



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 29 June 2016

at

2:40pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Cllr JM Archdale (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, L Levingston, CM Lyon, SJ Schmutter and RS Thomson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager, Mr R Ranjit, Director – Engineering Services, and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

1. APOLOGIES:

185 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Heazlett that the apology received from Cllr Thomson, having to leave at Afternoon Tea due to work commitments, be **ACCEPTED** and it is **NOTED** that Cllr Woods is on a Leave of Absence.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE 2016:

186 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Heazlett that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 1 June 2016, 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

Item 12.2 – Council Land Leases – Various

WINT/2016/01358

Clr Levingston declared a non-serious non-pecuniary interest in this matter due to a relative being one of the tenderers.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

187 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillor Archdale that the following Mayoral Minute be **ADOPTED** by Council.

I wish to thank Council for giving the General Manager and me the opportunity to attend the Australian Local Government Association Annual Conference held in Canberra last week. The Conference was officially opened by Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove who said his aim is to visit as many places as he can and asked his staff to place pins on the map of Australia where the two previous Governor-Generals had not been. He is a little taken back by the number of pins! He stressed the importance of Local Government as it touches the lives every person, every day. “Local expertise makes sure Council works for local issues and Local Government is vital to the success of the Commonwealth”.

George Megalogenis (Journalist and Author) asked why the 21st century demands a different role of government and went on to explain the reason for the volatility in governments now compared to 5 or 6 decades ago. He said the reason for this is that 50 years ago there was a stable 40:40 ration of long-standing conservative and labour voters with 20 swinging, that ratio has now become 30:30:40. The volatility is therefore structural and the voting numbers of the entry level into government is now much lower than in the 40’s through to the 70’s and those 40:40 levels will never happen again. One reason for this is the changes social media has created. For example there is 24 hour news and instant news and people respond more to ‘one liner or 1 paragraph’ journalism rather than researched written journalism which would explain results, reason and reactions.

Pip Marlow is the Managing Director of Microsoft and was a very entertaining and informative speaker. She described how work environments are changing and even though she is the managing director of Microsoft she does not have an office, she does not even



have a desk. There are computer work stations and she goes there if she needs to use a computer, there are rooms with lounges and she takes people in there for meetings, there are desks and long tables and she uses these as needed. These are available for every employee and dispel ownership and pecking orders. Pip works from her home, her car, the offices and her quote that stuck with me is “Work is not a place where you go it is what you do”. My only concern with this is when are you not at work??

There were around 4 or 5 speakers from Boston as it has become an example of how local government has implemented changes to create incredible economic growth. They did this by driving a culture of innovation, collaboration and fabric to create new business. An old industrial area of 1,000 acres was developed into art, shopping, apartment, hotel precinct and has created over 8,000 jobs. They did some things that did not work but learned from these and adapted the ideas differently. One change from conventional planning is they have created buildings that do not have reception/foyer areas at the front, they have cafes as this relaxes people when they enter and encourages them to spend more time in that area.

The most inspirational speaker by far was Robert de Castella who runs the indigenous Marathon Foundation, IMF. This program selects indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders to run in the New York Marathon and the positive repercussions of achievement ripple right back through the runner’s family and community. The stories evoke happiness, pride, laughter but also great sadness, overriding though is how important and successful this program is. Most of all, what can be achieved by a program that started off slowly and insignificantly to one that now has over 180 people applying for 12 positions annually. Successful applicants do not just learn to run, they learn to commit and take control, they do a Cert 3 in Fitness, a coaching certificate, first aid and other relevant courses. They go back to their communities as graduates with qualifications and they share their experiences and become leaders and motivators.

Walcha Council chooses to attend the ALGA Conference once every three years, in the year of the Federal Election. They year was to our disadvantage as there was little representation from our Federal Members at the Conference due to the fact that they are busy campaigning in their electorates. The attendance of high profile politicians is a highlight of ALGA and I think that this Council should consider attending annually, sending the Mayor, General Manager and one other councillor and base the decision to attend on the content of the Conference and speakers.

Returning from Canberra, we stopped in Sydney to meet with the Minister for Local Government, Paul Toole, and local Member Kevin Anderson. The meeting was productive and the way forward for Walcha distinct. We have been given an opportunity despite both delegates recommending mergers. The Minister made it clear that it is time for us to get on with business and build on the positive improvements we have made. Commitments made by this Council and our community through the local government reform process regarding abolishing wards and reducing councillor numbers cannot be done before the upcoming September elections however, the Minister informed that Council could have taken steps before the Fit for the Future merger results and can now take steps to implement these changes for the 2020 elections.



6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

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

6.1 Consultation Paper on Joint Organisations – Towards a New Model for Regional Collaboration WO/2016/01003

189 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that Council make a submission requesting that the boundaries of the new Joint Organisation be the same as the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation of Councils.

6.2 Aboriginal Claim 35231 at Walcha WO/2016/01002

190 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Ferrier that Council reply stating the claimed land the land used and occupied is not needed for any essential purpose.

6.3 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Annual Review WO/2016/00995

It was **MOVED** Councillor Schmutter **Seconded** Councillor Levingston that the fees remain the same, that is Councillor Fee is \$10,000 and Mayoral Fee is \$20,000.

A **Foreshadowed Motion** was **MOVED** Councillor Heazlett **Seconded** Councillor Ferrier that the Councillor Fees be set at \$11,000 and the Mayoral Fee be set at \$21,000.

191 The **Original Motion** was put to the Vote and **CARRIED**.

6.4 Timber Bridges Update WO/2016/01014

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

LATE REPORTS:

1. General Fund Loan – Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Automation Project WO/2016/01071

192 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Ferrier that Council approve an internal loan of \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Water Fund for the Water Treatment Plan Automation Project **FURTHER THAT** the loan will be over 10 years with quarterly repayments and a fixed interest rate in line with rates adopted by the National Australia Bank.

2. Affix Common Seal to Central Northern Regional Libraries Agreement WO/2016/01097

193 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Thomson that Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the Central Northern Regional



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

3. The Mikado Opera at Langford – Wrap Up WO/2016/01102
194 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that Council agree to market the proposed Opera at Langford in 2017 to a value of \$5,000 on the condition that the cost be reimbursed from the promoters share of ticket sales.

Afternoon Tea

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.30pm and the Meeting resumed at 3:50pm. Councillor Thomson left the Meeting at this time.

6.5 Committee of the Whole Referral – Tenders for Lease of Council Land & Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Membership & Write Off Bad Debts WO/2016/01013

195 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1993, the matters of lease of Council land be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business AND the matters of Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Membership and Write Off Bad Debts be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the reason that they relate to information on personnel matters concerning particular individuals.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

196 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that Council resolve into Committee of the Whole and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole for the reason that one report relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and the other two relate to information on personnel matters concerning particular individuals.

197 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Levingston.

The Mayor reported whilst in Committee of the Whole the following matters were discussed.

PRESENT: Present and IN Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of the press and the public.



1. Walcha Town & District Beautification & Tidy Towns Committee Membership WINT/2016/01359

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Schmutter that Council appoint the three applicants, being Joanne Ireland, Caroline Street and Beverley Betts to the Committee and amend the Structure to reflect the membership.

2. Council Land Leases – Various WINT/2016/01358

It was **MOVED** Councillor Heazlett **Seconded** Councillor Levingston that the Committee **RECOMMEND** that Council **ACCEPT** the tenders, from the following, for the lease of various parcels of land within the Council area, for a five (5) year period commencing 1 July 2016, subject to the conditions set out in the tender specification:

Lease No.:	Successful Tenderer:	Amount:
2	Mr T & Mrs P Donnelly	\$1,000.00
4	Mrs D Britten	\$95.00
5	Nil.	
8	Nil.	
9	Mr S & Mrs M Wellings	\$150.00
12	Mr M Hoy	\$300.00
14	Mr NR Breeze	\$80.00
19	Nil.	
20	Mr A & Mrs S Harrison	\$160.00
21	Mrs D Britten	\$225.00

An **Amendment** was **MOVED** Councillor Lyon **Seconded** Councillor Schmutter that the Committee **RECOMMEND** that Council **ACCEPT** the tenders, from the following, for the lease of various parcels of land within the Council area, for a five (5) year period commencing 1 July 2016, subject to the conditions set out in the tender specification:

Lease No.:	Successful Tenderer:	Amount:
2	Mr T & Mrs P Donnelly	\$1,000.00
4	Ms T Bell	\$150.00
5	Nil.	
8	Nil.	
9	Mr S & Mrs M Wellings	\$150.00
12	Mr M Hoy	\$300.00
14	Mr NR Breeze	\$80.00
19	Nil.	
20	Mr A & Mrs S Harrison	\$160.00
21	Mrs D Britten	\$225.00



The **Amendment Recommendation** on being put to the Vote was **CARRIED**.

It then became the **Substantive Recommendation** and was put to the **VOTE** and **LOST**.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Levingston that Council **ACCEPT** the tenders, from the following, for the lease of various parcels of land within the Council area, for a five (5) year period commencing 1 July 2016, subject to the conditions set out in the tender specification:

Lease No.:	Successful Tenderer:	Amount:
2	Mr T & Mrs P Donnelly	\$1,000.00
4	Mrs D Britten	\$95.00
5	Nil.	
8	Nil.	
9	Mr S & Mrs M Wellings	\$150.00
12	Mr M Hoy	\$300.00
14	Mr NR Breeze	\$80.00
19	Nil.	
20	Mr A & Mrs S Harrison	\$160.00
21	Mrs D Britten	\$225.00

FURTHER THAT the Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council authorise the General Manager to negotiate with all unsuccessful tenderers to offer the other leases at an agreed rate.

3. Write Off Bad Debts

WINT/2016/01412

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Schmutter and Lyon that Council write-off the balance of the accounts listed within the Report.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

198 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Schmutter that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on Wednesday, 29 June 2016 be **ADOPTED** by Council.

The Chairman publicly declared the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Committee of the Whole.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil.



8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS

WO/2016/01000

199 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Levingston and Ferrier that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 1 to 15 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Care Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 February 2016 at the Day Centre Rooms **WO/2016/01022**

200 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Lyon that Council formally adopt the amended Walcha Council Community Care Procedures and the Walcha Council Community Care and Early Intervention Policy Manual documents.

11. DELEGATE REPORTS

11.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council Meeting held in Armidale on Wednesday, 27 April 2016. **WI/2016/03373**

11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisations Meeting held at Moree Plains Shire Council Chambers on Thursday, 2 June 2016. **WI/2016/03036**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5:25PM.