



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 28 April 2021

at

3.00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors PR Blomfield, KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett and RL Wellings.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Christopher Weber – Interim General Manager, Mrs LJ Latham – Director Environment & Development, Mr PR Murray – Director Infrastructure and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

220 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that the Leave of Absence received from Clr Kealey, being away due to family commitments, the Leave of Absence received from Clr Kermode, being away due to family commitments, and the Leave of Absence, being away due to personal commitments, Clr Lyon be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 2021:

221 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 31 March 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the Public spoke regarding Item 6.1 Development Application 10.2020.3 – Brooklyn / 1643 Oxley Highway Walcha Road – Basalt Quarry:

1. Janet Norton
2. James Norton
3. Matthew Goodwin

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6.3 Request to Waive Excess Water Charges for Walcha Bowling Club

Clr Ferrier declared a pecuniary interest in this matter due to the fact that he is the Treasurer of the Bowling Club.

Item 6.6 Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Parent Nominations

Clr Blomfield declared a non-pecuniary non-significant interest in this matter as the applicant is married to his cousin.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

5.1 Process and Selection Panel for the Recruitment of General Manager

WO/2021/01538

222 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Ferrier that Council:

1. **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Mayoral Minute;
2. **ENDORSE** the process being undertaken to recruit the new General Manager; and
3. **ENDORSE** Council's Selection Panel.

5.2 Vale Bev Betts

It was with great sadness that the Walcha community learnt of the passing of Bev Betts. A passionate support and promotor of Walcha, her input into the Beautification of Walcha and its surrounds will certainly leave a void. The Betts family business continues to promote Walcha's beauty across Australia. Whenever I



spoke to Bev she had a positive and will do attitude and always had the ability to inspire and to achieve. To Peter, Elizabeth, Chris and family Walcha Council offers our condolences and support.

Clr Eric Noakes
Mayor of Walcha

223 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes that the Mayoral Minute as read and submitted be **ADOPTED** by Council.

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

224 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Development Application 10.2020.3 – Brooklyn / 1643 Oxley Highway Walcha Road – Basalt Quarry WO/2021/01327

225 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings that Council approve Development Application 10.2020.3 for a basalt rock quarry with a maximum extraction rate of 29,000m³ per annum on Lot 103 DP 753846, Lot 2 DP 1173956, Lots 46 and 47 DP 1082562 known as 1643 Oxley Highway, Walcha Road, as per the development conditions listed within the Development Assessment Report with the amendments to the following conditions:

- Condition 16 to read:

“Prior to shipping any quarry product off site, a Typical Rural Access Standards – Articulated Driveways access is to be constructed at the location at approximately 150m west of the existing access.”

- Condition 19 is to be deleted.
- Condition 22 to read:

“The existing access is to be closed upon completion and the commencement of use of the new access.”

- Condition 35 to read:

“The hours of operation must be limited to 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday and no work is to be carried out on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.”

Being a Planning Matter a **Division** was called prior to voting on this matter and the result was as follows:

For: Councillors: Blomfield, Ferrier, Heazlett, Noakes and Wellings

Against: Nil.

Absent: Councillors: Kealey, Kermode and Lyon.

Declared Interest: Nil.



6.2 Request for Donation of Topsoil for Woolbrook Public School Gardens
WO/2021/01375

226 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that Council approve to donate a small tipper truck load of topsoil to Woolbrook Public School for their gardens.

6.3 Request for Waiver of Excess Water Charges for Walcha Bowling Club
WO/2021/01449

This item will be deferred to May 2021 due to lack of a quorum as Cllr Ferrier has a pecuniary interest in this matter.

6.4 Grant Program Update **WO/2021/01141**

227 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Blomfield that Council:

1. Amend the budget allocations to the following Local Roads & Community Infrastructure projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,067,914:
 - a) McHattan Park works to improve access and facilities - \$58,000
 - b) Construct Levee Bank Pedestrian Underpass - \$20,000
 - c) Improve Walcha Preschool Access Road - \$6,000
 - d) Level Footpath Area at Lions Park - \$25,000
 - e) Walcha Preschool – Air Conditioning - \$15,000
 - f) Walcha Gym Security– Install CCTV- \$6,200
 - g) Walcha Gym – Improve Signage - \$6,000
 - h) Electrical Safety Upgrades – Complete High Priority Works- \$114,714 or any available under expenditure of the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program.
 - i) Walcha Gym – external painting - \$25,000
2. Amend the budget allocations to the following Bushfire Recovery Funded projects at the next Quarterly Budget Review to ensure all projects are appropriately funded within the total grant of \$1,275,000:
 - a) Rebuild Approval Process Subsidy for bushfire impacted properties - \$4,000
 - b) Kangaroo Flat Road – Removal of fire debris - \$7,500
 - c) Forest Way Road – Sealing works – \$275,728

6.5 Request for Annual Hall Subsidy Contribution **WO/2021/01406**

228 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Blomfield that Council approve the Annual Hall Subsidy Contribution of \$500 per Hall to the Ingleba and Tia Public Hall Committees.



6.6 Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Parent Nominations

WO/2021/01438

Clr Blomfield declared a non-significant non-pecuniary interest in this matter and remained in the Chamber.

229 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that Council **APPOINT** Kate King to the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

9.1 Office of the General Manager

WO/2021/01401

230 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.2 Infrastructure

WO/2021/01332

231 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that items included in the Infrastructure Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.3 Environment & Development

WO/2021/01404

232 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that items included in the Environment & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

9.4 Community & Tourism

WO/2021/01410

233 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that items included in the Community & Tourism Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Motorcycle Rally Committee Meeting held at the Council Chambers on Thursday, 11 March 2021. WO/2021/01156

234 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Committee Reports as presented.



11. DELEGATE REPORTS

11.1 DRAFT Minute of the New England County Council Meeting held at the Armidale Office on Tuesday 9 March 2021. WI/2021/03552

11.2 Minutes of the Walcha & District Historical Society Inc Meeting held on Saturday 27 March 2021 at the Caretakers Cottage. WI/2021/05857

11.3 Minutes of the Walcha Community Centre Management Committee General Meeting held on Tuesday, 30 March 2021. WI/2021/04914

11.4 DRAFT Minutes of the Namoi Unlimited Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at Gunnedah Shire Council on Tuesday, 6 April 2021. WI/2021/05054

235 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Wellings that Council **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Delegates Reports as presented.

12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

13. CLOSED COUNCIL

Nil.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:05PM.