



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 28 October 2015

at

2.52pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager, Dr K Kamalarasa, Director – Engineering Services, and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

Nil.

MINUTES



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## **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Confirmation of the Extra Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday, 30 September 2015:**

60 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 30 September 2015, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

### **2.2 Confirmation of the Ordinary Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday, 30 September 2015:**

61 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Thomson and Schmutter that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 30 September 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**

### **Item: 6.1 Sewer Treatment Plant Upgrade and Reuse Options Working Summary WO/2015/01965**

Clr Archdale, Mayor, declared a non-pecuniary non-serious interest in this matter due to her spouse being a owner of a stock and station agent in Walcha and therefore part owner of the Walcha Saleyards.

## **5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

As indicated in my report to Council at the September meeting there is a sense of uncertainty for the future Local Government in NSW and therefore for Walcha Council.

The Premier and Minister for Local Government both attended and addressed the LGNSW Conference held earlier this month. It was made very clear by the Premier that “less councils will give better services” and “although there will be resistance the government is determined to complete this process to give ratepayers the best outcomes”. The Minister for Local Government the Hon Paul Toole said he was disappointed that only 9 councils had put forward voluntary merger proposals and that every Council will know by the end of the year where it stands. There is no doubt that forged mergers will occur.



It is now Council's responsibility to consult with all neighbouring councils and the General Manager and I have met with Uralla and Tamworth so far. The Mayor of Port Macquarie Hastings Council has also contacted me to discuss the feasibility of a merger between our two Councils, a meeting with Armidale will occur next week as will contact with Gloucester. The General Manager and I met with our Local Member Kevin Anderson MP and requested an urgent meeting with the Minister for Local Government. This occurred yesterday and it is now vital that Council show leadership in assessing the best way forward for our community and also ensure that our community's wishes are represented in our final template submission due by 18 November 2015.

The workshop that we hold following our monthly meeting today will be one of the most important to date and I thank Councillors in advance for your commitment and determination in keeping the best interests of our community at the fore.

Our representative body LGNSW, will certainly play a major role in the coming months regarding the reform of Local Government in NSW and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate retiring Board Member Councillor Maria Woods for the commitment and responsibility she has devoted to the Shires Association and LGNSW over the last 6 years. The merging of the two associations into one has been onerous and has taken unsurpassed commitment of the President and his elected board members to make the transition as smooth as possible.

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

## **6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

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

**6.1 Sewer Treatment Plant Upgrade and Reuse Options Workshop Summary**  
**WO/2015/01965**

The Report was **NOTED** by Council.

**6.2 Water Carting** **WO/2015/01961**

64 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Woods and Lyon that Council approve:

- ❖ The cessation of water carting services by Council to Walcha residents when the local contractor has the required approvals and health and safety requirements.
- ❖ The provision of a written undertaking to the local contractor stating such.

Councillors Heazlett, Thomson and Schmutter recorded their vote **AGAINST** the Motion.



**6.3 Request to Rename McKeaten’s Bridge WO/2015/01963**

65 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Schmutter that Council proceed with the renaming of the bridge from “McKeaten’s Bridge” to “Sgt Andrew Russell Bridge” in accordance with the NSW Land & Property Information requirements.

**6.4 Model Code of Conduct Complaints Statistic Report WO/2015/01977**

66 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Levingston that Council, under Part 12 of the *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW – March 2013*, **ADOPT** the submitted Report on Code of Conduct Complaints Statistics for the reporting period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 as presented **FURTHER THAT** Council send the Report to the Office of Local Government.

**7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil.

**8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS WO/2015/01959**

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

**Afternoon Tea**

Afternoon Tea commenced at 3:30pm and the Meeting resumed at 3:55pm.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Walcha Preschool on Monday, 13 October 2015. WO/2015/01962**

**6.1 Setting of Fees**

68 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** the proposal to set fees at \$28.00 per day, \$14.00 per day for HCC holders and \$10.00 for ATSI fees.



6.2 Committee Membership

69 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Lyon that Council appoint Lucie Street to the Preschool Advisory Committee for a further 2 years and that nominations for a Committee member be advertised in February 2016.

**11. DELEGATE REPORTS**

**11.1 Minutes of the New England Public Libraries Zone Committee Meeting held at South West Rocks on 10 September 2015. WO/2015/01990**

**11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Meeting held at Moree Plains Shire Council on Thursday, 1 October 2015. WI/2015/06493**

**12. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Nil.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:20PM.**