



UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 9 MAY 2022 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

HELD: Monday 9 May 2022

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams

COMMENCED: 4.00pm

PUBLIC ACCESS: Live Streaming from Council's website
www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors	Executive Leadership Group
Bruce Meyer OAM, Mayor Jodie Pretlove, Deputy Mayor Trevor Domaschenz Tom Houlihan Tim Meyer	David Bezuidenhout Chief Executive Officer (CEO) James Bentley Director, Corporate & Community Services (DCCS) Ram Upadhyaya Director, Infrastructure Development & Works (DIDW)
	Tim Brown Governance Consultant Katie Frost Governance Manager (Minutes)

*The West Wimmera Shire Council Governance Rules
set out the meeting procedure rules for this Council Meeting.*

*Members of the public are reminded that they are required to
remain silent during this meeting.*

Vision Statement:

*Our Wimmera Shire communities are healthy, thriving, diverse, harmonious,
prosperous and self-sustaining, with regional and global connectivity*



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1.0 WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The West Wimmera Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

2.0 OPENING PRAYER – CEO

Almighty God, we humbly ask your blessing upon this Council. Guide and prosper our decisions to the advancement of Your Glory and the true welfare of the people of West Wimmera Shire. Amen.

3.0 APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

CEO advised that Mr Tim Brown, Governance Consultant will be in attendance at this meeting.



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3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3.3 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Councillors have a personal responsibility to ensure they are aware of the provisions mandated in the Local Government Act 2020 with regard to Conflict of Interest disclosures.

Nil



4.0 CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

4.1 AMENDMENT OF WWSC FLYING OF FLAGS ON COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY POLICY

FILE NUMBER:

REPORT AUTHOR: JAMES BENTLEY, DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

FOR DECISION

Introduction

The West Wimmera Shire Council (Council) adopted a Flag Flying on Council Owned Buildings and Property Policy (Policy) at their meeting held 15th February 2022.

At the Council Meeting held 20th April 2022, a notice of motion was presented to Council requesting that Council fly the Rainbow/Pride Flag for IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia) Day on Tuesday 17th May 2022. This motion was not passed; however, it was resolved that this matter be discussed at the May Councillor Forum.

The Councillor Forum was held 4th May 2022 and Councillors agreed that the Flag Flying on Council Owned Buildings and Property Policy should be amended to make it possible for non-official/official flags to be flown upon request and approval by Council on a 'Community Flagpole'.

The current policy has been amended following discussion at the Councillor Forum (**refer to Attachment 1 for amended Policy**). This report recommends the adoption of the revised Policy and recommends that Council approve the flying of the Rainbow/Pride Flag on IDAHOBIT Day, which this year will be Tuesday 17th May.

Declaration of Interests

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.



Background

The policy has been amended to include the establishment of a community flagpole within the townships of Edenhope, Kaniva, Apsley, Goroke and Harrow. The amended policy will provide specific criteria for the provision of such flags by community groups and members of the public so that community flags can be flown at these sites.

Currently, Council allows for the flying of official flags in accordance with the Australian National Flag Protocols. The Australian National Flag Protocols stipulate that only official flags of nations/local government flag recognised by Australia should be flown in conjunction with the Australian National Flag.

To accommodate requests for community flag flying, it is suggested that provision be made for a Community Flagpole to be established (identified or constructed) to allow for the flying of non-official flags. The Community Flagpole is an avenue for communities within our Shire to express and symbolise identity, pride and belonging.

Community flag flying requests/applications must be in writing and will be assessed by the Director Corporate Community Services and a report will be provided to Council for approval. Once approved by Council, the Chief Executive Officer may approve repeat applications.

Those applying to have a community flag flown at one of Council's Community Flagpoles will be required to provide the flag to be flown.

The following criteria will be considered when a request to fly a non-official flag at a Community Flagpole is assessed:

- Promotes respect for all.
- Is part of an event or ceremony.
- Is consistent with Council's values and policies.
- Embraces a sense of belonging and enhanced community life.

Council will not consider a request to fly a community flag that is connected to:

- Individual advancement.
- Political or cultural sensitivities.
- Exposure to adverse criticism of Council or the community as a whole.



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Risk Management Implications

Policies are essential in providing Council with clear guidelines to operate within, whilst remaining compliant and adhering to relevant protocols. Failure to develop and adopt a Flag Flying on Council Buildings and Property Policy may place Council at risk of being non-compliant with Australian National Flag Protocols. It also provides Council with clear guidelines for responding to requests to fly flags.

Legislative Implications

Australian National Flag Protocols

Flag Act 1953

Environmental Implications

Not commented on.

Financial and Budgetary Implications

Minimal cost. Costs with respect to the establishment of community flagpole be handled as budget variation if need be.

Policy Implications

This report is supported by the following West Wimmera Shire Council Policies:

Communications Policy

Community & Commercial Advertising on Council Buildings & Structures Policy

Community Engagement Policy

Community Halls Policy

Media Relations Policy

Council Plan Implications

This report supports the following section/s of the West Wimmera Shire Council Plan 2021-2025:

- Goal 4 – Good Governance



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Communication Implications

Not applicable.

Gender Equality

Not commented on.

Conclusion

Council believes that the establishment of Community Flagpoles to allow for the flying of non-official flags will allow communities within our Shire to express and symbolise identity, pride and belonging.

The amended policy contains clear guidelines for flying official flags in accordance with the Australian National Flag Protocols and also clear guidelines for flying approved non-official flags.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION 1:

That Council adopt the amended Flying of Flags on Council Owned Buildings and Property Policy (attachment 1); authorise the CEO to commit the necessary resources to establish a community flagpole at Edenhope, Kaniva, Apsley, Goroke and Harrow; and approve the flying of the Rainbow/Pride Flag on 17 May 2022.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION 2:

That should the Community Flagpoles at Edenhope and Kaniva not be established before 17 May 2022, the Rainbow/Pride Flag be flown on the second flagpole of the Edenhope Council Chambers and the second flagpole at the Windmill in Kaniva on 17 May 2022.

Attachments:

No.	Name	RecFind Ref
4.1	Flying of Flags on Council Owned Buildings and Property Policy	



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Moved: Cr Tim Meyer

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That Council adopt the amended Flying of Flags on Council Owned Buildings and Property Policy (attachment 1); authorise the CEO to commit the necessary resources to establish a community flagpole at Edenhope, Kaniva, Apsley, Goroke and Harrow; and approve the flying of the Rainbow/Pride Flag on 17 May 2022.

Carried (5/0)

Moved: Cr Tim Meyer

Seconded: Cr Jodie Pretlove

That should the Community Flagpoles at Edenhope and Kaniva not be established before 17 May 2022, the Rainbow/Pride Flag be flown on the second flagpole of the Edenhope Council Chambers and the second flagpole at the Windmill in Kaniva on 17 May 2022.

Carried (4/1)

Cr Trevor Domaschenz called for a Division

For

Cr Jodie Pretlove

Cr Tim Meyer

Cr Tom Houlihan

Cr Trevor Domaschenz

Against

Cr Bruce Meyer



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Subsequent Motion

Moved: Cr Trevor Domaschenz

That Council establish a Community Flagpole at the Edenhope & District Community Centre.

Motion lapsed for want of a seconder

MEETING CONCLUDED: 4.32PM