: 01032026	**Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority
MOVED: Cr Norm Lyon	**SECONDED: Cr Jacquie Lacy**

That the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 17 February 2026 are confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED: 5/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor N Lyon, Councillor Lacy
AGAINST: None

6 APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

7 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

8 PETITIONS

Nil

9 ANNOUNCEMENTS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Method of Dealing with Agenda Business

As part of the Shire's efforts to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of meetings, tonight's meeting will include the opportunity for matters to be considered by Council en bloc.

Matters not to be included in en bloc decisions are those which require:

- Absolutely Majority;

- Matters to be determined behind closed doors;
- Declared interests made in relation to the item; and
- Deputations or Statements made in relation to the item.

Before commencing the process, the Presiding Member provides a brief explanation of the 'en bloc' method of decision making, for the benefit of any members of the public in the gallery.

The following items have been identified to be decided upon by voting en bloc:

- 10.1 Accounts and Statements of Account
- 10.2 Financial Statements

After reading out all reports identified to be decided on by 'en bloc', Elected Members are given the opportunity to have any reports removed that they deem not appropriate to be included in this process.

Once all are agreed, a mover and seconder will propose a motion for the en bloc decision.

"That the recommendations contained in items 10.1 and 10.2 be adopted en bloc".

The items 10.1 and 10.2 en bloc were moved by Cr Julie Humphreys and seconded by Cr Jacquie Lacy.

06:30pm Mrs Melanie Page left the chamber

REPORTS

10 REPORTS
10.1 ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT

APPLICANT: Shire of Cue

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

AUTHOR: Lisa Keen - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 5 March 2026

Matters for Consideration:

To receive the List of Accounts paid for the period 01 February 2026 - 28 February 2026.

Background:

The Local Government, under its delegated authority to the CEO to make payments from municipal and trust funds, is required to prepare a monthly list of accounts showing each account paid and present it to Council at the next Ordinary Council meeting. The list of accounts prepared and presented to Council must form part of the minutes of that meeting.

Comments:

The list of accounts are for the month of February 2026.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 1996 – Clause 13.

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

Nil

Strategic Implications:

Nil

Consultation:

Richard Towell, Chief Executive Officer

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

That Council receive the attached payments for the period 01 February 2026 - 28 February 2026, which have been made in accordance with delegated authority under s5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995.*

FEBRUARY 2026

Municipal Fund Bank EFTs	EFT 15828 - 15936	$	459,272.46
Direct Debit Fund Transfer	General	$	41,675.49
Direct Debit Fund Transfer	CEO Credit Card	$	7,684.36
Payroll		$	149,043.79
Cheques		$	0.00
Total		$	**657,676.10**

Council Decision: 02032026 **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

MOVED: Cr Julie Humphreys **SECONDED: Cr Jacquie Lacy**

That Council receive the attached payments for the period 01 February 2026 - 28 February 2026, which have been made in accordance with delegated authority under s5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995.*

FEBRUARY 2026

Municipal Fund Bank EFTs	EFT 15828 - 15936	$	459,272.46
Direct Debit Fund Transfer	General	$	41,675.49
Direct Debit Fund Transfer	CEO Credit Card	$	7,684.36
Payroll		$	149,043.79
Cheques		$	0.00
Total		$	**657,676.10**

CARRIED: 5/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor N Lyon, Councillor Lacy
AGAINST: None
EN BLOC

10.2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

APPLICANT: Shire of Cue

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

AUTHOR: Lisa Keen - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 5 March 2026

Matters for Consideration:

The attached monthly Financial Report is for the period ending February 2026 and includes the following statements and notes:

- Statement of Financial Activity
- Major Variances
- Net Current Funding Position
- Statement of Financial Position
- Cash and Investments
- Trust Fund
- Cash Backed Reserve
- Receivables
- Capital Disposals
- Borrowings
- Capital Acquisitions
- Rate Revenue
- Grants and Contributions

Background:

Under the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, a monthly Financial Report must be submitted to an Ordinary Council meeting within two months after the end of the month to which the statement relates. The monthly Financial Report presents an overview of the financial position of the local government at the end of each month. The monthly Financial Report must be adopted by Council and form part of the minutes.

Comments:

The monthly Financial Report is for the month of February 2026.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 1996 – Clause 14.

Policy Implications:

Nil

Financial Implications:

Nil

Strategic Implications:

Nil

Consultation:

Richard Towell, Chief Executive Officer

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

That Council receive the attached monthly Financial Report, prepared in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, for the period ending February 2026.

Council Decision: 03032026 **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

MOVED: Cr Julie Humphreys **SECONDED: Cr Jacquie Lacy**

That Council receive the attached monthly Financial Report, prepared in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, for the period ending February 2026.

CARRIED: 5/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor N Lyon, Councillor Lacy
AGAINST: None
EN BLOC

10.3 2025 - 2026 BUDGET REVIEW

APPLICANT: Shire of Cue

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

AUTHOR: Lisa Keen - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 5 March 2026

Matters for Consideration:

To consider and adopt the Budget Review as presented in the Statement of Financial Activity showing the year-to-date actuals for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Background:

A Statement of Financial Activity incorporating budget variations and forecasts to 30 June 2026 based on year-to-date actuals for the period ending 31 December 2025 is presented for Council to consider.

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, regulation 33A,* requires that local governments conduct a budget review between 1 January and the last day of February in each financial year. A copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department of Local Government within 14 days of the adoption of the review.

Comments:

The Budget Review has been prepared to include information required by the *Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*. Council adopted a 10% and a $25,000 minimum for the reporting of material variances to be used in the Statements of Financial Activity and the Budget Review.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996
Regulation 33A
(1) Between 1 January and the last day of February in each financial year a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year.

(2A) The review of an annual budget for a financial year must -

(a) consider the local government's financial performance in the period beginning on 1 July and ending no earlier than 31 December in that financial year; and
(b) consider the local government's financial position as at the date of the review; and
(c) review the outcomes for the end of that financial year that are forecast in the budget.
(d) include the following -
(i) the annual budget adopted by the local government;
(ii) an update of each of the estimates included in the annual budget;
(iii) the actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income as at the date of the review;
(iv) adjacent to each item in the annual budget adopted by the local government that states an amount, the estimated end-of-year amount for the item.
(2) The review of an annual budget for a financial year must be submitted to the council on or before 31 March in that financial year.
(3) A council is to consider a review submitted to it and is to determine whether or not to adopt the review, any parts of the review or any recommendations made in the review.*
**Absolute majority required.*
(4) Within 14 days after a council has made a determination, a copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department.

Policy Implications:

The Budget is based on the principles contained in the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Business Plan.

Financial Implications:

The proposed amendments are made with the intention of more accurately reflecting the predicted financial outcome for the 2025-2026 financial year.

Strategic Implications:

The Budget Review has been developed based on existing strategic planning documents adopted by Council.

Consultation:

Richard Towell, Chief Executive Officer

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Absolute Majority

That Council by absolute majority:

1. Accept the budget review as presented; and

2. Adopt the revised budget figures as budget amendments for the year ending 30 June 2026.

Council Decision: 04032026	**Voting Requirement:** Absolute Majority
MOVED: Cr Julie Humphreys	**SECONDED: Cr Norm Lyon**

That Council by absolute majority:

1. Accept the budget review as presented; and
2. Adopt the revised budget figures as budget amendments for the year ending 30 June 2026.

CARRIED: 5/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor N Lyon, Councillor Lacy
AGAINST: None

06:33pm Mrs Melanie Page re-entered the chamber
06:36pm Mrs Melanie Page left the chamber
06:39pm Mrs Melanie Page re-entered the chamber

10.4 DONATION REQUEST - WHEATBELT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

APPLICANT:	Shire of Cue
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	Nil
AUTHOR:	Richard Towell - Chief Executive Officer
DATE:	5 March 2026

Matters for Consideration:

Request for financial assistance to conduct Christian values education in Murchison schools.

Background:

Pastor Geoff van Schie has been visiting the Cue Primary School since 2015 on a volunteer basis. Pastor van Schie delivers an education program, known as Gospelair, centred around Christian values including Respect, Trust and Patience. The program is also delivered to Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Yalgoo and Pia Wadjarri. Pastor van Schie has a strong rapport with the children in Cue and always attends the Shire's Christmas event to usually lead the children in a singalong, enjoyed by the audience. In 2025 Council approved a $5,000 donation.

Comments:

A copy of Pastor van Schie's request, and associated support documentation is attached. Wheatbelt Christian Fellowship is governed by an incorporated parent body, being the Willetton Christian Church.

Statutory Environment:

Nil

Policy Implications:

Council policy D14 apply.

D.14 PROVISION OF SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS

Policy Statement

Calculation of Value of Requested Donation or Sponsorship

This Policy deals with requests for donation or sponsorship from external bodies. Requests may be for a cash donation or sponsorship; in kind (provision of goods and services or waiving of fees) donation or a combination of cash and in kind.

In assessing requests for in kind donation or sponsorship, or a combination of in kind and cash sponsorship, then the value of the in kind request will be calculated. The full cost of the request (including calculated value of any in kind component) will be considered.

Donations

Donations by the Council reflect its commitment to improve the wellbeing of the community of the Shire of Cue. Because of the philanthropic nature of donations, the Council does not seek a direct cost – benefit return from the donation, and does not require a business case to be put. However, the Council does give preference to donations which will assist organisations which benefit the community of the Shire of Cue, or improve the services provided to visitors to the Shire of Cue.

Where the funds are not fully expended on the approved donation the surplus money is to be returned to the Shire.

All donations are to be acquitted in the financial year that it was granted unless prior approval is granted.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a donation, the applicant must be an Association incorporated in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act 1987 which includes organisations with religious and / or charitable objectives; and / or community based not for profit groups providing a direct service to the stakeholders and visitors of the Shire of Cue which demonstrably contribute to the wellbeing of residents and visitors, and serve to promote the development of the community.

Service Areas

The range of service areas considered for donations may include:

a) Senior citizen's / community centre;

b) Community information and support services;

c) Youth services;

d) Children's services;

e) Emergency relief services;

f) Recreation services / sports clubs;

g) Community services;

h) Health services;

i) Education services;

Organisations are expected to acknowledge the contribution made by the Shire of Cue.

Where a donation is approved for a specific purpose – such as purchase of equipment – the organisation is required to provide evidence of expenditure.

Assessment Process

Applications are to be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer detailing as a minimum:

Reason for request;

Amount requested (whether monetary, in kind or a combination of both); and

If donation is to be used towards the purchase of equipment, who will ultimately be the owner of the equipment and be responsible for its upkeep / maintenance.

Any sponsorship or donation approved by the Chief Executive Officer will be funded from the G/L Account 04143 – CEO Discretionary Expenses.

Any request for sponsorship or donation which the Chief Executive Officer believes is outside his / her delegation, is in excess of the aforementioned budgetary item and / or requires the consideration of Council will be referred to Council.

Where a request for sponsorship or donations is referred to Council, the Council may decline the application or subject to sufficient funds being available in the Council's budget, approve the application.

Financial Implications:

An allowance has been made in the Annual Budget under Donations to continue this program.

Strategic Implications:

Shire of Cue Strategic Community Plan 2023 to 2038:

Social Objective

Outcome

3.2 Encourage community participation and services

3.2.4 Support provision of emergency services, support and encourage community volunteers

Consultation:

Pastor Geoff van Schie - Wheatbelt Christian Fellowship

Officers Recommendation: **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

That Council agree to donate $5,000 to Wheatbelt Christian Fellowship to assist with the delivery of the Gospelair Christian values education program to Cue Primary School for the 2026 year.

Council Decision: 05032026 **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

MOVED: Cr Julie Humphreys **SECONDED: Cr Norm Lyon**

That Council agree to donate $5,000 to Wheatbelt Christian Fellowship to assist with the delivery of the Gospelair Christian values education program to Cue Primary School for the 2026 year.

CARRIED: 5/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor N Lyon, Councillor Lacy
AGAINST: None

11 MOTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

12 MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Nil

13 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

Cr Les Price provided Council with an update regarding the funding request submitted by the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc.

CLOSED COUNCIL

14 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Council Decision: 06032026 **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

MOVED: Cr Julie Humphreys **SECONDED: Cr Jacquie Lacy**

That Council approves the introduction of Confidential Business in accordance with the *Local Government Act (1995) s 5.23* and close the meeting to the public.

CARRIED: 5/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor N Lyon, Councillor Lacy
AGAINST: None

06:51pm the meeting closed to the public
06:51pm Mr Maurice Walsh and Ms Catherine Willett left the chamber

14.1 OFFER TO PURCHASE 11 DARLOT ST, CUE

APPLICANT: Shire of Cue

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

AUTHOR: Richard Towell - Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 10 March 2026

Matters for Consideration:

Consider an offer to purchase the property at 11 Darlot St, Cue, and authorise the application of the common seal to the transfer of land.

Reasons for Confidentiality:
In accordance with section *(5.23(4)(g))* of the *Local Government Act 1995* the meeting is closed to members of the public with the following aspect(s) of the Act being applicable to this matter:

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996
Part 2 Council and committee meetings
4A. Information that may be treated on confidential basis at meeting (Act s. 5.23(4)(g))

For the purposes of section 5.23(4)(g), the following information is prescribed -
a. the price, or potential price, for the sale or purchase of property by the local government and any information relating to the price or potential price;

Council Decision: 07032026 **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

MOVED: Cr Julie Humphreys **SECONDED: Cr Norm Lyon**

That item 14.1 be laid on the table

CARRIED: 6/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor Lyon, Councillor Lacy, Councillor Lyon
AGAINST: None

07:14pm Mrs Melanie Page left the chamber
07:15pm Cr Cian Lyon entered the chamber

14.2 TENDER - CONCRETE PATHWAY CONSTRUCTION

APPLICANT: Shire of Cue

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

AUTHOR: Lisa Keen - Deputy Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 11 March 2026

Matters for Consideration:

Awarding of tender for the construction of concrete dual use pathways in Patterson & Wittenoom Streets.

Reasons for Confidentiality:
In accordance with section *(5.23(4)(c)(i))* of the *Local Government Act 1995* the meeting is closed to members of the public with the following aspect(s) of the Act being applicable to this matter:

(4) Despite subsection (1), if any of the following information is to be dealt with at a meeting, the council or committee may close the meeting to members of the public to the extent necessary to ensure that the information is dealt with at the meeting on a confidential basis -

> *(c) information contained in a tender received by the local government for a contract to the extent that the information - (i) is a tendered price; or (ii) a tendered methodology for calculating a price;*

Council Decision: 08032026 **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

MOVED: Cr Julie Humphreys **SECONDED: Cr Cian Lyon**

That Council:

Award the tender RFT 2026-01 Concrete Pathway Construction to WA Concrete, for the lump sum amount of $251,543.90 + GST.

CARRIED: 6/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor Lyon, Councillor Lacy, Councillor Lyon
AGAINST: None

07:19pm Mrs Melanie Page re-entered the chamber

14.3 THAT THE MEETING BE REOPENED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Council Decision: 09032026 **Voting Requirement:** Simple Majority

MOVED: Cr Cian Lyon **SECONDED: Cr Julie Humphreys**

That the meeting be reopened to members of the public.

The Presiding Member is to ensure that, if members of the public return to the meeting, any resolution made while the meeting was closed is to be read out or summarised, as per Standing Orders Cue 5.2 (6).

CARRIED: 6/0
FOR: Shire President Price, Councillor Hogben, Councillor Humphreys, Councillor Lyon, Councillor Lacy, Councillor Lyon
AGAINST: None

07:31pm the meeting was re-opened to members of the public.

CLOSURE

15 CLOSURE

The Presiding Member thanked those present for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 07:33 PM.

To be confirmed at Ordinary Meeting on the 21 April 2026.

Signed: ....

Presiding Member at the Meeting at which time the Minutes were confirmed.