

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALCHA COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMILTON STREET, WALCHA ON
WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2007 COMMENCING AT 1.07PM**

PRESENT: Councillor WJ Heazlett (Chairman) Mayor, together with Councillors PR Blomfield, DJ Cross, JM Archdale, KW Ferrier, L Levingston, RS Thomson and MJ Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara (General Manager), Mr SC McCoy (Director – Engineering Services) and Mr GA Moran (Director – Environmental Services).

APOLOGIES: NIL

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
WALCHA COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2007:**

268 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Walcha Council held on Wednesday, 19 September 2007, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record with the deletion of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council from the Delegations list.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
THE WALCHA COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2007:**

269 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Blomfield and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Walcha Council held on Wednesday, 19 September 2007, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

MAYORAL MINUTE

The Mayor expressed his appreciation at the success of Councillor Woods in her appointment to the board of the Namoi CMA and offered Council's congratulations.

SENIOR OFFICERS' REPORTS

270 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Cross that the Senior Officers' Reports be received for further information.

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1. PEDESTRIAN ACCESS UPGRADE WORK 2007/08 WINT/07/205

271 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Thomson and Archdale that Council accepts and matches the full RTA grant of \$15,000 to upgrade the pedestrian facilities at the Middle Street / Fitzroy Street intersection and the Middle Street / Hill Street intersection **AND FURTHER THAT** an additional amount of \$15,000 be provided in the Council's 2007/08 Budget.

2. RURAL FIRE FIGHTING FUND ESTIMATES 2008/2009 WINT/07/184

272 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Archdale and Blomfield that Council approve the 2008/09 Rural Fire Fighting Fund Estimates as prepared by the Fire Control Officer.

3. CONTAMINATED LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN WINT/07/228

273 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Walcha Council Development Control Plan Contaminated Land be placed on public exhibition, in accordance with the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulations 2000 and publicised in the local media for a period of twenty eight days **FURTHER THAT** a report be prepared for Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

4. REMOVAL OF WILLOW TREES – MCHATTAN PARK WINT/07/206

Motion

It was **MOVED** Councillor Woods **SECONDED** Councillor Ferrier that Council proceed immediately with the removal of the willows in McHattan Park and replace them with advanced *Zelkova serrata* *Ulmus parvifolia* "Todd" in May.

An amendment was **MOVED** by Councillor Blomfield that Council proceed with the removal of the willows immediately and investigate the possibility of replacing the trees as soon as possible.

The Amendment failed to get a **SECONDER** and lapsed.

The Motion on being put to the vote was **CARRIED**.

274 It then became the substantive Motion and was again **CARRIED**.

**5. NSW STATE GOVERNMENT LIBRARY FUNDING DAY OF ACTION
– PROPOSED DAY OF ACTION** WINT/07/203

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275 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Woods that Council make representations through the local member supporting the concerns raised by the Central Northern Libraries Service Manager with the State Government.

6. DISSOLUTION OF SPORTS COUNCIL

WINT/07/204

276 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Woods that Council agree to dissolution of the Walcha District Sports Council **AND FURTHER THAT** should the dissolution proceed further a report be presented to Council with the purpose of establishing a Council Committee in its stead.

**7. TERM OF APPOINTMENT OF MAYORS ELECTED BY
COUNCILLORS & TERM OF APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY
STAFF**

WINT/07/171

277 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Woods that Council prepare a submission to the Department of Local Government expressing Council support for the retention of the present arrangement of electing a Mayor for a period 12 months and supporting the proposed amendment to allow the temporary appointment for up to 24 months to fill vacancies arising from employees taking parental leave.

8. CLOSURE OF CROWN ROAD RESERVES

WINT/07/209

278 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council amend its Road Closure Policy as follows:

ROAD CLOSURES

Objective

To ensure the provision of an efficient, safe and effective road system for the community.

Corporate Plan – 3.3.1

Policy

The following matters will be taken into account when assessing applications for the closing and purchase of unnecessary roads:-

- *Present and future requirements of the public.*
- *General public recreation needs.*
- *The environment.*
- *Possible gravel supplies.*

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- *The Roads Act, 1993.*

Council may object to the closure of a Crown road where the closure of the road:

- *Creates a landlocked lot unless the title of the landlocked lot is consolidated with an adjacent lot that will continue to have a legal access.*
- *Removes access to a natural feature such as a river or area that provides or potentially provides a community use.*
- *Could lead to the potential loss of an area of significant native vegetation unless a covenant protecting the vegetation is placed on the land.*

Council may not object to the closure of a Crown Road if the application is made through the Department of Lands and Council is assured that the above considerations have been adequately addressed by the Department.

An appropriate fee may be charged by Council to process an application.

Reason

To ensure that no roads are closed without taking into account the full impact of the proposal and to minimise adverse effects.

Approved Council Meeting 26th Jul, 1989 – Minute No. 284/89

Reaffirmed Council Meeting 1st July 1993 – Minute No 226/93

Amended Council Meeting 17th January 2007 – Minute No 133/07

AND FURTHER THAT Council remove past objections to proposed Crown Road closures under the amended policy adopted 17th January 2007.

9. REGIONAL MEETINGS FOLLOW UP ACTION PROGRESS REPORT
WINT/07/172

Council **NOTED** the Report.

AFTERNOON TEA

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.00pm and resumed at 3.36pm.

**10. PROPOSED UPGRADE OF AMENITIES AT THE WOOLBROOK
SPORTSGROUND**
WINT/07/198

Council **NOTED** the Report.

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11. CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

WINT/07/207

279 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that the December 2007 Ordinary Council Meeting be held on Wednesday, 19 December **FURTHER THAT** the January 2008 Ordinary Council Meeting be cancelled.

12. COMPANION ANIMALS MANAGEMENT PLAN

WINT/07/197

280 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Archdale that the Local Companion Animal Plan 2007 be adopted by Council.

**13. SHARING OF A RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE 2008 LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ELECTION**

WINT/07/208

281 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Cross and Woods that Council decline the offer from the NSW Electoral Commission to share a returning officer.

**14. REVIEW OF PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND THE PROVISION OF
FACILITIES FOR MAYORS & COUNCILLORS AND STAFF**

WINT/07/210

282 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that the policy "*Payment of Expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors & Councillors and Staff*" be adopted with no amendments.

15. PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS FOR 2006-2007

WINT/07/39

283 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council formally records that the Ordinary Returns of Pecuniary Interest required to be submitted by Councillors, the General Manager and Designated Staff, for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 have been submitted as required and have been tabled in accordance with the provisions of Section 450A of the Local Government Act, 1993.

**16. AFFIX COMMON SEAL TO SCAN ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR
TERM 4 2007**

WINT/07/115

284 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Ferrier that Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the following legal documents:

- ❖ Acceptance of Funding for Walcha Preschool – New England SCAN – Supporting Children with Additional Needs Term 4 2007.

FURTHER THAT the affixing of the Common Seal be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.

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LATE REPORTS

1. REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES

WINT/07/290

285 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Levingston that Council adopt the proposed Ward Boundaries as submitted by the Department of Lands **FURTHER THAT** Council publicly exhibit the Ward Boundary Plan for a period of 28 days.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. CENOTAPH UPDATE

The Report was **NOTED**.

WALCHA MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

WINT/07/164

286 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Archdale that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 8 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

Committee Reports:

- a) Minutes of the Walcha HACC Advisory Committee Meeting held at Walcha Council Chambers on Monday, 15 October 2007. WINT/07/229

Delegate Reports:

- a) Minutes of the Walcha Australia Day Committee Meeting held on Monday, 3 September 2007. WI/07/358
- b) Minutes of the NamoiROC Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, 6 September 2007 at Narrabri. WI/07/381
- c) Minutes of the NESAC Audit Committee Meeting held at Uralla Shire Council Chambers on Wednesday, 25 September 2007. WI/07/466
- d) Report from Delegate Heazlett on the North East Zone Library Meeting held on 18 October 2007 at Ballina.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.28PM.