



MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 28th November 2023

Megan Dixon

GENERAL MANAGER

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT
THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2023

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 10.00am

PRESENT

Mayor Jasen Ramien
Deputy Mayor Colin Hundy
Councillor Greg Rummery
Councillor Jane Keir
Councillor Alf Seaton
Councillor Daniel Walford
Megan Dixon (General Manager)
Kimley Talbert (Director Environmental Services)
Hafiz Malik (Director Corporate Services)
Kazi Mahmud (Director Engineering/Technical Services)
Sharon Smith (Minute Secretary)

ABSENT

Councillor Sue Currey
Councillor Michael Cooke
Councillor Ian Woodcock

One Minute of Silence for Captain Leonardus 'Leo' Fransen a life member of the Diamond Beach Rural Fire Brigade who sadly lost his life battling the Hudson fire.

12/2023/1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor WALFROD; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY; That Council grant the leave of absences for Councillor CURREY, COOKE & WOODCOCK for Tuesday 28th November 2023 Ordinary Business Meeting.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/2 MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor KEIR; Seconded by Councillor Rummery that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held 26 October 2023, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings on the meeting.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Item No.	Report Title/ Subject Matter	Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary	Reason
Mayor Ramien	9.3.1	Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as at 31 October 2023	Pecuniary	Family Business Interest
Councillor Keir	9.3.1	Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as at 31 October 2023	Pecuniary	Family Business Interest

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12/2023/3 MAYORAL MONTHLY REPORT

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RAMIEN; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that the Mayoral report for October 2023 be received and noted.

12/2023/4 CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor KEIR that the MERC Newsletter – October 2023 be received and noted

12/2023/5 CIRCULARS RECEIVED FROM NSW OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor WALFORD; Seconded by Councillor KEIR that the information contained in the following Department circular 23-12 – 23-14 from the Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

12/2023/6 IMPORTANT DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor KEIR that Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events with the addition of the noted changes by Councillor Keir

12/2023/7 DELEGATES, REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, REFERENCE GROUPS AND EXT ERNAL BODIES

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that members, representatives and delegates be appointed to the committees, reference groups and external organisations as outlined in the schedule for the period terminating September 2024.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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COMMITTEE	OFFICER	NEW
Australian Airports Association	Director Engineering/Technical Services	Not required
Bushfire Management Committee	Director Engineering/Technical Services	Clr Ramien
Castlereagh Macquarie County Council <i>3 year Term</i>	General Manager	No Change
Collarenebri Community Working party	General Manager	Mayor & Clr Walford
Community Safety Precinct Committee	General Manager	Mayor
Lightning Ridge & Surrounding Opal Fields Management Crown Reserve 1024168 Trust	General Manager	Mayor
Kamilaroi Highway Group	General Manager	Not required
Lightning Ridge Community Working Party	General Manager	Mayor & Clr Seaton
Local Emergency Management Committee	General Manager as LEMO and Director of Engineering as alternate	Not Required
Local Traffic Committee	Director Engineering/Technical Services and General Manager	Mayor , Clr Keir, Clr Rummery, Clr Hundy
Netwaste	Director Environmental Services	Not required
Big Sky Libraries	Director Chief Financial Officer	Mayor & Clr Keir
Regional Development Australia - Orana	General Manager	Mayor
Outback Arts Incorporated	General Manager	Mayor, Clr Keir & Clr Walford
Plant Committee	Director Engineering/Technical Services and General Manager	Mayor, Clr Cooke & Clr Seaton
Regional Procurement Initiative	Director Engineering/Technical Services/ Chief Financial Officer	Not required
Rural Bush Fire Management Group	Director Engineering/Technical Services/Chief Financial Officer	Clr Ramien
Saleyards Advisory Committee	Director Engineering/Technical Services	Clr Walford
Western Division of the Shire's Association	General Manager	Mayor
Walgett Community Working Party	General Manager and Manager Community Services	Mayor & Clr Walford
Water Utilities Group	Director Engineering/Technical Services	Not Required
Local Government NSW – Voting Delegate	General Manager	Mayor
Far Northwest Joint Organisation	General Manager as advisor	Mayor
Hudson Pear Taskforce	General Manager	Delegates to CMCC
Far West Academy of Sport	General Manager	Mayor
Western Division Councils of NSW	General Manager	Mayor
Tourism Advisory committee	General Manager	Mayor , Clr Seaton & Clr Seaton
Economic Development Committee	General Manager	Mayor & Clr Rummery
Country Mayors Association	General Manager	Mayor
Mining Related Councils	General Manager	Mayor
Alliance of Western Council	General Manager	Mayor
Murray-Darling Basin Advisory	General Manager	Mayor & Clr Rummery
Border Regional Organisations of Councils	General Manager	Mayor
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)	General Manager	Clr Rummery

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**12/2023/8 CLOSEDOWN OF COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES OVER THE 2023/2024
FESTIVE SEASON**

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor WALFORD; Seconded by Councillor KEIR

That Council:

1. Operations close from Friday 22nd December 2023 to Tuesday 2nd January 2024, inclusive, and the General Manager makes satisfactory arrangements for the maintenance of essential services and provision of emergency call out services.
2. Note Union Picnic Day will be held on Wednesday 27th December 2023.
3. The closedown be effectively notified to residents, along with details of essential service and emergency call out arrangements.
4. Note arrangements will be made with all outdoor staff to enable skeleton crews, in accordance with the Award.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/9 FAR NORTHWEST JOINT ORGANISATION – DROUGHT PLAN UPDATE

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor KEIR

That:

1. The information be received and it be noted and that the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils has been engaged to develop and implement a Regional Drought Resilience Plan on behalf of Walgett Shire Council;
2. The Mayor be nominated together with the General Manager to participate in the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Program process on behalf of Walgett Shire Council;
3. Council notes that the General Manager's Executive Assistant will be the Council Staff contact as the local information conduit to work with the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils Drought Project Officer, to supply local plans relevant to the Walgett Shire Council to the Drought Project Officer for review and to co-ordinate local media promotion of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program process which is expected in January 2024; and
4. Council adopt the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Project Plan for RDRP 004 that is contained within the report for implementation by the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/10 EVERYONE CAN PLAY PARK – LIGHTNING RIDGE

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY

That Council

1. Review and take into consideration submissions received during the public exhibition period.
2. Thank the community for their feedback.
3. Council intends to proceed with construction within the existing precinct.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING

FOR Cllr Seaton, Cllr Rummery, Cllr Keir

AGAINST Cllr Hundy, Cllr Walford

MOTION CARRIED

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12/2023/11 REQUEST FOR FUNDING/ SPONSORSHIP OR DONATIONS

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor KEIR; Seconded by Councillor SEATON that Council.

1. review the donation and sponsorship requests that are unbudgeted and decide whether to grant complete funding, partial funding, or no funding at this time.

2. Council to approve expenditure on Toyota De Oro and 2WEB as funds are budgeted

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/12 ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor KEIR

That Council

1. Endorse the Annual Report 2022-2023, appended at Attachment 1, pursuant to section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993.

2. Note that the Annual Report 2022-2023 will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government and published to Council's website by 30 November 2023, pursuant to section 428(5) of the Local Government Act 1993.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/13 MAYORAL MINUTE

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RAMIEN;

1. That the General Manager prepare the following reports for Council as soon as possible

a. Road Report – Come By Chance – This report includes legal advice

b. Walgett Pool

c. Annual Financial Report

2. That the email from Hugh Percy regarding a statement (G A Murphy) be noted

3. That as there is not enough time before the next Council meeting on the 12/12/2023 for 10 working days' notice for Questions on Notice by Councillors, the timeframe be changed to 5 working days for this meeting only.

12/2023/14 HUDSON FIRE UPDATE

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY

That Council

1. That the information provided be noted by the Council

2. That Council shares its sympathies with those affected by the loss Captain Leo Fransen

3. That Council acknowledge the efforts of the community, NSW Rural Fire Service, the Glengarry, Grawin, Sheeppark Miners Association, Council staff and volunteers who supported the emergency and continue to support recovery efforts

4. That the Council continue to coordinate recovery efforts

5. That the General Manager and Mayor continue to advocate with the NSW to issue a Natural Disaster Declaration for the event

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/15 MONTHLY OUTSTANDING RATES AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor KEIR; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY that the 31 October 2023 outstanding rates report be received and noted.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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12/2023/16 CASH AND INVESTMENT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor Rummery; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY that the investment report be received and noted

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/17 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW – SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor KEIR; Seconded by Councillor SEATON that Council adopt the attached Quarterly Budget Review Statement for 30th September 2023 as tabled.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/18 ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES AS OF 31ST OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor HUNDY

That Council resolves to add below staff as signatories for the management of Macquarie Bank Cash Management Account 968481408 and Macquarie Bank Cash Management Accelerator Account 940356066:

1. Megan Dixon General Manager
2. Hafiz Malik Director of Corporate Services
3. Kazi Mahmud Director of Engineering/Technical Services
4. Peter Gumbleton Finance Manager

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

At 10:45am Mayor RAMIEN declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Chamber.

Deputy Mayor HUNDY took the Chair

At 10:45am Councillor KEIR declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Chamber

12/2023/19 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE GRADING REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for October 2023

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

At 10:46am Mayor RAMIEN returned to the Chamber and resumed the chair.

At 10:47am Councillor KEIR returned to the Chamber

12/2023/20 ENGINEERING TECHNICAL SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor KEIR that Council receive and note the Engineering Services monthly works progress report for October 2023

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

12/2023/21 MONTHLY MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor WALFORD; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY that Council receive and note the Monthly Major Projects Report for September 2023.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

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12/2023/22 DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor KEIR; Seconded by Councillor RUMMERY that Council receive and note the Development Approvals Report for October 2023.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

**12/2023/23 MATTERS GENERALLY FOR BRIEF MENTION OR INFORMATION FROM
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – Kimley Talbert**

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor KEIR that Council receive and note this report.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

**12/2023/24 MATTERS GENERALLY FOR BRIEF MENTION OR INFORMATION FROM
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – Bob Harris**

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor KEIR; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that Council receive and note this report.

The MOTION upon being PUT to the MEETING was declared CARRIED.

**Questions on Notice
Cr Hundy**

1. What is the Status of the 3 Mile Road and can the General Manager provide a full and comprehensive report on this matter which should include what part of the road that Council is actually taking over.

General Manager's Response:

The 3 Mile Road will be the subject of a workshop with councillors on a convenient date in December, following which a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Council.

2. Australian Opal Centre Lightning Ridge has the biggest Tourism Project West of the Blue Mountains currently being constructed. What is the current position with developing a Tourism Plan to address the tourism demand this will place on the Shire and is there a plan to develop a plan to encourage new businesses to Lightning Ridge that will complement this facility?

General Manager's Response:

The council will need to find and allocate resources to the development of an economic development or tourism strategy and action plan that will provide an agreed pathway forward.

3. Everyone Can Play Park (GM's letter 3rd Nov.) Indicates that the park not go ahead taking into consideration that consultation is still active until 22nd Nov.2023 - what is the status of this project?

General Manager's Response:

I refer you to agenda item 23/11/0320 Everyone Can Play Park.

Please note that the internal confidential briefing provided to Councillors on 3 November 2023 was to keep Councillors informed and seek further information.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT
THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2023

12/2023/25 RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY; Seconded by Councillor KEIR at 11.40am that the public be exclude from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A 2 (a) & (b) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with;

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer

12C/2023/1 MINUTES OF CLOSED MEETING – 26 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor SEATON; Seconded by Councillor WALFORD that the minutes for the closed meeting held 26 October 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 11C/2023/1 to 11C2023/6 pages 2 to 3, are confirmed.

12/2023/26 RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor RUMMERY, Seconded by Councillor SEATON; That Council move into open session, Council resumed open session at 11.56am

12/2023/27 ADOPTION OF CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor WALFORD, Seconded by Councillor KEIR that Council adopt the recommendations of the Closed Committee Reports

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.57

MEETING REOPENED AT 14:33

12/2023/28 RESOLVED on MOTION by Councillor Rummery, Seconded by Councillor KEIR for the General Managers performance review to adopt Item 2.3 that the results in improved transparency between Council and the community.

MEETING CLOSED AT 14:34

To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council