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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

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# TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

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## COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES LOCAL LAW 2020



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995**

## TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

**COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES LOCAL LAW 2020**

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

## TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

## COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES LOCAL LAW 2020

Under the powers conferred by the *Local Government Act 1995* and under all other powers enabling it, the Council of the Town of Bassendean resolved on 25 February 2020 to make the following Local Law.

## PART 1—PRELIMINARY

**1.1 Citation**

This Local Law may be cited as the *Town of Bassendean Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2020*.

**1.2 Commencement**

This Local Law comes into operation 14 days after the date of its publication in the *Government Gazette*.

**1.3 Purpose and effect**

- (1) This Local Law is to provide the rules for the conduct of meetings of the Council, Committees and Electors.
- (2) The effect of this Local Law is intended to result in—
  - (a) better decision making by the Council and committees;
  - (b) the orderly conduct of meetings dealing with Council business;
  - (c) better understanding of the process of conducting meetings; and
  - (d) the more efficient and effective use of time at meetings.

**1.4 Application**

All meetings of the Council, Committees and the electors are to be conducted in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and the Local Law.

**1.5 Interpretation**

- (1) Unless otherwise defined in this Local Law, the terms and expressions used in this Local Law are to have the meaning given to them in the Act and Regulations.
- (2) In this Local Law unless the context otherwise requires—
  - 75% majority** has the meaning given to it in the Act;
  - absolute majority** has the meaning given to it in the Act;
  - Act** means the *Local Government Act 1995*;
  - CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Bassendean;
  - committee** means a committee of the Council established under section 5.8 of the Act;
  - committee meeting** means a meeting of a committee;
  - council** means the Council of the Town of Bassendean;
  - district** means the District of the Local Government;
  - local government** means the Town of Bassendean;
  - mayor** means the mayor of the Town or other presiding member at a Council meeting under section 5.6 of the Act;
  - meeting** means a meeting of the Council or a committee, as the context requires;
  - member** has the meaning given to it in the Act;
  - presiding member** means—
    - (a) in respect of the Council, the person presiding under section 5.6 of the Act; and
    - (b) in respect of a committee, the person presiding under sections 5.12, 5.13, and 5.14 of the Act;
  - regulations** means the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* unless otherwise specified;

**simple majority** means 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.

### **1.6 Repeal**

The *Town of Bassendean Standing Orders Local Law 2011*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 21 April 2011, is repealed.

## **PART 2—ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

### **2.1 Establishment of committees**

(1) The establishment of committees is dealt with in the Act.

(2) A Council resolution to establish a committee under section 5.8 of the Act is to include—

- (a) the terms of reference of the committee;
- (b) the number of council members, officers and other persons to be appointed to the committee;
- (c) the names or titles of the council members and officers to be appointed to the committee;
- (d) the names of other persons to be appointed to the committee or an explanation of the procedure to be followed to determine the appointments; and
- (e) details of the delegation of any powers or duties to the committee under section 5.16 of the Act.

### **2.2 Types of committees**

The types of committees are dealt with in the Act.

### **2.3 Delegation of some powers and duties to certain committees**

The delegation of some powers and duties to certain committees is dealt with in the Act.

### **2.4 Limits on delegation of powers and duties to certain committees**

The limits on the delegation of powers and duties to certain committees are dealt with in the Act.

### **2.5 Appointment of committee members**

The appointment of committee members is dealt with in the Act.

### **2.6 Tenure of committee membership**

Tenure of committee membership is dealt with in the Act.

### **2.7 Resignation of committee members**

The resignation of committee members is dealt with in the Regulations.

### **2.8 Register of delegations to committees**

The Registration of delegations to committees is dealt with in the Act.

### **2.9 Committees to report**

A committee—

- (a) is answerable to the Council; and
- (b) is to report on its activities when, and to the extent, required by the Council.

## **PART 3—CALLING AND CONVENING MEETINGS**

### **3.1 Ordinary and Special Council meetings**

(1) Ordinary and Special Council meetings are dealt with in the Act.

(2) An Ordinary Meeting of Council, held on a monthly basis or otherwise as determined by Council, is for the purpose of considering and dealing with the ordinary business of Council.

(3) A Special Meeting of Council is held for the purpose of considering and dealing with Council business that is urgent, complex in nature, for a particular purpose, or confidential.

### **3.2 Calling Council meetings**

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

### **3.3 Convening Council meetings**

(1) The convening of a Council meeting is dealt with in the Act.

(2) Subject to subclause (3), the CEO is to give at least 72 hours' notice, for the purposes of section 5.5, in convening a Special Meeting of the Council.

(3) Where, in the opinion of the mayor or at least one-third of the members, there is a need to meet urgently, the CEO may give a lesser period of notice of a Special Council Meeting.

### **3.4 Calling committee meetings**

The CEO is to call a meeting of any committee when requested by the mayor, the presiding member of a committee or any two (2) members of that committee.

### **3.5 Public notice of meetings**

Public notice of meetings is dealt with in the Regulations.

**PART 4—PRESIDING MEMBER AND QUORUM***Division 1—Who presides***4.1 Who presides**

Who presides at a Council meeting is dealt with in the Act.

**4.2 When the deputy mayor can act**

When the deputy mayor can act is dealt with in the Act.

**4.3 Who acts if no mayor**

Who acts if there is no mayor is dealt with in the Act.

**4.4 Election of Presiding members of committees**

The election of presiding members of committees and their deputies is dealt with in the Act.

**4.5 Election of deputy presiding members of committees**

The election of Deputy presiding members of committees is dealt with in the Act.

**4.6 Functions of deputy presiding members**

The functions of deputy presiding members are dealt with in the Act.

**4.7 Who acts if no presiding member**

Who acts if no presiding member is dealt with in the Act.

*Division 2—Quorum***4.8 Quorum for meetings**

The quorum for meetings is dealt with in the Act.

**4.9 Reduction of quorum for Council meetings**

The power of the Minister to reduce the number for a quorum and certain majorities is dealt with in the Act.

**4.10 Reduction of quorum for committee meetings**

The reduction of a quorum for committee meetings is dealt with in the Act.

**4.11 Procedure where no quorum to begin a meeting**

The procedure where there is no quorum to begin a meeting is dealt with in the Regulations.

**4.12 Procedure where quorum not present during a meeting**

If at any time during a meeting a quorum is not present, the presiding member is—

- (a) immediately to suspend the proceedings of the meeting for a period of up to 15 minutes; and
- (b) if a quorum is not present at the expiry of that period, the presiding member is to adjourn the meeting to some future time or date.

**4.13 Names to be recorded**

At any meeting—

- (a) at which there is not a quorum present; or
- (b) which is adjourned for want of a quorum, the names of the members then present are to be recorded in the minutes.

At the resumption of an adjourned meeting the only business to be transacted is that which remains outstanding on the agenda of the adjourned meeting.

**PART 5—BUSINESS OF A MEETING****5.1 Business to be specified**

(1) No business is to be transacted at any ordinary meeting of Council other than that specified in the agenda, without the approval of the presiding member or the Council.

(2) No business is to be transacted at a special meeting of Council other than that given in the notice as the purpose of the meeting.

(3) Subject to subclause (4), no business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting of Council other than that—

- (a) specified in the notice of the meeting which had been adjourned; and
- (b) which remains unresolved.

(4) Where a meeting is adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of Council then, unless Council resolves otherwise, the business unresolved at the adjourned meeting is to be dealt with at that Ordinary Meeting, before considering Reports.

**5.2 Order of business**

(1) Unless otherwise decided by the presiding member, the order of business at any Ordinary Meeting of Council is to be as follows—

- (a) Declaration of opening; acknowledgement of country; acknowledgement of visitors; disclaimer

- (b) Announcements by the presiding person without discussion
  - (c) Attendances, apologies and applications for leave of absence
  - (d) Declarations of interest
  - (e) Presentations or deputations
  - (f) Statements by members of the public on agenda items
  - (g) Questions from members of the public
  - (h) Petitions
  - (i) Confirmation of minutes
  - (j) Business deferred from previous meeting
  - (k) External committee reports/updates
  - (l) Reports
  - (m) Motions of which previous notice has been given
  - (n) Announcements of notices of motion for the next meeting
  - (o) Urgent business
  - (p) Confidential business
  - (q) Closure.
- (2) The items of business to be dealt with at an Ordinary Meeting of a Committee are—
- (a) Declaration of opening; announcement of visitors; acknowledgement of country
  - (b) Announcements by the presiding person without discussion
  - (c) Attendances, apologies and applications for leave of absence
  - (d) Declarations of interest
  - (e) Presentations or deputations
  - (f) Public question time and statement by members of the public
  - (g) Confirmation of minutes
  - (h) Business deferred from previous meeting
  - (i) Reports
  - (j) Motions of which previous notice has been given
  - (k) Announcements of notices of motion for the next meeting
  - (l) Confidential business
  - (m) Closure.
- (3) The order of business at any Special Meeting of Council or of a Committee shall be in the order in which it appears in the agenda.

### **5.3 Motions of which previous notice has been given**

- (1) Unless the Act, Regulations or this Local Law otherwise provide, a member may raise at a meeting—
- (a) such business as he or she considers appropriate;
  - (b) in the form of a motion;
  - (c) of which notice has been given in writing to the CEO and which has been included on the agenda.
- (2) A notice of motion under subclause (1) is to be given at least ten (10) clear working days before the meeting at which the motion is moved.
- (3) A notice of motion is to relate to the good governance of the Local Government.
- (4) The CEO—
- (a) may, with the concurrence of the mayor, exclude from the notice paper any notice of motion deemed to be, or likely to involve, a breach of this Local Law or any other written law;
  - (b) will inform members on each occasion that a notice has been excluded and the reasons for that exclusion;
  - (c) may, after consultation with the member where this is practicable, make such amendments to the form, but not the substance, as will bring the notice of motion into due form; and
  - (d) provide an officer report to accompany the notice of motion that has relevant and material facts and circumstances pertaining to the notice of motion on such matters as strategic direction within the Council's adopted Strategic Plan, policy, budget and law.
- (5) A motion of which notice has been given is to lapse unless—
- (a) the member who gave notice of it, or some other member authorised by the originating member in writing, moves the motion when called on; or
  - (b) the Council on a motion determines to defer consideration of the motion to a later stage or date.
- (6) If a notice of motion is given and lost under subclause (5), a notice of a motion in substantially the same terms or of substantially the same effect is not to be given again for at least three months from the date of such lapse.

#### 5.4 Adoption by En Bloc Voting

- (1) In this clause *adoption by en bloc voting* means a resolution of the Council that has the effect of adopting, for a number of specifically identified reports, the officer recommendation as the Council resolution.
- (2) Subject to subclause (3), Council may pass an adoption by en bloc voting.
- (3) An adoption by en bloc voting may not be used for a matter—
- (a) that requires a 75% majority or a special majority;
  - (b) in which an interest has been disclosed;
  - (c) that has been the subject of a petition or deputation;
  - (d) that is a matter on which a member wishes to make a statement; or
  - (e) that is a matter on which a member wishes to move a motion that is different to the recommendation.

#### 5.5 Urgent business

- (1) In accordance with clause 5.2(1)(o) a member may move a motion to consider an item of urgent business that is not included in the agenda for that meeting provided that—
- (a) the presiding member has first consented to the urgent business being raised;
  - (b) the presiding member considers that either—
    - (i) the urgency of the business cannot wait for inclusion in the agenda for the next Ordinary Meeting of Council; or
    - (ii) the delay caused by referring the business to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council may have adverse legal, reputational or financial implications for the local government; and
    - (iii) other than a motion to revoke a decision, the item of urgent business is presented in the form of a report generated by an officer or the CEO, a copy of which is to be provided to members prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- (2) Where Council agrees to consider such item of urgent business, then it is to be dealt with in accordance with the order of business at clause 5.2(1)(o).
- (3) In this clause, urgent business includes—
- (a) matters that have arisen after the preparation of the agenda; and
  - (b) that are considered by the Presiding Officer, or the CEO, or a member moving a motion referred in clause 5.3, to be of such urgency that the matters cannot be dealt with administratively by the Local Government, and must be considered and dealt with by Council before the next meeting.

### PART 6—PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### 6.1 Meetings generally open to the public

Meetings being generally open to the public is dealt with in the Act.

#### 6.2 Meetings not open to the public

- (1) The CEO may, at any time, recommend that a meeting or part of a meeting be closed to members of the public.
- (2) The Council or a committee, in one (1) or more of the circumstances dealt with in the Act, may at any time by resolution, decide to close a meeting or part of a meeting.
- (3) If a resolution under subclause (2) is carried—
- (a) the presiding member is to direct everyone to leave the meeting except—
    - (i) the members;
    - (ii) the CEO; and
    - (iii) any officer or other person specified by the presiding member.
  - (b) the meeting is to be closed to the public until, at the conclusion of the matter justifying the closure of the meeting to the public, the Council or the committee, by resolution, decides otherwise.
- (4) A person who fails to comply with a direction under subclause (3)(a) may, by order of the presiding member, be removed from the meeting.
- (5) While the resolution under subclause (2) remains in force, the operation of clause 7.9 (speaking twice) is to be suspended unless the Council or the committee, by resolution, decides otherwise.
- (6) A resolution under subclause (5) may be made without notice.
- (7) Unless the Council resolves otherwise, once the meeting is re-opened to members of the public, the presiding member is to ensure that any resolution of the Council, made while the meeting was closed, is to be read out, including a vote of a Member to be included in the minutes.

#### 6.3 Question time for the public

Question time for the public is dealt with in the Act.

#### 6.4 Question time for the public at certain meetings

Question time for the public at certain meetings is dealt with in the Regulations.

**6.5 Minimum question time for the public**

Minimum question time for the public is dealt with in the Regulations.

**6.6 Procedures for question time for the public**

Procedures for question time for the public are dealt with in the Regulations.

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

- (1) A member of the public who raises a question during question time, is to state his or her name and address.
- (2) A question may be taken on notice by the Council for later response.
- (3) When a question is taken on notice the CEO is to ensure that—
  - (a) a response is given to the member of the public in writing; and
  - (b) a summary of the response is included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Council.
- (4) Where a question relating to a matter in which a relevant person has an interest is directed to the relevant person, the relevant person is to—
  - (a) declare that he or she has an interest in the matter; and
  - (b) allow another person to respond to the question.
- (5) Each member of the public with a question is entitled to ask up to two (2) questions before other members of the public will be invited to ask their questions.
- (6) Questions to be considered by Council are to be respectful and temperate in language.
- (7) The presiding member may decide that a public question shall not be responded to where—
  - (a) the same or similar question was asked at a previous meeting, a response was provided and the member of the public is directed to the minutes of the meeting at which the response was provided;
  - (b) the member of the public uses public question time to make a statement, provided that the presiding member has taken all reasonable steps to assist the member of the public to phrase the statement as a question; or
  - (c) the member of the public asks a question that is offensive or defamatory in nature, provided that the presiding member has taken all reasonable steps to assist the member of the public to phrase the question in a manner that is not offensive or defamatory.
- (8) A member of the public shall have two (2) minutes to submit a question.
- (9) The Council, by resolution, may agree to extend public question time.
- (10) 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.

**6.8 Statements by members of the public**

- (1) Each person wishing to make a statement to the Council on items listed on the agenda, will be invited by the presiding member to do so, stating their name and address, and to which item(s) listed on the agenda.
- (2) The presiding member may rule that the subject matter does not relate to the current agenda, and that the statement not be heard.
- (3) The presiding member will determine the order of speakers to address the Council.
- (4) The public statement session will be restricted to 15 minutes unless the Council, by resolution, decides otherwise.
- (5) Each person is restricted to one (1) statement of up to two (2) minutes unless the Council, by decision, determines that they may speak for no more than a further two (2) minutes.
- (6) Statements to be considered by Council are to be respectful and temperate in language.
- (7) The presiding member may suspend or adjourn the statement session, at any time, and any person addressing the Council will resume their seat when called upon to do so by the presiding member.
- (8) The presiding member shall suspend the public address session if the person making the statement resorts to personal denigration of any person or persons.
- (9) The presiding member may—
  - (a) comment on the statement given; or
  - (b) call upon a Councillor or Officer to comment.
- (10) The Councillor or Officer may decline to comment.
- (11) If the subject matter of the statement has not been considered by the Council, no substantive comment shall be offered.
- (12) Any comments shall not exceed three (3) minutes.
- (13) Any breach of the Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2020 may result in the person being prohibited from addressing the meeting at which the breach occurs.

**6.9 Distinguished visitors**

If a distinguished visitor is present at a meeting of the Council, the presiding member may acknowledge the presence of the distinguished visitor at an appropriate time during the meeting, and the presence of that visitor shall be recorded in the minutes.

### 6.10 Deputations

- (1) Any person or group wishing to be received as a deputation by the Council is to either—
  - (a) apply, before the meeting, to the CEO for approval; or
  - (b) with the approval of the presiding member, address the Council.
- (2) The CEO may either—
  - (a) approve the request and invite the deputation to attend a meeting of the Council; or
  - (b) refer the request to the Council to decide by simple majority whether or not to receive the deputation.
- (3) Unless the council resolves otherwise, a deputation invited to attend a Council meeting—
  - (a) is not to exceed five (5) persons, only two (2) of whom may address the Council, although others may respond to specific questions from members;
  - (b) is not to address the Council for a period exceeding ten (10) minutes without the agreement of the Council; and
  - (c) additional members of the deputation may be allowed to speak with the leave of the presiding member.
- (4) Any matter which is the subject of a deputation to the Council is not to be decided by the Council until the deputation has completed its presentation.

### 6.11 Petitions

- (1) A petition is to—
  - (a) be addressed to the Mayor;
  - (b) be made by electors of the district;
  - (c) state the request on each page of the petition;
  - (d) contain the legible names, addresses and signatures of each elector making the request, and the date each elector signed;
  - (e) contain a summary of the reasons for the request;
  - (f) state the name of the person to whom, and an address at which, notice to the petitioners can be given; and
  - (g) be respectful and temperate in language; and
  - (h) comply with any prescribed form pursuant to the Act or any other written law.
- (2) On presentation of a petition, the petition is to be received and referred for CEO report.
- (3) At any meeting, the Council is not to vote on a matter the subject of a petition, unless—
  - (a) the matter is the subject of a CEO report included in the agenda; and
  - (b) the Council has considered the issues raised in the petition.

### 6.12 Presentations

- (1) In this clause, a **presentation** means the acceptance of a gift or an award by the Council on behalf of the Town or the community.
- (2) A presentation may be made to the Council at a meeting only with the prior approval of the CEO.

### 6.13 Participation at committee meetings

- (1) In this clause a reference to a **person** is to a person who—
  - (a) is entitled to attend a committee meeting;
  - (b) attends a committee meeting; and
  - (c) is not a member of that committee.
- (2) Without the consent of the presiding member, no person is to address a committee meeting.
- (3) The presiding member of a committee may allow a person to make an oral submission to the committee for up to three (3) minutes.
- (4) A person addressing the committee with the consent of the presiding member is to cease that address immediately after being directed to do so by the presiding member.
- (5) A person who fails to comply with a direction of the presiding member under subclause (4) may, by order of the presiding member, be removed from the committee room.
- (6) The Council may make a policy dealing with the circumstances in which a person may be given consent to address a committee meeting.

### 6.14 Public Inspection of agenda materials

The right of the public to inspect the documents referred to, and in accordance with the regulation 14, of the Regulations may be exercised at the Town of Bassendean—

- (a) Administration Office, 35 Old Perth Road, Bassendean;
- (b) Memorial Library; and
- (c) Website.

### 6.15 Confidentiality of information withheld

- (1) Information withheld by the CEO from members of the public under the Regulations is to be—
  - (a) identified in the agenda of a Council or committee meeting under item *confidential business*;

- (b) marked as *confidential* in the agenda; and
  - (c) kept confidential by members and employees until the Council or Committee resolves otherwise.
- (2) A member or an employee who has—
- (a) confidential information under subclause (1); or
  - (b) information that is provided or disclosed for the purpose of or during a meeting, or part of a meeting, that is closed to the public,
- is not to disclose any of that information to any person, other than another member or an employee, to the extent necessary for the purpose of carrying out his or her duties.
- (3) Subclause (2) does not prevent a member or an employee from disclosing information—
- (a) at a closed meeting;
  - (b) to the extent specified by the Council and subject to such other conditions as the Council determines;
  - (c) that is already in the public domain;
  - (d) to an officer of the Department;
  - (e) to the Minister;
  - (f) to a legal practitioner for the purpose of obtaining legal advice; or
  - (g) if the disclosure is required or permitted by law.

### 6.16 Recording of proceedings

- (1) A person is not to use any form of audio, visual or other recording device to record the proceedings of Council, without the expressed permission of the presiding member.
- (2) Council will record the meeting for minute taking purposes.
- (3) Council cannot guarantee the accuracy or the quality of recordings.
- (4) Recordings of a Council meeting cannot be assumed to be a complete record of proceedings.

### 6.17 Prevention of disturbance

- (1) A reference in this clause to a *person* is to a person other than a member.
- (2) A person addressing the Council must extend due courtesy and respect to the Council or the Committee, and the processes under which it operates.
- (3) A person present at or observing a meeting must not 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 addressing or present at a meeting must comply with any direction by the presiding member.
- (5) A person shall ensure that his or her mobile telephone, or any other audible device, is switched off and is not used during any meeting of the Council.
- (6) The presiding member may warn a person who fails to comply with this clause.
- (7) If, after being warned, the person—
  - (a) acts contrary to this clause, or to this Local Law; or
  - (b) refuses or fails to comply with a direction by the presiding member,
 the presiding member may expel the person from the meeting by ordering him or her to leave the meeting room.
- (8) A person who is ordered to leave the meeting room, and fails to do so may, by order of the presiding member—
  - (a) be removed from the meeting room; and
  - (b) from the premises, by further order of the presiding member.

## PART 7—CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

### 7.1 Members to be in their proper places

- (1) At the first meeting held after each Election Day, the CEO is to draw lots for the seating arrangements of the Councillors in the Chamber.
- (2) Each member is to occupy his or her allotted position at each Council meeting.

### 7.2 Respect to the presiding member

After the business of a Council has been commenced, a member is not to enter or leave the meeting without first paying due respect to the presiding member.

### 7.3 Titles to be used

A speaker, when referring to the mayor, deputy mayor or presiding member, or a member or officer, is to use the title of that person's office.

### 7.4 Advice of entry or departure

- (1) During the course of a meeting of the Council, a member is not to enter or leave the meeting without first advising the presiding member.
- (2) The time of entry or departure is to be recorded in the minutes.

**7.5 Members to indicate their intention to speak**

A member of the Council who wishes to speak is to indicate his or her intention to speak by—

- (a) raising his or her hand; or
- (b) by another method agreed by Council.

**7.6 Priority of speaking**

(1) Where two or more members indicate, at the same time, their intention to speak, the presiding member is to decide which member is entitled to be heard first.

(2) A decision of the presiding member under subclause (1) is not open to discussion or dissent.

(3) A member must cease speaking immediately after being asked to do so by the presiding member.

**7.7 Presiding member may take part in debates**

The presiding member may take part in a discussion of any matter before the Council, subject to compliance with this Local Law.

**7.8 Relevance**

(1) A member is to restrict his or her remarks to—

- (a) the motion or amendment under discussion; or
- (b) to a personal explanation or point of order.

(2) The presiding member, at any time, may call the attention of the meeting to—

- (a) any irrelevant, repetitious, offensive or insulting language by a member; or
- (b) any breach of order by a member; and

direct that member, if speaking, to discontinue his or her speech.

(3) A member is to comply with the direction of the presiding member under subclause (2) by immediately ceasing to speak.

**7.9 Speaking twice**

A member is not to address the Council more than once on any motion or amendment except—

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

**7.10 Duration of speeches**

(1) A member is not to speak on any matter for more than three (3) minutes without the consent of the Council which, if given, is to be given without debate.

(2) An extension under this clause cannot be given to allow a member's total speaking time to exceed five (5) minutes.

**7.11 No speaking after conclusion of debate**

A member is not to speak on any motion or amendment—

- (a) after the mover has replied; or
- (b) after the motion has been put.

**7.12 No interruption**

A member is not to interrupt another member who is 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 7.13; or
- (d) to move a procedural motion that the member be no longer heard (see clause 10.9).

**7.13 Personal explanations**

(1) A member who wishes to make a personal explanation, relating to a matter referred to by another member who is then speaking, is to indicate to the presiding member his or her intention to make a personal explanation.

(2) The presiding member is to determine whether the personal explanation is to be heard immediately or at the conclusion of the speech by the other member.

(3) A member making a personal explanation is to confine his or her observations to a succinct statement relating to a specific part of the speech at which he or she may have been misunderstood.

**7.14 No re-opening of discussion**

A member is not to re-open discussion on any Council decision, except to move that the decision be revoked or changed.

**7.15 Adverse reflection**

(1) A member is not to reflect adversely on a decision of Council or of a committee except on a motion that the decision be revoked or changed.

(2) A member must not—

- (a) reflect adversely on the character or actions of another member or of an officer; or

- (b) impute any motive to a member or an officer

unless the meeting resolves, without debate, that the matter then before the meeting cannot otherwise be adequately considered.

#### **7.16 Offensive Language**

- (1) A member must not use offensive or insulting expressions in reference to any member, officer or other person.
- (2) If a member or the CEO specifically requests, immediately after the use, that—
  - (a) any particular words used by a member, that are in breach of this clause, be recorded in the minutes;
  - (b) the member making the request is to provide the words to the meeting for verification; and
  - (c) the presiding member is to cause the words used to be taken down and recorded in the minutes.

#### **7.17 Withdrawal of offensive language**

- (1) A member who, in the opinion of the presiding member, uses an expression which—
  - (a) reflects adversely on the character or actions of another member or an officer;
  - (b) imputes any motive to a member or officer; or
  - (c) uses an expression that is offensive

must, when directed by the presiding member, withdraw the expression and make a satisfactory apology.

- (2) If a member fails to comply with a direction of the presiding member under subclause (1), the presiding member may refuse to hear the member further on the matter under discussion, and call on the next speaker.

### **PART 8—PRESERVING ORDER**

#### **8.1 Presiding member to preserve order**

- (1) The presiding member is to preserve order and, whenever he or she considers it is necessary, may call any member to order.
- (2) When the presiding member speaks during a debate, any member then speaking, or indicating that he or she wishes to speak, is immediately to sit down and every member present is to preserve strict silence so that the presiding member may be heard without interruption.
- (3) Subclause (2) is not to be used by the presiding member, to exercise the right provided in clause 7.7, but to preserve order.

#### **8.2 Point of order**

- (1) A member may only object, by way of a point of order, to a breach of—
  - (a) this Local Law; or
  - (b) any other written law.
- (2) Despite anything in this Local Law to the contrary, a point of order—
  - (a) takes precedence over any discussion; and
  - (b) until determined, suspends the consideration or discussion of any other matter.

#### **8.3 Procedures on a point of order**

- (1) A member who is addressing the presiding member is not to be interrupted except on a point of order.
- (2) A member interrupted on a point of order is to resume his or her seat until—
  - (a) the member raising the point of order has been heard; and
  - (b) the presiding member has ruled on the point of order, and, if permitted, the member who has been interrupted may then proceed.

#### **8.4 Calling attention to breach**

A member may, at any time, draw the attention of the presiding member to any breach of this Local Law.

#### **8.5 Ruling by the presiding member**

- (1) The presiding member is to rule on any point of order which is raised by either upholding or rejecting the point of order.
- (2) A ruling by the presiding member on a point of order is to be final unless the majority of members then present and voting on a motion moved immediately after the ruling, dissent from the ruling.
- (3) Subject to a motion of dissent being carried under subclause (2), if the presiding member rules that—
  - (a) any motion, amendment or other matter before the meeting is out of order, it is not to be considered further; and
  - (b) if a statement made or act done by a member is out of order, the presiding member may require the member to make an explanation, retraction or apology.

**8.6 Continued breach of order**

If a member—

- (a) persists in any conduct that the presiding member had ruled is out of order; or
- (b) refuses to make an explanation, retraction or apology required by the presiding member under clause 8.5(3)(b),

the presiding member may direct the member to refrain from taking any further part in that item, other than by voting, and the member is to comply with that direction.

**8.7 Right of presiding member to adjourn**

- (1) For the purpose of preserving or regaining order, the presiding member may adjourn the meeting for a period of up to 15 minutes.
- (2) On resumption, the debate is to continue at the point at which the meeting was adjourned.
- (3) If, at any one meeting, the presiding member adjourns the meeting more than once for the purpose of preserving or regaining order, the second or subsequent adjournment may be to a later time on the same day or to another day.

**PART 9—DEBATE OF SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS****9.1 Motions to be stated and in writing**

Any member who wishes to move a substantive motion or an amendment to a substantive motion—

- (a) is to state the substance of the motion before speaking to it; and
- (b) if required by the presiding member, is to put the motion or amendment in writing.

**9.2 Motions to be supported**

- (1) A substantive motion or an amendment to a substantive motion is not open to debate until it has been seconded.
- (2) A motion to revoke or change a decision made at a Council meeting is not open to debate unless the motion has the support required under regulation 10 of the Regulations.

**9.3 Unopposed business**

- (1) Immediately after a substantive motion has been moved and seconded, the presiding member may ask the meeting if any member opposes it.
- (2) If no Member opposes the motion, the presiding member may declare it carried without debate and without taking a vote.
- (3) A motion declared carried under this clause is to be recorded in the minutes as a unanimous decision of the Council.
- (4) If a Member opposes a motion, the motion is to be dealt with under this Part.
- (5) This clause does not apply to a motion to revoke or change a decision which has been made at a Council meeting.

**9.4 Only one (1) substantive motion at a time**

- (1) When a substantive motion is under debate at a meeting of the Council, no further substantive motion is to be accepted.
- (2) The Council is not to consider more than 1 substantive motion at any time.

**9.5 Order of call in debate**

The presiding member 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 where possible; and
- (h) mover takes right of reply which closes debate.

**9.6 Limit of debate**

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

**9.7 Member may require motion to be read**

A member may require the motion or matter under discussion to be read at any time during a debate, but not so as to interrupt any other Member who is speaking.

**9.8 Consent of seconder required for alteration**

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

**9.9 Order of amendments**

Any number of amendments may be proposed to a substantive 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, carried or lost.

**9.10 Form of an amendment**

An amendment must add, delete, or substitute words to the substantive motion.

**9.11 Amendment must not negate original motion**

An amendment to a substantive motion cannot negate the original motion or the intent of the original motion.

**9.12 Relevance of amendments**

Each amendment is to be relevant to the motion in respect of which it is moved.

**9.13 Mover of motion may speak on amendment**

Any member may speak during debate on an amendment.

**9.14 Effect of an amendment**

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.

**9.15 Withdrawal of motion or amendment**

(1) Subject to subclause (2), the Council may, without debate, grant leave to withdraw a motion or amendment on the request of the mover of the motion or amendment and with the approval of the seconder.

(2) 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.

**9.16 Right of reply**

(1) The mover of a substantive motion has the right of reply.

(2) The mover of any amendment to a substantive motion has a right of reply.

(3) The right of the reply may only be exercised—

(a) where no amendment is moved to the substantive motion—at the conclusion of the discussion on the motion; or

(b) where one or more amendments have been moved to the substantive motion—at the conclusion of the discussion on the substantive motion and any amendments.

(4) After the mover of the substantive motion has commenced the reply—

(a) no other member is to speak on the motion;

(b) there is to be no further discussion on, or any further amendment to, the motion.

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

(6) At the conclusion of the right of reply, the substantive motion, or the substantive motion as amended, is immediately to be put to the vote.

**PART 10—PROCEDURAL MOTIONS****10.1 Permissible procedural motions**

In addition to the right to move an amendment to a substantive motion (under Part 9), a member may move the following procedural motions—

(a) that the meeting proceed to the next item of business;

(b) that the debate be adjourned;

(c) that the meeting now adjourn;

(d) that the motion be now put;

(e) that the member be no longer heard;

(f) that the ruling of the presiding member be disagreed with;

(g) that the meeting be closed to the public (see clause 6.2);

(h) that the motion be deferred.

**10.2 No debate**

(1) The mover of a motion specified in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (f), (g) or (h) of clause 10.1 may speak to the motion for not more than three 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 specified in paragraph (d) or (e) of clause 10.1 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.

**10.3 Who may move**

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

**10.4 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.

**10.5 Meeting to proceed to the next business**

The motion ‘that the meeting proceed to the next item of business’, if carried, has the effect that—

- (a) the debate on the substantive motion or amendment ceases immediately;
- (b) no decision is made on the substantive motion;
- (c) the Council moves to the next item of business; and
- (d) there is no requirement for the matter to be raised again for consideration.

**10.6 Debate to be adjourned**

A motion ‘that the debate be adjourned’—

- (a) is to state the time to which the debate is to be adjourned; and
- (b) if carried, has the effect that all debate on the substantive motion or amendment ceases immediately, but continues at the time stated in the motion.

**10.7 Meeting now adjourn**

(1) A member is not to move or second more than 1 motion of adjournment during the same sitting of the Council.

(2) Before putting the motion for the adjournment of the Council, the presiding member may seek leave of the Council to deal first with matters that may be the subject of an adoption by en bloc voting (see clause 5.4).

(3) A motion ‘that the meeting now adjourn’—

- (a) is to state the time and date to which the meeting is to be adjourned; and
- (b) if carried, has the effect that the meeting is adjourned to the time and date specified in the motion.

(4) A meeting adjourned under subclause (3) is to continue from the point at which it was adjourned, unless the presiding member or the Council determines otherwise.

**10.8 Motion to be put**

(1) If the motion ‘that the motion be now put’, is carried during debate on a substantive motion without amendment, the presiding member is to offer the right of reply and then put the motion to the vote without further debate.

(2) If the motion ‘that the motion be now put’ is carried during discussion of an amendment, the presiding member is to put the amendment to the vote without further debate.

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

**10.9 Member to be no longer heard**

If the motion “that the member be no longer heard”, is carried, the speaker against whom the motion has been moved cannot speak further on the current substantive motion, or any amendment relating to it, except to exercise the right of reply if he or she is the mover of the substantive motion.

**10.10 Ruling of the presiding member to be disagreed with**

If the motion ‘that the ruling of the presiding member be disagreed with’, is carried, that ruling is to have no effect and the meeting is to proceed accordingly.

**PART 11—DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS****11.1 Disclosure of interests**

Disclosure of interests is dealt with in the Act.

**PART 12—VOTING****12.1 Motion—when put**

(1) Immediately after the debate on any motion is concluded and the right of reply has been exercised, the presiding member—

- (a) is to put the motion to the Council; and
- (b) if requested by any member, is to again state the terms of the motion.

(2) A member is not to leave the meeting when the presiding member is putting any motion.

**12.2 Voting**

Voting is dealt with in the Act and the Regulations.

### 12.3 Majorities required for decisions

The majorities required for decisions of the Council and committees are dealt with in the Act.

### 12.4 Method of taking vote

- (1) In taking the vote on any motion or amendment the presiding member—
  - (a) is to put the motion, first in the affirmative, and then in the negative;
  - (b) may put the motion in this way as often as may be necessary to enable him or her to determine whether the affirmative or the negative has the majority of votes;
  - (c) may accept a vote on the voices or may require a show of hands; and
  - (d) is, subject to this clause, to declare the result.
- (2) If a member calls for a show of hands, the result of the vote is to be determined on the count of raised hands.

## PART 13—MINUTES OF MEETINGS

### 13.1 Keeping of minutes

The keeping and confirmation of minutes are dealt with in the Act.

### 13.2 Content of minutes

- (1) The content of minutes is dealt with in the Regulations.
- (2) In addition to the matters required by regulation 11, the minutes of a Council meeting is to include where—
  - (a) an application for approval is refused;
  - (b) the authorisation of a licence, permit or certificate is withheld; or
  - (c) is cancelled; and
  - (d) the reasons for the decision.

### 13.3 Public inspection of unconfirmed minutes

The public inspection of unconfirmed minutes is dealt with in the Regulations.

### 13.4 Confirmation of minutes

- (1) When minutes of an ordinary meeting of Council are distributed for consideration prior to their confirmation at the next meeting and a member is dissatisfied with the accuracy of the minutes—
  - (a) the member may provide the Town with a written copy of the alternative wording to amend the minutes;
  - (b) within 7 clear working days before the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.
- (2) At the next Ordinary Meeting of Council, the member who provided the alternative wording shall, at the time for confirmation of minutes—
  - (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.
- (3) Members must not discuss items of business contained in the minutes, other than as to the accuracy of the minutes as a record of the proceedings.

## PART 14—ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

### 14.1 Meeting may be adjourned

The Council may adjourn any meeting—

- (a) to a later time on the same day; or
- (b) to any other time on any other day, including a time which coincides with the conclusion of another meeting or event.

### 14.2 Effect of adjournment

Where any matter, motion, debate or meeting is adjourned under this Local Law—

- (a) the names of members who have spoken on the matter prior to the adjournment are to be recorded in the minutes;
- (b) debate is to be resumed at the next meeting at the point where it was interrupted; and
- (c) the provisions of clause 7.9 *speaking twice* apply when the debate is resumed.

## PART 15—REVOKING OR CHANGING DECISIONS

### 15.1 Requirements to revoke or change decisions

The requirements to revoke or change a decision made at a meeting are dealt with in the Regulations.

**15.2 Limitations on powers to revoke or change decisions**

(1) Subject to subclause (2), the Council or a committee is not to consider a motion to revoke or change a decision—

- (a) where, at the time the motion is moved or notice is given, any action has been taken under clause 15.3 to implement the decision; or
- (b) where the decision is procedural in its form or effect.

(2) The Council or a committee may consider a motion to revoke or change a decision of the kind described in subclause (1)(a) if the motion is accompanied by a written statement of the legal and financial consequences of carrying the motion.

**15.3 Implementing a decision**

(1) In this clause—

- (a) **authorisation** means a licence, permit, approval or other means of authorising a person to do anything;
- (b) **implement**, in relation to a decision, includes—
  - (i) communicate notice of the decision to a person affected by, or with an interest in, the decision; and
  - (ii) take any other action to give effect to the decision; and
- (c) **valid notice of revocation motion** means a notice of motion to revoke or change a decision that complies with the requirements of the Act, Regulations and the Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2020 and may be considered, but has not yet been considered, by the Council or a committee as the case may be.

(2) Subject to subclause (4), and unless a resolution is made under subclause (3), a decision made at a meeting is not to be implemented by the CEO or any other person until after 10.00am of the first business day after the commencement of the meeting at which the decision was made.

(3) The Council or a committee may, by resolution carried at the same meeting at which a decision was made, direct the CEO or another person to take immediate action to implement the decision.

(4) A decision made at a meeting is not to be implemented by the CEO or any other person—

- (a) if, before commencing any implementation action, the CEO or that person is given a valid notice of revocation motion; and
- (b) unless and until the valid notice of revocation motion has been determined by the Council or the committee as the case may be.

(5) The CEO is to ensure that members of the public attending the meeting are informed by an appropriate notice that a decision to grant an authorisation—

- (a) is to take effect only in accordance with this clause; and
- (b) cannot be acted upon by the person who has been granted the authorisation unless and until the decision has been implemented in accordance with this clause.

**PART 16—SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES LOCAL LAW 2020****16.1 Suspension of Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2020**

(1) A member may at any time move that the operation of 1 or more of the provisions of this Local Law be suspended.

(2) A member moving a motion under subclause (1) is to state the reasons for the motion but no other discussion is to take place.

(3) A motion under subclause (1) which is—

- (a) seconded; and
- (b) carried by an absolute majority, is to suspend the operation of the clause or clauses to which the motion relates for the duration of the meeting, unless the meeting earlier resolves otherwise.

**16.2 Where standing orders do not apply**

(1) In situations where—

- (a) One (1) or more provisions of this Local Law have been suspended; or
- (b) a matter is not provided for under the Act, the Regulations or this Local Law,

the presiding member is to decide questions relating to the conduct of the meeting.

(2) The decision of the presiding member under subclause (1) is final, except where a motion is moved and carried under clause 10.10.

**16.3 Cases not provided for in Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2020**

(1) The presiding member is to decide questions of order, procedure, debate, or otherwise in cases where this Local Law, the Act or Regulations are silent.

(2) The decision of the presiding member is final, except where a motion is moved and carried under clause 10.10.

**PART 17—MEETINGS OF ELECTORS****17.1 Electors' general meetings**

Electors' general meetings are dealt with in the Act.

**17.2 Matters for discussion at electors' general meetings**

The matters to be discussed at electors' general meetings are dealt with in the Regulations.

**17.3 Electors' special meetings**

Electors' special meetings are dealt with in the Act.

**17.4 Requests for electors' special meetings**

Requests for electors' special meetings are dealt with in the Regulations.

**17.5 Convening electors' meetings**

Convening electors' meetings is dealt with in the Act.

**17.6 Who presides at electors' meetings**

Who presides at electors' meetings is dealt with in the Act.

**17.7 Procedure for electors' meetings**

(1) The procedure for electors' meetings is dealt with in the Act and the Regulations.

(2) In exercising his or her discretion to determine the procedure to be followed at an electors' meeting, the presiding member is to have regard to this Local Law.

**17.8 Participation of non-electors**

A person who is not an elector of the Town shall not take part in any discussion at an electors' meeting unless the meeting, by resolution, permits the person do so.

**17.9 Voting at electors' meetings**

Voting at electors' meetings is dealt with in the Regulations.

**17.10 Minutes of electors' meetings**

Minutes of electors' meetings are dealt with in the Act.

**17.11 Decisions made at electors' meetings**

Decisions made at electors' meetings are dealt with in the Act.

**PART 18—ENFORCEMENT****18.1 Penalty for breach**

A person who breaches a provision of this Local Law commits an offence.

Penalty—up to \$1,000.

**18.2 Who can prosecute**

Who can prosecute is dealt with in the Act.

Dated: 16 March 2020.

The Common Seal of the Town of Bassendean was affixed by resolution of the Council in the presence of—

RENEE McLENNAN, Mayor.  
PETA MABBS, Chief Executive Officer.