

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF KOUGA MUNICIPALITY HELD ON THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2025 AT 10:00 AM
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PRESENT: Councillors

L Maree	(Speaker)
H Bornman	(Executive Mayor)
Ald D Benson	
B Dhludhlu	
T Jantjes	
W Gertenbach	
H Murray	
R Foley	
F Heystek	
S Ruth	
C August	
M Nicholls	
M van Niekerk	
J Alexander	
G Stuurman	
P Oliphant	
M Yali	
K Ndzelani	
N Ntshota	
M Valgee	
V Zana	
E Mbuqu	
N Ntengwane	
Ald B Williams	
M Mbandana	

**Officials &
Municipal Manager**

C du Plessis	(Municipal Manager)
D de Jager	(Deputy Municipal Manager)
R Lorgat	(CFO)
N Machelesi	(Director: Community Services)
C de Kock	(Director: Civil & Water Services)
M Mangembe	(Acting Director: Electro-Mechanical Services)
L Ramakuwela	(Director: Planning & Development)
L Opperman	(Manager: Legal Services)
E Goliath	(Manager: Public Participation)
K Minnaar	(Chief of Staff)
A Koegelenberg	(Manager: PMS)
M Basson	(Manager: Media & Communication)
S Mlonyeni	(Communication Officer)
R Klaasen	(Media Liasion Officer)
M Rossouw	(Manager: Administration & Auxiliary Services)
M Julius	(Senior Admin Officer: Committees)
M Mitchell	(Committee Clerk)
S Ndyenge	(Intern: Committee Services)

1. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Speaker read the notice convening the meeting in terms of Section 19 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000) that an Ordinary Council Meeting will be held virtually on 29 May 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

2. **OPENING AND WELCOME**

The Speaker welcomed everyone present to the meeting and requested Cllr Benson to open with a prayer.

3. **ABSENT WITH LEAVE**

B Human
L Nklishane
W Petersen
W van der Linde

T Madatt (Director: Electro-Mechanical Services)

4. **ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE**

V Gunuza

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, CONDOLENCES & CONGRATULATIONS**

Cllr Gertenbach expressed condolences for Dr. Douglas Gibson, and congratulated Cllr Nicholls on the birth of her child.

Cllr Zana congratulated the Amad Diallo for winning the AFCON tournament in Egypt and praised South African athletes in the Diamond League, specifically mentioning Akani Simbine for outstanding performance.

He also commended the ANC for winning Ward 5 in Kou-Kamma and acknowledged President Cyril Ramaphosa's dignified representation of South Africa during a meeting in the Oval Office. Additionally, he extended well wishes to Mamelodi Sundowns ahead of their Champions League match against the Pyramids of Egypt. On a sad note, he expressed condolences to the family of Asemahle Maqolo, a journalism student who was murdered in Durban, and recognised all victims of gender-based violence whose stories go unreported.

Ald Benson acknowledged the recent birthdays of Councillors August and Foley, and extended well wishes to them. He also conveyed best wishes to any other Councillors who may have recently celebrated birthdays but were not mentioned. Additionally, he expressed concern and support for those who are unwell, including Cllr Human and others known or unknown to the Council. He wished them a speedy recovery and hoped for their healing.

Cllr Oliphant extended heartfelt condolences on the passing of Mama Gertrude Shope, a 99-year-old anti-apartheid activist and former leader in the ANC Women's League, noting her principled stand against Bantu Education. He honoured her legacy and leadership.

He also celebrated the ANC's recent electoral victory in Ward 5, Kou-Kamma, emphasising the party's continued support as the people's choice in the area.

Cllr Mbandana expressed heartfelt condolences to a respected community elder from Patensie on their passing. He congratulated the ANC on its recent electoral success in Kou-Kamma Municipality and commended volunteers and officials for their dedication.

He raised concern over unresolved local cases of missing and murdered children, urging renewed efforts to address them. He also highlighted recent xenophobic tensions in Kirkwood and called for proactive local action in Hankey and Patensie to prevent similar incidents.

At 10:20, the Executive Mayor raised a point of order regarding Cllr Mbandana's remarks. He expressed uncertainty about whether Cllr Mbandana was delivering a statement of condolences or congratulations, noting that the speech had become lengthy and extended beyond the customary brief nature of such messages.

Cllr Foley congratulated Cllr Nicholls and her husband on the birth of their daughter and extended condolences to the family of the late Mr Kevin Ackerman, a long-serving Kouga Municipality employee.

The Executive Mayor extended congratulations to Woodlands Dairy on its 30th anniversary in Humansdorp. The company currently employs over 1,600 Kouga residents and supports more than 10,000 others indirectly, significantly contributing to local job creation and economic growth. He thanked them for their ongoing role in supporting the community.

Cllr Ndzelani expressed sincere condolences on the passing of a family member. He noted that the funeral would take place in Jeffreys Bay over the weekend.

7. STATEMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS BY THE SPEAKER

Honourable Mayor and Members of the Council, Officials, Online Guests, and colleagues,

Good morning,

I would like to congratulate Cllr Melanie Nicholls and her husband on welcoming a new baby girl.

Congratulations also goes to Rayno Nel on winning the 2025 World's Strongest Man competition.

The words Chelsea flower show leaves a warm feeling in our hearts. South Africa showcasing the diverse flora of over 25,000 stems of indigenous plants, including fynbos and cliff-dwelling species, celebrating South Africa as "the flower basket of Africa". Rooibos tea bags were used to create a beautiful waterfall within the display. The exhibit's excellence was recognized with a gold medal and the prestigious Lawrence Medal, awarded for the best exhibit in the Great Pavilion, marking it a significant achievement for South African.

Congratulations to all four women and men relay teams performing exceptionally in China earlier this month with some new national records being set. Setting the stage for more great performances in September for the world athletics championships in Tokyo.

Thank you.

8. **STATEMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

Honourable Speaker, Members of the Council, and Fellow Residents,

It gives me great pleasure to put this budget to Council for the 2025/2026 financial year. This is a momentous occasion as it marks the largest budget ever tabled before Council in Kouga Municipality's history. It is a budget rooted in our unwavering commitment to service delivery, infrastructure development, and the continued upliftment of our communities.

As we reflect on our journey, I am reminded of the 2014/2015 budget – a total amount of R652.4 million, of which R33.3 million went to capital expenditure and R619 million to operational needs. The contrast with our current figures demonstrates how far we've come and how bold our ambitions have grown. The total budget for the 2025/2026 financial year amounts to R1.845 billion, comprising R265 million for capital expenditure and R1.58 billion for operational expenditure.

Speaker, this budget is a declaration of intent. It is a roadmap to a future where our communities are stronger, our infrastructure more resilient, and our services more responsive.

Tariff Adjustments for 2025/2026

To balance affordability and sustainability, the following moderate tariff increases will apply:

- Property Rates: 6%
- Water: 6.9%
- Sanitation: 6.9%
- Refuse Removal: 6.5%
- Environmental Management Fee: 6.5%
- Electricity: 12.74%

Despite national cost pressures, we have kept tariff increases as low and reasonable as possible. We acknowledge the role residents played in petitioning for a lower electricity increase. Your voices were heard. This final adjustment is below the original proposal from NERSA. Likewise, our water tariff remains directly tied to the increases imposed by the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

This is a budget that works for the people. It balances growth with responsibility, ambition with realism, and service delivery with sustainability.

Renewable Energy and Electricity Resilience

A total of R25 million has been allocated toward battery storage infrastructure to support our Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) project.

This flagship initiative aims to:

- Reduce Kouga's reliance on Eskom.
- Stabilize local electricity supply for households and industry.
- Integrate renewable energy into our municipal grid and
- Improve energy security during loadshedding and peak demand hours.

This investment places Kouga at the forefront of energy innovation in the province and affirms our commitment to building a sustainable, future-ready municipality.

- Over R20 million has been allocated toward the next two financial years for further roll out of this project.
- Further projects include R4.7 million for the 1250 ocean view electrification and
- Over R6 million for the installation of additional high mast lights across informal settlements in our community

This administration has listened to the heartfelt pleas of the residents of Sea Vista. For far too long, they have endured life without electrification — a basic service that every community deserves.

This neglect has not only hindered development but has also tragically cost lives. In response, and through a strong partnership with the new Minister of Public Works, Minister Dean McPherson, we are proud to announce that the electrification of Seavista will finally become a reality.

Human Settlements and Informal Settlement Upgrades

This budget reinforces our commitment to restoring dignity through improved living conditions. Key allocations under this priority include:

- R20.4 million rand dedicated to the upgrading of informal settlements.
- Over R2 million allocated for KwaNomzamo
- Close to R3 million for Ocean View
- Almost R2 million for Donkerhoek

We have declared 2025 as the Year of Progress for this vital programme. This is not just a financial commitment – it is a social contract to ensure that all residents, regardless of where they live, can access basic services, and live in safe, dignified communities.

Water and Sanitation Infrastructure

- Nearly R7 million to upgrade the KwaNomzamo Wastewater Treatment Works
- Over R5 million for the upgrade of Gill Marcus Bulk Water Reservoir and Pipeline
- Almost R7 million for upgrading the Loerie sewer pump station.
- R2 million for the refurbishment of the Hankey Wastewater Treatment Works and over
- R1 million dedicated toward St Franics Bay ground water supply development.

Safety and Security

- As part of Kouga Municipality's commitment to building safer communities, we are investing a total of R6.5 million in safety infrastructure over the next three financial years. This investment will significantly expand our CCTV surveillance network across identified crime hotspots in the municipality.
- In the current financial year, R1 million has been allocated toward the installation of new security cameras.
- A further R1 million has been set aside for the extension and upgrading of our Incident Command Centre, ensuring faster response times and better coordination in emergencies.
- These measures form part of our broader vision for a safer Kouga—one where residents, businesses, and visitors feel secure and protected.

Roads and Transport Infrastructure

- I am proud to announce the expansion of the R200 million Roads Reseal Project – the largest infrastructure investment in our municipality's history. This vital project is being rolled out to ensure that tar roads are re-sealed in every town across Kouga, improving road safety, accessibility, and mobility for all our residents.

- By upgrading our road network, we are not only enhancing daily travel conditions but also unlocking economic opportunities, attracting investment, and enabling local businesses to thrive. Well-maintained roads are essential for the efficient delivery of services, the safety of motorists and pedestrians, and the overall growth of our local economy.
- This expansion demonstrates our ongoing commitment to building a connected, safe, and economically vibrant Kouga for today and for future generations.
- Additionally, R13.5 million has been allocated for gravel-to-tar upgrades in the most critical areas of our region.

We are proud that, now more than ever before, our Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is being reflected in the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP). This alignment ensures that the priorities and needs of our communities are not just acknowledged but actively addressed through implementation.

It also finds clear expression in our budget, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to fulfilling that which is most critical to the residents of Kouga Municipality — and to prioritising the projects and services that will truly take our municipality forward. This budget is more than figures and allocations — it is a blueprint for impact, guided by our shared vision of progress, equity, and excellence in service delivery.

I want to thank the administration for preparing these items that reflect not only our vision but also the practical steps required to achieve it. It is a demonstration of professionalism, hard work, and an unwavering focus on what matters most to our people.

Most importantly, I want to sincerely thank our residents for their unwavering support and loyalty. Our current collection rate of 91% is a clear reflection of a strong and trusting relationship between the municipality and its people.

When we consider that this is up from around 75% in 2015, the progress is truly remarkable. None of this would be possible without you.

Together, we will build a Kouga that is inclusive, future-ready, and one of the best-run municipalities in the country.

Thank you.

9. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

None

10. **STATUTORY MATTERS**

11. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR INFORMATION**

None

12. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

12.1 **MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2025**

Resolved (29 May 2025)

1. That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 31 March 2025 be approved.

Proposed: Cllr W Gertenbach

Seconded: Cllr S Ruth

12.2 **MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2025**

Resolved (29 May 2025)

1. That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 March 2025 be approved.

Proposed: Cllr R foley

Seconded: Cllr W Gertenbach

13. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

13.1 **REPORT BACK: SARAH BAARTMAN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY REPRESENTATIVE**

None

13.2 **KOUGA AUDIT COMMITTEE**

None

13.3 **RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE**

None

13.4 **MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

None

13.5 **MUNICIPAL BY - LAWS AND POLICIES**

None

14. **REPORT BACK: MUNIMEC**

None

15. **REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

25/05/MM1 COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AS AT 30 APRIL 2025

Cllr Gertenbach requested that managers standardise the format of departmental reports to ensure consistency and readability across sections. He raised concerns regarding unresolved matters noted on page 90 of the report, specifically the lack of delegated powers to portfolio councillors despite a resolution passed in December 2021. Additionally, he pointed out that the Grant-in-Aid Policy, scheduled for review in December 2022, had yet to be addressed. He emphasised that the ongoing delays were unacceptable.

Cllr Heystek referred to page 90 of the report and noted that there have been resolutions regarding the golf course made after the decision dated 19 July. He requested that the administration verify and update the report to reflect the most recent decisions related to the golf course.

Cllr Zana referred to page 90 and acknowledged concerns previously raised regarding the Grant-in-Aid Policy, he requested clarity on the progress of establishing the SMME Forum.

Cllr Yali raised concerns about persistent cable theft and illegal electricity connections. He proposed establishing a scheduled, ongoing joint programme with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and relevant departments to improve coordination in addressing the issue. He also requested an update on the transfer of the Thornhill electricity network to Kouga Municipality, emphasising that local control is needed to resolve service delivery problems in the area.

The CFO clarified that the Grant-in-Aid Policy is currently under review, along with four or five other economic development-related policies. These will soon be presented at a policy workshop.

Regarding the SMME Forum, the CFO noted that a quarterly report detailing current support efforts was submitted at the previous council meeting. Once the SMME strategy is approved by Council, a more formal support structure will be developed. For now, the forum is used primarily for information sharing, and ongoing communication with SMMEs is taking place. More comprehensive plans will follow with the finalisation of the policy.

The Director: Planning & Development clarified that the Councillor was likely referring to an older resolution still appearing on the Council action sheets. He explained that some items may carry over and appear duplicated because they are recaptured when brought back to Council, even though they relate to the same issue. Specifically, regarding page 90, he believes the updated resolution is listed further down in the document.

He assured Council that all items have been updated and, if any were missed, they will be corrected accordingly.

The Acting Director: Electro-Mechanical reported that a transformer has been installed in Thornhill, and planning will begin to electrify Tjoksville once beneficiaries are identified.

On cable theft, he acknowledged delays due to the unavailability of SAPS despite readiness from the Electrical Department and Law Enforcement. He supported the idea of establishing a fixed schedule with SAPS to address illegal connections more effectively.

The Deputy Municipal Manager stated that efforts are underway to address concerns regarding report formats. The administration is transitioning to the Collaborator System, which will automate Council agendas, minutes, and resolutions. This system is expected to be fully implemented by the end of June 2025.

In the meantime, steps are being taken to streamline the current reporting format, and the concerns raised by Councillors have been acknowledged and will be addressed.

Resolved (29 May 2025)

1. That the updated Action Sheets reflecting resolutions of previous Council meetings, be noted.
2. That the action sheet be tabled at Top Management for discussion and Actioning.

25/05/MM2

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REVIEWED 2025/2026 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Cllr Zana requested a caucus of 5 minutes.

The Speaker granted the caucus from 10:46 -10:51.

Cllr Zana, representing the ANC, raised concerns about the IDP and budget process, stating that some public participation meetings, including in his ward, were unsuccessful and did not reconvene. He questioned the source of the R100 million mentioned by the Executive Mayor for informal settlement upgrades, requesting transparency.

He welcomed the inclusion of the Sarah Baartman District Development Model in the IDP and emphasised the need for stronger cooperation with other government spheres. He also enquired about the uneven deployment of Community Development Workers (CDWs) and whether CoGTA had been engaged to address this.

Lastly, he questioned who was responsible for following up on capital projects, such as a day hospital in Ward 13, warning that failure to act on identified priorities would disappoint communities.

He concluded by requesting a division of votes and confirmed the ANC would not support the item.

Cllr Oliphant supported Cllr Zana. He commended Kouga Municipality for increasing the free basic water allocation from 6kL to 9kL for indigent households but questioned why a similar top-up was not applied to electricity. He also suggested reviewing the income threshold for indigent support to include more qualifying residents.

Cllr Yali acknowledged that Ward 14 received provincial funding for projects like electrification and substation upgrades. However, he indicated that the IDP process as largely symbolic and ineffective in delivering actual services to disadvantaged communities. He stressed that real progress tends to come from provincial rather than municipal efforts.

He also raised concerns about the lack of oversight and accountability for CDWs, questioning their attendance and reporting at ward committee meetings. Due to these issues, he stated that the ANC does not support the IDP item.

The Executive Mayor clarified that the provision of 9 kilolitres of free water to the poorest residents was not new but has been in place for 6–7 years. He acknowledged the suggestion to top up free electricity but stated the Municipality cannot afford it due to funding constraints.

Ald Williams raised multiple concerns about the quality and accuracy of the IDP document, highlighting outdated or incorrect content and unaddressed amendments:

- Outdated information: Tables only include meetings up to January, omitting those from February onward.
- Missing policies: Noted that the honours policy is absent (as flagged in March), suggesting possible omissions of other policies.
- Inaccurate content: References to raccoons and coyotes (irrelevant to the local context) instead of real environmental concerns like sharks, seals, and coastal erosion.
- Budget clarity issues: Ambiguities in the camera rollout budget (p. 279) and lack of breakdowns by town and percentage (p. 307).
- Wind farms: IDP mentions only three, but there are believed to be around six.
- Misleading details: A seven-day tender mentioned on p. 365 is seen as inappropriate for an annual planning document.
- Coastal risks: No mention of coastal erosion or setback lines despite their known importance.

He proposed the addition of a point 10.5 as indicated below:

That all recommended amendments be included in the IDP Plan and submitted to the Office of the Speaker by the end of business 30 May 2025.

Cllr Gertenbach seconded the proposal.

Cllr Stuurman objected to the IDP stating that the Ward 7 street lighting project was completed, clarifying that it remains incomplete. He noted past issues with ESKOM subcontractors delivering faulty or unfinished work. He had formally raised the matter with the relevant stakeholders via email and received a response confirming receipt.

The Municipal Manager explained that the IDP follows a formal process involving public consultation and a set deadline for comments. Amendments suggested by Council will be implemented if formally resolved. He also clarified that priorities beyond municipal control are escalated through Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) forums, district forums, and direct communication with relevant departments. He confirmed that all necessary changes will be made as per Council's resolution.

The Speaker called for a division of vote on the approval of the amended recommendations as follows:

J Alexander	In Favour
C August	In Favour
Ald D Benson	In Favour
H Bornman	In Favour
B Dhludhlu	In Favour
R Foley	In Favour
W Gertenbach	In Favour
F Heystek	In Favour
T Jantjes	In Favour
L Maree	In Favour
M Mbandana	Not in Favour
E Mbuqu	Abstain
H Murray	In Favour
K Ndzelani	Not in Favour
M Nicholls	In Favour
L Nkilishane	Abstain

N Ntengwane	Not in Favour
N Ntshota	Not in Favour
P Oliphant	Not in Favour
S Ruth	In Favour
G Stuurman	In Favour
M van Niekerk	In Favour
Ald B Williams	In Favour
M Yali	Not in Favour
V Zana	Not In Favour

It must be noted that the following Councillors were not present for the vote:

V Gunuza

B Human

W Petersen

M Valgee

W van der Linde

The Speaker announced the result as follows:

In Favour: 16

Not In Favour: 7

Abstain: 2

Resolved (29 May 2025)

1. That the 2025/2026 Annual Reviewed IDP attached as **Annexure A** to the Agenda **BE ADOPTED** as a principal strategic planning instrument which will continue to guide and inform all planning and development, and all decisions regarding planning, management, and development, in the Kouga Local Municipality.
2. That the written submissions received in respect of Final 2025/2026 Reviewed IDP attached as **Appendix 4** to the IDP be considered and addressed as part of the wider, holistic and cyclical process of Municipal planning.
3. That within 14 days of the adoption of the 2025/2026 Annual Reviewed IDP by Council, the Accounting Officer of the

Municipality must in accordance with Section 25 (4) of the Municipal Systems Act

Give notice to the public –

- Of the adoption of the plan; and
 - That copies of or extracts from the plan are made available for public inspection at specified places.
4. That the approved IDP and Budget be sent to Cogta/National and Provincial Treasury within 10 days of approval.
 5. That all recommended amendments be included in the IDP Plan and submitted to the Office of the Speaker by the end of business 30 May 2025.

Proposed: Ald B Williams

Seconded: Cllr W Gertenbach

25/05/MM3

KOUGA MAYORAL CUP 2025

The Executive Mayor highlighted the success of the Mayoral Cup, which had thousands of participants across 16 sports. He noted the event's growth and the goal for it to become financially self-sustaining. While not yet independent, sponsorships are being secured for future events. He thanked Elvina Felix and Kyle Minnaar for their key roles and expressed optimism for the event's continued expansion.

Cllr Zana welcomed the Executive Mayor's comments on making the Mayoral Cup self-sustainable and supported the idea. He proposed that future tournaments be hosted in different towns across Kouga to promote social cohesion and unity through sport. He also requested clarity on recommendation 10.3, asking if a detailed close-out report on the tournament, including financial breakdowns per sporting code, would be submitted in the next Council meeting.

Cllr Yali welcomed the report and highlighted the need for elderly residents in disadvantaged communities to benefit from the Mayoral Cup, noting that many participate in various sports beyond bowling. He urged the Office of the Executive Mayor to engage with local committees to ensure broader inclusion of elderly participants in future events.

In response, the Executive Mayor confirmed that a comprehensive close-out report on the Mayoral Cup will be submitted to Council. This report will include details on each sporting code, number of participants, attendance figures, locations, and winners.

Resolved (29 May 2025)

1. That the Kouga Mayoral Cup 2025 report be noted and supported by Council.

2. That the Council approve the implementation of the cash prizes for the 2025 Mayoral Cup winners, per category, as follows:

1	Rugby	R 20 000.00
2	Soccer	R 20 000.00
3	Netball	R 20 000.00
4	Cricket	R 20 000.00
5	Tennis	R 6 000.00
6	Touch Rugby	R 20 000.00
7	Basketball	R 6 000.00
8	8 Ball Pool	R 20 000.00
9	Gymnastics	R 6 000.00
10	Volleyball	R 6 000.00
11	Fishing	R 20 000.00
12	Chess	R 20 000.00
13	Darts	R 20 000.00
14	Bowling	R 6 000.00
15	Coding	R 20 000.00
16	Golf	-
		R230 000.00

3. That the Kouga Mayoral Cup 2025 close-out report be submitted to the next Council meeting.

16. **REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

25/05/DMM1 AMENDED COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Resolved (29 May 2025)

1. That Council notes the composition of members for the respective Section 79 committees as follows:

Disciplinary Committee (Rules and Ethics Committee):

Committee Members
Chairperson : Cllr W van der Linde
Cllr M Nicholls
Cllr C August
Cllr F Heystek
Cllr B Dhludhlu
Cllr G Stuurman
Cllr N Ntshota
Cllr M van Niekerk
Cllr B Human
Cllr M Mbandana
Cllr L Nkilishane

Municipal By-laws and Policy Committee:

Committee Members
Chairperson : Cllr F Heystek
Ald B Williams
All D Benson
Cllr R Foley
Cllr H Murray
Cllr G Stuurman
Cllr T Mbuqu
Cllr K Ndzaleni
Cllr B Human
Cllr W van der Linde
Cllr L Nklishane

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee:

Committee Members
Chairperson : Cllr B Dhludhlu
Cllr S Ruth
Cllr F Heystek
Cllr M van Niekerk
Cllr M Nicholls
Cllr G Stuurman
Cllr M Valgee
Cllr K Ndzaleni
Cllr B Human
Cllr W van der Linde
Cllr L Nklishane

- 1.2 That Council notes on the composition of members for the Section 79(A) committee as follows:

Municipal Public Accounts Committee:

Committee Members
Chairperson : Cllr M van Niekerk
Cllr H Murray
Cllr C August
Cllr G Stuurman
Cllr W Gertenbach
Cllr F Heystek
Cllr V Zana
Cllr P Oliphant
Cllr B Human
Cllr W van der Linde
Cllr L Nklishane

- 1.3 That Council notes the composition of members for the Section 80 committees as follows:

Corporate & Communication Services Portfolio Committee:

Committee Members	Alternate members:
Chairperson: Cllr M Nicholls	Cllr B Dhludhlu
Ald D Benson	Cllr S Ruth
Cllr M van Niekerk	Cllr E Mbuqu
Cllr H Murray	
Cllr G Stuurman	
Cllr V Gunuza	
Cllr N Ntshota	
Cllr B Human	
Cllr W van der Linde	
Cllr L Nkilishane	

Planning and Development Portfolio Committee:

Committee Members	Alternate members:
Chairperson: Cllr T Jantjes	Cllr M Nicholls
Cllr M van Niekerk	Cllr J Alexander
Cllr R Foley	Cllr V Zana
Cllr C August	
Cllr G Stuurman	
Cllr M Yali	
Cllr W Petersen	
Cllr B Human	
Cllr W van der Linde	
Cllr L Nkilishane	

Civil & Water Services Portfolio Committee:

Committee Members	Alternate members:
Chairperson: Cllr R Foley	Cllr B Williams
Cllr C August	Cllr M Nicholls
Cllr S Ruth	Cllr M Mbandana
Cllr W Gertenbach	
Cllr J Alexander	
Cllr V Zana	
Cllr M Yali	
Cllr B Human	
Cllr W van der Linde	
Cllr L Nkilishane	

Electro-Mechanical Services Portfolio Committee:

Committee Members	Alternate members:
Chairperson: J Alexander	Cllr B Dhludhlu
Cllr S Ruth	Cllr H Murray
Cllr B Williams	Cllr N Ntshota
Cllr W Gertenbach	
Cllr M Nicholls	
Cllr M Valgee	

Cllr M Mbandana	
Cllr B Human	
Cllr W van der Linde	
Cllr L Nkilishane	

Finance & Economic Development Portfolio Committee:

Committee Members	Alternate members:
Chairperson: Cllr S Ruth	Cllr H Murray
Cllr B Williams	Cllr R Foley
Cllr B Dhludhlu	Cllr M Yali
Cllr F Heystek	
Cllr W Gertenbach	
Cllr P Oliphant	
Cllr W Petersen	
Cllr B Human	
Cllr W van der Linde	
Cllr L Nkilishane	

Community and Safety Services Portfolio Committee:

Committee Members	Alternate members:
Chairperson: Ald D Benson	Cllr S Ruth
Cllr G Stuurman	Cllr J Alexander
Cllr C August	Cllr N Ntengwane
Cllr F Heystek	
Cllr M Murray	
Cllr E Mbuqu	
Cllr K Ndzalani	
Cllr B Human	
Cllr W van der Linde	
Cllr L Nkilishane	

17. MATTERS DEALT WITH IN TERMS OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

(The reports by the Executive Mayor, in terms of the provisions of Section 63 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, on matters dealt with by the Executive Mayor in terms of delegated authority as detailed in the Minutes to be noted).

18. REPORTS BY THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

18.1 REPORTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON: FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**25/05/FED1 MEDIUM-TERM REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTREF)-
BUDGET FOR 2025/26 TO 2027/28 FINANCIAL YEARS**

Cllr Ruth raised multiple corrections to the tariffs and descriptions as follows:

For Community Services/Environmental Health

Hawker Stands (Page 830):

She indicated that the tariff for food stalls had to be removed as there are no monthly food stalls available; therefore, the tariff was not necessary.

For Civil & Water Services / Sewerage

Availability Charge (Per Annum) (Page 844):

She indicated that the line "Description to be added to tariff" had to be removed as the description was already included in the line below.

Bulk Charges (Page 846):

She indicated that "NO Fixed Charge is levied. 10% Rebate on Hydraulic Charge." Had to be removed and replaced with "This rebate will be determined in the SLA approved by Council per Development." This was to ensure alignment with SLA terms per development.

Variable Charge (Hydraulic Charge) (Page 846):

She indicated that the definition: "A charge levied for the cost of wastewater treatment based on a percentage of water consumption, linked to industry norms." had to have the unit of measurement "R/kl" added.

Suction Tanker Service (Page 847):

Basic (Minimum) Charge:

She indicated that the corrected version as follows be utilised: Clarify that it includes one load per month for all consumers paying the basic charge. Any additional service charged as per tanker removals tariffs.

Tanker Removals:

She indicated that the corrected version as follows be utilised: Clarify that this applies where no basic charge applies, or additional removals are needed beyond the free load.

Emergency Suction Call Out:

Amendment: To be removed.

Penalty Fee (Spillage):

She requested that– “What if there is no spill but appears very close?” be removed.

Water Services (Page 848)

Consumer Deposits:

She stated that a clear definition on whether deposits are refundable had to be included with Terms & Conditions outlined.

The suggested definition was that deposits are withheld until account termination and refunded as per municipal policy if no debt remains.

Ald Williams raised a concern about the seven-day river launch permit fee appearing higher than the annual tariff and requested clarity on the matter. He also enquired whether the policies listed on page 891 had been subjected to public participation, how they were advertised, and what comments were received from the public.

Cllr Gertenbach commended the Municipality on the budget but raised concerns about the planned deficit, decreased government grants, and the increase in staff salaries without performance considerations. He also sought clarity on the reduced road maintenance budget, questioning whether it is due to funds being redirected toward major road reconstruction projects.

Cllr Zana requested a divisional vote and questioned whether the policies went through proper workshops and public participation. He criticised the budget's lack of alignment with community priorities in the IDP. He raised concerns about the 12.7% electricity tariff and 6.9% water and sanitation increases, questioning their justification given investments in boreholes. He concluded that the ANC does not support the budget.

Cllr Yali stated that the ANC does not support the item. He confirmed that during public participation in Ward 14, the budget was presented, but no community members engaged on it. He echoed concerns raised by Cllr Williams and Cllr Zana regarding the policies, questioning whether they were properly workshoped and suggesting that, if not, the policy section should be withdrawn from the item.

The CFO responded to the Councillors concerns by confirming that all Municipal policies were internally workshoped and included in the budget documents shared online and during IDP roadshows. No public comments were received beyond those gathered during internal workshops, and all inputs were incorporated into the final version presented to the committee.

He clarified that the higher cost of a seven-day boat launch permit compared to the annual permit is meant to incentivize permanent residents to choose annual permits while maximizing revenue from short-term visitors.

Addressing the budget deficit, the CFO explained that it results from non-cash items like depreciation. She reassured the Council that a long-term financial recovery plan is in place to work toward a fully funded, zero based budget, with year-on-year improvements in financial ratios.

On employee costs, the CFO stated that increases stem from collective bargaining agreements and inflation, along with the need to fund key vacant positions. Despite the rise, staff costs remain within the acceptable threshold of 33% of the operating budget.

Regarding road maintenance, he noted the consistent R30 million annual allocations, with additional funding from a R200 million road rehabilitation project. Further adjustments may be made during mid-year budget reviews.

Finally, the CFO explained that electricity tariffs are set by NERSA but rising operational costs especially due to increased peak hours and higher supplier prices for water related chemicals impact the Municipality. While not all increased costs can be passed to consumers, the Municipality must ensure affordability while covering service delivery expenses.

Cllr Gertenbach seconded Cllr Ruth's proposal to amend recommendation 1.1.6 to reflect as amended.

The Executive Mayor clarified that the budget tabled is indeed a funded budget, as confirmed in writing by Provincial Treasury following a detailed review. The Executive Mayor emphasised the distinction between a funded budget and a deficit budget, noting that the deficit arises from non-cash items like depreciation, which has been a consistent feature over the past decade in Kouga Municipality.

On tariff increases, the Executive Mayor explained that rising operational costs, such as fuel and equipment, necessitate tariff adjustments across all municipalities. However, Kouga has aimed to keep these increases lower than those of other municipalities.

In response to Cllr Zana, the Executive Mayor pointed out that many IDP-related projects are operational rather than capital, and these are being addressed within the operational budget, which forms the bulk of the overall budget.

Regarding the employee-related costs, the Executive Mayor confirmed that while there is an increase, it remains below the national norm at 33%, and the rise is due to the appointment of critical and strategic positions necessary for improving service delivery. The Executive Mayor

concluded by stressing that without these appointments, progress would stall, and thus, the increase is both justified and essential.

The Speaker called for a division of vote on the approval of the amended recommendations as follows:

J Alexander	In Favour
C August	In Favour
Ald D Benson	In Favour
H Bornman	In Favour
B Dhludhlu	In Favour
R Foley	In Favour
W Gertenbach	In Favour
F Heystek	In Favour
T Jantjes	In Favour
L Maree	In Favour
M Mbandana	Not in Favour
E Mbuqu	Not in Favour
H Murray	In Favour
K Ndzelani	Not in Favour
M Nicholls	In Favour
N Ntengwane	Not in Favour
N Ntshota	Not in Favour
P Oliphant	Not in Favour
S Ruth	In Favour
G Stuurman	In Favour
M Valgee	Not in Favour
M van Niekerk	In Favour
B Williams	In Favour
M Yali	Not in Favour
V Zana	Not In Favour

It must be noted that the following Councillors were not present for the vote:

V Gunuza

B Human

L Nkilishane

W Petersen

W van der Linde

The Speaker announced the result as follows:

In Favour: 16

Not In Favour: 9

Abstain: 0

Resolved (29 May 2025)

1. That the Council, by resolution taken by the majority of its full number, and in terms of Section 30(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act No. 117 of 1998 (as amended), read in conjunction with Section 24 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003:

1.1.1 Approves the 2025/26 – 2027/28 Annual Budget, as set out in the "Annexure A" on the following tables:

- a) Consolidated Budget Summary [Table A1] [Page 23]
- b) Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue and expenditure by standard classification); [Table A2] [Page 25]
- c) Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue and expenditure by municipal vote); [Table A3] [Page 27]
- d) Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue by source and expenditure by type); [Table A4] [Page 28]
- e) Multi-year and single year capital appropriations by municipal vote and standard classification and associated funding by source. [Table A5] [Page 30]

1.1.2 That the budgeted financial position, budgeted cash flows, cash-backed reserves/accumulated surplus, asset management and basic service delivery targets be noted as set out in the following tables:

- a) Budgeted Financial Position; [Table A6] [Page 32]
- b) Budgeted Cash Flows; [Table A7] [Page 34]
- c) Cash backed reserves and accumulated surplus reconciliation; [Table A8] [Page 35]
- d) Asset management; [Table A9] [Page 36]
- e) Basic service delivery measurement. [Table A10] [Page 39]

1.1.3. That the tariffs be increased as follows, with effect from 1 July 2025:

Property rates

6%

Water	6.9%
Sanitation	6.9%
Refuse	6.5%
Electricity (average increase in electricity income)	12.74%
Environmental Management Fee	6.5%

- a) Indicative tariffs for 2026/27 and 2027/28 will be increased as follows:

	2026/27	2027/28
Property rates	6%	6%
Water	6.9%	6.9%
Sanitation	6.9%	6.9%
Refuse	6.5%	6.5%
Electricity (average increase in electricity income)	5.36%	6.19%
Environmental Management Fee	6.5%	6.5%

- 1.1.4. That the Council approves "Annexure B" which regulates the format of the budget documentation as set out in Schedule A (version 6.9) of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations. This includes the main Tables A1 - A10 as well as the supporting tables SA1 – SA38.

- 1.1.5. That the Council notes the 2025/26 Capital Expenditure, "Annexure C".

- 1.1.6. That the Council approves the tariffs, as reflected in "Annexure D" as amended.

Proposed: Cllr S Ruth

Seconded: Cllr W Gertenbach

- 1.1.7. That the Council approves the Budget-Related Policies, as reflected in "Annexure E".

- 1.1.8. That the 2025/26 Procurement Plan be approved "Annexure F".

- 1.1.9. That the mSCOA road map be approved. "Annexure G".

- 1.1.10 That the Provincial Treasury's Budget Funding Assessment Report be noted, "Annexure H".

- 1.2. That the Annual Budget be submitted to the National Treasury in both printed and electronic format and the relevant Provincial Treasury.

18.2 **REPORTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

25/05/PD1 **REQUEST FOR COUNCIL'S FINAL APPROVAL FOR THE ALIENATION OF A PORTION OF ERF 1 AND A PORTION OF ERF 6, HUMANSDORP**

Resolved (29 May 2025)

- 1.1 That Council **grant final approval** to alienate a portion of Erf 1 and a portion of erf 6, Humansdorp (non-viable immovable properties) to Mr. Shaun Adler.
- 1.2 That Council confirms that the immovable properties contemplated herein are not needed for the provision of the minimum level of basic municipal services and that the property is considered to be non-viable immovable property as contemplated in the Municipal Asset Transfer Regulations, 2008 and the Policy and Procedures for the Disposal of Immovable Assets, 2020.
- 1.3 That Council accepts the total market valuation of R230 000-00 for the portions in consideration.
- 1.4 That Council accepts the market-related valuations in line with Section 14(2) of the Municipal Finance Management Act.
- 1.5 That the applicant herein be held liable for any and all costs in relation to the subdivision, consolidation and rezoning of the immovable property herein alienated and that such be made a condition of the Deed of Sale to be entered into to affect the intended alienation.
- 1.6 That Council authorizes the Accounting Officer to enter into a Deed of Sale with the applicant.

18.3 REPORTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON: COMMUNITY & SAFETY SERVICES

25/05/CSS1 APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF KOUGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ald Williams pointed out that on pages 1209 and 1211 of the Table of Contents, there are errors displayed as "Error! Bookmark not defined" under the Foreword by the Executive Mayor and the Appendices section. He suggested that the document be updated to correct and remove these errors.

Cllr Zana seconded Ald Williams proposal that the document be updated to correct the identified errors and subsequently be accepted by Council

Cllr Oliphant enquired whether Kouga Municipality has launched, or is planning to launch, a Disaster Forum referred to as the "Kouga Local Municipality Disaster Forum" to establish a coordinated structure to manage disaster-related matters.

The Director: Community Services responded that the Municipality already has an existing coordinating structure in place, with quarterly disaster forums convened regularly.

Cllr Yali enquired about the composition of the quarterly Disaster Management Forum, questioning who is included in the forum since he has never received an invitation to attend.

In response, the Director of Community Services stated that the Disaster Management Forum includes all internal and external stakeholders. She further committed to sending Councillor a list of the stakeholders currently serving on the forum.

Resolved (29 May 2025)

- 1.1 That the reviewed Disaster Management Plan as amended be approved and adopted by Council.
- 1.2 That the reviewed Disaster Management Plan be published on the Municipal Website.

Proposed: Ald B Williams

Seconded: Cllr V Zana

19. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 12:31



L Maree

SPEAKER

30 June 2025

DATE