Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting
Monday, 26 October 2026 at 10:25 am
Maningrida Council Offices

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 10.25am, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

## 2 PERSONS PRESENT

**ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

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| Chairperson | James Woods (Mayor) |
| Councillor | Ralph McCoy |
| Councillor | Henry Yates |
| Councillor | Steven Nabalmarda |
| Councillor | Ralph F Blyth (via TEAMS) |
| Councillor | Mickitja Onus |
| Councillor | Dwane Baker |
| Councillor | Geraldine Narul |

**STAFF PRESENT**

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|---|---|
| Chief Executive Officer | Katharine Clare Murray |
| Acting Director Community and Council Services | Peter Mickleson (via TEAMS) |
| Director Technical Services | Grant McKenzie |
| Finance Manager | Imran Shajib (via TEAMS) |
| Acting Governance Advisor | Joy Mickleson |
| Executive Assistant | Ashlee Denyer |
| Governance and Risk Advisor | Shelley Landmark (via TEAMS) |
| Communications and Public Relations Advisor | Heidi Walton (via TEAMS) |

**GUESTS**

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|---|---|
| Maningrida and Homelands Regional Authority Consortium | William Fogarty (via TEAMS) |

Unconfirmed

## 3 APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **3.1** |
| **Title:** | **Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absent Without Notice** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absent Without Notice.

**OCM322/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Cr Mickitja Onus
**Seconded** Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the apology received from Clrs Daniel Siebert and Jermaine Namanurki.
2. Determines that Clrs Daniel Siebert, Jermaine Namanurki, Joseph Diddo and Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips are absent without permission of the Council.

**CARRIED**

## 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **4.1** |
| **Title:** | **Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff.

**OCM323/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of Cr Dwane Baker**
**Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus**

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the declarations of interest disclosed in relation to the items listed for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 October 2026.

**CARRIED**

## 5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **5.1** |
| **Title:** | **Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes.

Unconfirmed

**OCM324/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Cr Ralph McCoy
**Seconded** Cr Geraldine Narul

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 22/23 September 2026 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

## 6 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **6.1** |
| **Title:** | **Maningrida and Homelands Regional Authority Consortium** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Maningrida and Homelands Regional Authority Consortium.

**OCM325/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:
1. Notes the presentation from the Maningrida and Homelands Authority Regional Consortium, and
2. Instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Minister requesting permission for WARC to join the Maningrida and Homelands Authority Regional Consortium.

**CARRIED**

## 7 ACTION REPORTS

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **7.1** |
| **Title:** | **Review of Action Items** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

**OCM326/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Cr Dwane Baker
**Seconded** Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL:
1. Receives and notes the report titled *Review of Action Items*; and
2. Reviews the outstanding action items and gives approval for completed items to be removed from the register; and
3. Gives approval for Clr Geraldine Narul to attend the LGANT AGM in November if Clr Siebert is unavailable.

**CARRIED**

Unconfirmed

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **7.2** |
| **Title:** | **Risk Management and Audit Committee - Approval of Annual Work Plan 2026/27** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Risk Management and Audit Committee - Approval of Annual Work Plan 2026/27.

**OCM340/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **7.3** |
| **Title:** | **Certification of 2025 - 26 Local Authority Project Funding** |
| **Author:** | **Imran Shajib, Finance Manager** |

The Council considered a report on Certification of 2025 - 26 Local Authority Project Funding.

**OCM328/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Cr Ralph F Blyth
**Seconded** Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receive and note the report titled *Certification of 2025 - 26 Local Authority Project Funding.*

**CARRIED**

## 8 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.1** |
| **Title:** | **Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

**OCM329/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Unconfirmed

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|---|---|
| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.2** |
| **Title:** | **Local Authority Meeting Minutes** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Local Authority Meeting Minutes.

**OCM330/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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|---|---|
| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.3** |
| **Title:** | **Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes.

**OCM331/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.4** |
| **Title:** | **Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor.

**OCM332/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.5** |
| **Title:** | **Meetings and Events attended by the CEO** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Meetings and Events attended by the CEO.

Unconfirmed

**OCM333/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.6** |
| **Title:** | **Financial report for period ending 30 September 2026** |
| **Author:** | **Imran Shajib, Finance Manager** |

The Council considered a report on Financial report for period ending 30 September 2026.

**OCM334/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Cr Ralph McCoy
**Seconded** Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receive and note the report titled *Financial report for period ending 30 September 2026 and*
2. Approves the *Acquittal of Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) grants 2025-26 period 1.*

**CARRIED**

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.7** |
| **Title:** | **Technical Services Report** |
| **Author:** | **Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services** |

The Council considered a report on Technical Services Report.

**OCM335/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **8.8** |
| **Title:** | **Community and Council Services Report** |
| **Author:** | **Peter Mickleson, Interim Director Council and Community Services** |

The Council considered a report on Community and Council Services Report.

Unconfirmed

**OCM336/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL defers this item to the November 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

## 9 ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **9.1** |
| **Title:** | **Elected Member Questions with or without Notice** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Elected Member Questions with or Without Notice.

**OCM337/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL noted there were no questions with or without notice from Elected Members

**CARRIED**

## 10 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **10.1** |
| **Title:** | **Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

The Council considered a report on Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items.

**OCM338/2026 RESOLVED:**
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods
**Seconded** Cr Ralph McCoy

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 52 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public at 10.36am to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

## 11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.1** |
| **Title:** | **Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.*

Unconfirmed

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.2** |
| **Title:** | **Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

*The report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.*

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.3** |
| **Title:** | **Review of Confidential Action Items** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

*The report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(e). It contains information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.*

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.4** |
| **Title:** | **Chief Executive Officer's Report** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(i). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.*

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.5** |
| **Title:** | **2026-27 Rates and Charges Report - Final Rates Run Variance** |
| **Author:** | **Imran Shajib, Finance Manager** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(i). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.*

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.6** |
| **Title:** | **Major Projects for West Arnhem Regional Council** |
| **Author:** | **Grant McKenzie, Director Technical Services** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(i). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.*

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.7** |
| **Title:** | **Asbestos Registers** |
| **Author:** | **Grant McKenzie, Director Technical Services** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(e). It contains information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.*

Unconfirmed

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.8** |
| **Title:** | **Future of the Jabiru Childcare Centre** |
| **Author:** | **Peter Mickleson, Interim Director Council and Community Services** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(i). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.*

Councillor Ralph Blyth left the meeting at 12.26pm and returned at 12.30pm.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:49pm and resumed at 1:05pm.

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.9** |
| **Title:** | **Future of the Post Office Service in Maningrida** |
| **Author:** | **Peter Mickleson, Interim Director Council and Community Services** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(i). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.*

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **11.10** |
| **Title:** | **Local Government Representation Review 2026** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(d). It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.*

**12 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS AND RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

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| **Agenda Reference:** | **12.2** |
| **Title:** | **Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.*

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|---|---|
| **Agenda Reference:** | **12.3** |
| **Title:** | **Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public** |
| **Author:** | **Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer** |

*The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.*

The public was re-admitted at 1.27pm.

Unconfirmed

## 13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25 November 2026 in Darwin at 10:00am.

## 14 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting closed at 1.57pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 October 2026.

Click here to view the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 October 2026.

Unconfirmed