



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 17 February 2016

at

2:00pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** Clr JM Archdale (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, L Levingston, RS Thomson and MJ Woods.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager, and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

101 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that the apology received from Councillor Lyon, due to business commitments, and Councillor Schmutter arriving late, due to work commitments, be **ACCEPTED**.

MINUTES



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**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2015:**

102 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Heazlett that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 December 2016, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON MONDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2015:**

103 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Heazlett that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 21 December 2015, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

104 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillor Archdale that the Mayoral Minute, below, be **ADOPTED** by Council.

It is disappointing that following our Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 21 December 2015 where Council resolved to call the Minister for Local Government to withdraw the proposal for Walcha and Tamworth Regional Councils merger that the Minister declined to consider our request or agree to meet with Walcha Council. The reason being that it would be inappropriate as we were now in the Boundaries Commission process and that process must continue through to completion.

Appointed Delegate of the Office of Local Government Amanda Chadwick held the Public Inquiry into the Merger proposal between Tamworth and Walcha on Wednesday, 10 February 2016. Ms Chadwick could not have been more impressed and Walcha Council more honoured by the support shown from the 6-700 people who attended the meeting. The 60 speakers represented all sectors of the community from service clubs, schools, health, sport, social, rural, art and many more. The importance of services supplied by Council and received every day by our rate payers and the fear of losing the fibre of our community being the common thread.



As we workshop our submission to Ms Chadwick today we must cover all 10 factors the delegate must consider in her report to the Boundaries Commission with emphasis on the adverse impacts a merger would have on the future of the Walcha community. If a merger were to proceed the loss of jobs and the domino effect that has, especially in a rural community and the commitment to the delivery of services in particular to the outer lying areas of Yarrowitch and Nowendoc are of real concern.

The Walcha Community has formed an Action Group and begun a campaign using social media. This Group is working tirelessly and are determined to keep up the momentum. Council must also do the same. We have achieved so many positives that are due for recognition in the coming months including the opening of the Aboriginal Section of the Cemetery, the completion of Thunderbolts Way near Glen Eagle funded by the RDA Grant, the commencement of the rehabilitation / replacement of four (4) major bridges in the shire, the installation of exercise equipment along the levee bank being just a few.

Councillors, after four years of consultation, meetings, workshops and submissions we are edging closer to knowing the future of our fine Council. This gives a feeling of uneasiness as we do not control the outcome. However, each and every one of us can be sure that the decisions made around this table have been made in the best interest of our community and the employees of this Council. Our decisions have been made in good faith, with information that has been provided to us with the results of public consultation with our community.

It will be a resolute government that finds to merge a Council that satisfies the IPART Financial Criteria, is progressive, capable and has already implemented many changes to meet the requirement of Local Government Reform solely because the population is considered not large enough to be sustainable. An arbitrary figure can surely not determine the future of a Council that has survived and been successful for 127 years.

## **6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

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

### **6.1 Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Grant Funding WO/2016/00137**

106 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Council **ACCEPT** the Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Grant Funding for Nowendoc and Woolbrook by signing the Deeds of Agreement **FURTHER THAT** approving the Council Funding and In-Kind contribution amounts to be incorporated in the 2016/17 Financial Year Budget.



**6.2 Quarterly Review of Operational Plan & Budget as at December 2015**

**WO/2016/00144**

107 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that Council adopt the December 2015 Quarterly Budget Review Statements **FURTHER THAT** Council approve the variations in Income and Expenditure votes as detailed.

**6.3 Adopt Amended Model Code of Conduct due to Commencement of the Local Government Amendment (Councillor Misconduct and Poor Performance Act) 2015**

**WO/2016/00139**

108 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Council **ADOPT** the **AMENDED Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW** as presented.

**LATE REPORT**

**1 Formalisation to Acquire Crown Land Lots 1 & 2 DP 1215172 and Lot 242 DP 756502 near the Walcha Sewerage Treatment Plant**

109 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Thomson that Council **APPROVE** the acquisition of Crown Land Lots 1 & 2 DP 1215172 and Lot 242 DP 756502 to be consolidated with Council's land at the Walcha Sewerage Treatment Plant **FURTHER THAT** Council **APPROVE** to making the acquisition application to the Minister and/or the Governor.

**7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil.

**8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS**

**WO/2016/00104**

110 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Heazlett to send a letter to Loretta Blanch congratulating her on her Scholarship from StateCover to complete her Diploma of Work Health & Safety.

111 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Thomson and Ferrier that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 13 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.



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**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Care Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 15 December 2015 at the Community Care Day Centre Rooms. WO/2016/00147**

**11. DELEGATE REPORTS**

**11.1 Minutes of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council Ordinary Meeting held in the Armidale Office on Wednesday, 28 October 2015. WI/2015/00631**

**11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation General Meeting held at Liverpool Plains Shire Council on Thursday, 2 February 2016. WI/2016/00599**

**12. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Nil.

**SUSPEND COUNCIL MEETING**

112 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Heazlett that Council **SUSPEND** the Meeting at 2:25pm to Workshop Council's Submission to the Delegate appointed for the Merger Proposal between Tamworth Regional Council and Walcha Council.

Councillor Schmutter arrived at the Meeting at 3:50pm.

113 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Levingston that Council resume the Meeting at 5:14pm.

114 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Levingston that Council **ADOPT** the amended submission to the Delegate appointed by the Acting CEO of the Office of Local Government to review the Minister for Local Government proposed merger of Walcha Council with Tamworth Regional Council.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:15PM.**