



# **MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday 31 July 2023**

Megan Dixon  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WALGETT SHIRE CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JULY AT 9:00AM**

**OPEN FORUM**

**Public Presentations:**

*Mr. Scott Bailey – CEO of Lightning Ridge Bowling Club spoke in favour of the Draft Caravan Park Fire Compliance Policy.*

*Inspector Keven Day – Spoke about the motorized scooters and motorbikes around Walgett township*

*Mr Christopher Hunt, Ms Carol Clarke & Mr Ben Hawke – Spoke about the importance of the Walgett Memorial Swimming Pool*

*The Mayor declared the meeting open at 10.00am*

**PRESENT**

Mayor Jane Keir

Deputy Mayor Greg Rummery

Clr Alf Seaton

Clr Sue Currey

Clr Ian Woodcock

Clr Jasen Ramien

Clr Daniel Walford

Clr Michael Cooke

Megan Dixon (General Manager)

Kimley Talbert (Director Environmental Services)

Hafiz Malik (Director Corporate Services)

Tim McLoughlin (Acting Director Engineering/Technical Services)

Sharon Smith (Minute Secretary)

**ABSENT**

Colin Hundy (Councillor)

**08/2023/1 Leave of Absence**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillor Rummery and Walford that the leave of absence received from Clr Hundy is accepted and a leave of absence granted.

**08/2023/2 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting – 5 July 2023**

**Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 7/2023/1 to 7/2023/31 pages 2 to 20, be confirmed.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Declaration of Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor	Item No.	Report title/ Subject matter	Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary	Reason
Mayor Jane Keir	9.3.1	Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as at 30 June 2023	Pecuniary	Family Business interest
Mayor Jane Keir	9.3.3	Major Projects Report as at 30 June 2023	Pecuniary	Family Business interest
Mayor Jane Keir	9.3.6	Service Progress Report as at 30 June 2023	Pecuniary	Family Business interest
Clr Jasen Ramien	9.3.1	Monthly Maintenance Grading Report as at 30 June 2023	Pecuniary	Family Business interest
Clr Ian Woodcock	13.1.2	Lightning Ridge Swimming Pool Complex	Non - Pecuniary	Involved in Original Committee

**08/2023/4 Monthly Mayoral Report**

**Resolved** on motion that Mayor Keir and Clr Currey that the Mayoral Report for July 2023 be received and noted.

**08/2023/4 Council's Decision Action Report – February 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Seaton and Clr Rummery that the Resolution Register for July 2023 be received and noted.

Clr Keir asked about items from 2017 be investigated and removed from the list if no action is being taken

**08/2023/5 Circulars Received from the NSW Office of Local Government**

**Resolved** on the motion of Councillors Woodcock and Rummery that the information contained in the following Department circulars 23-04 through to 23-08 from the office of Local Government Division Department of Premier and Cabinet, be received and noted.

**08/2023/5 Lightning Ridge Opal and Fossil Centre Inc**

**Resolved** on the motion Clr Cooke and Clr Rummery that as the contract for construction of the Australian Opal Centre has been signed that Council agree to funding agreement being amended to reflect the remaining milestone (Milestone 4) being tied to lodgement of the private certifier's Certificate of Occupancy.

**08/2023/6 Important Dates for Councillors – Upcoming Meetings & Events**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Rummery and Clr Curry that Council receive and note the list of upcoming meetings and events.

Clr Keir noted that the Country Majoy Association Meeting is in Sydney, and the Western Division Council NSW Annual Conference is being held 9 – 11 August 2023

#### **08/2023/7 Monthly Outstanding Rates Report as at 30 June 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Woodcock and Clr Cooke that the 30 June 2023 outstanding rates report be received and noted.

#### **08/2023/8 Cash and Investment Report as at 30 June 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Ramien and Clr Seaton that the Investment report for June 2023 be received and noted.

*At 10:14am Mayor Keir declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Chamber.*

*Deputy Mayor Greg Rummery took the Chair.*

*At 10:15am Clr Ramien declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Chamber*

#### **08/2023/9 Monthly Maintenance Grading Report – June 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Woodcock and Clr Seaton that Council receive and note the monthly maintenance grading works report for June 2023.

Acting Director Engineering/Technical Services stated that 50% of the cost of the grading budget came out of grant funding.

*At 10:17am Clr Ramien returned to the Chamber.*

#### **08/2023/10 Monthly Major Projects Report as at 30 June 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Curry and Clr Walford that Council receive and note the Monthly Major Projects Report for June 2023.

Acting Director Engineering/Technical Services stated that Lorne Road is open to traffic just needing road furniture to be installed. There was general discussion regarding the status of the Goangra Bridge and Burrenbaa Road projects.

*At 10:23am Mayor Keir returned to the Chamber and resumed the chair.*

#### **08/2023/11 RFT23-002– Supply & Delivery of CCF Class 15 Grader**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Ramien and Clr Cooke that Council accepts the tender of WESTRAC in the amount of \$ 495,673.31 for the supply & delivery of One (1) Caterpillar 140 Grader.

**08/2023/12 RFT23-003– Supply & Delivery of CCF Class 15 Grader**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Ramien and Cllr Cooke that Council accepts the tender of WESTRAC in the amount of \$ 495,673.31 for the supply & delivery of One (1) Caterpillar 140 Grader.

*At 10:25am Mayor Keir declared a pecuniary interest and exited the Chamber.*

*Deputy Mayor Rummery took the Chair.*

**08/2023/13 Engineering Service Progress Report as at 30 June 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Seaton and Cllr Cooke that Council receive and note the Engineering Service monthly service report as at 30 June 2023.

*At 10:29am Mayor Keir returned to the Chamber and resumed the chair.*

**08/2023/14 Development Approvals June 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Woodcock and Cllr Rummery that Council receive and note the Development Approvals report as at June 2023.

**08/2023/15 Matters Generally for Brief Mention or Information from the Director Environmental Services**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Wood and Cllr Ramien that the matters generally for brief mention or information only from the Director Environmental Services be received and noted.

Director Environmental Services informed the Council that the Splashpark foundations have been laid, Contractors will be back in a month to continue work.

**08/2023/16 Draft – Fire Safety Policy – Walgett Shire Caravan Parks**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Woodcock and Cllr Ramien that Council;

1. That Council adopt the following draft policy and advertise the policy for a period of 21 days and further consider any submissions at a future meeting of Council.
2. Draft Fire Safety Policy – Walgett Shire Caravan Parks
  - a) In granting approval for the continued operation of existing Caravan Parks within the Walgett Shire conditions of approval may allow a maximum period of five years for completion of a fire safety upgrading program.
  - b) Caravan Park owners operating under a Council approved fire safety upgrading program are required to make annual progress towards completion of the upgrading program.
  - c) Failure to make annual progress on fire safety upgrading will result in lapsing of Council approval and commencement of action to close the Caravan Park.

Clr Rummery questioned whether while the draft policy out where the liability stands, the General Manager agreed to investigate this with Council's insurance company.

#### **08/2023/17 Mayoral Minute - Councillor Fees, Local Government Remuneration Tribunal**

**Resolved** on the motion of Clr Woodcock and Clr Walford that Council;

That the Councillor fees be set at the maximum level set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for a Rural Category.

1. The Councillor fee for 2023/2024 be \$13,030
2. The Mayoral fee for 2022/2023 be set at \$28,430
3. Makes a superannuation contribution payment to its Councillors in accordance with section 254B of the Local Government Act 1993
4. 25% of the Mayoral fee be allocated to the Councillor occupying the position of Deputy Mayor

#### **Questions on Notice**

##### **Cr Currey**

1. What is the status of the fencing project for the Carinda Sports Oval? Have quotations been received?

**Comment:**

*Acting Director Engineering/Technical Services to look into this*

2. Is there plans to seal the road between the Carinda Tip and Cemetery?

**Comment:**

*There are currently no plans to seal this road, Acting Director Engineering/Technical Services will look into this.*

3. On the Councillor bus trip of the Shire in early March 2023, there was discussion regarding the sealing of Wanourie Road.

**Comment:**

*Acting Director Engineering/Technical Services to investigate and assess the road, a scope of works to be done.*

##### **Cr Hundy**

Why was the Director of Engineering, a senior appointment, appointed on a Contract without consultation with all Councillors.

**Comment:**

*The General Manager stated that consultation did occur with 3 Councillors attending the interviews as observers. A report was provided to the Mayor which she distributed to all Councillors and the formal letter of offer was not issued to the preferred applicant until after all Councillors had been consulted personally.*

**08/2023/17 Motion to Move into Closed Session****Time: 11:10am**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Currey and Cllr Rummery that the public be excluded 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

**8/2023/18 Return to Open Session****Time: 11:55am**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Rummery and Cllr Ramien that the Council return to open session

Mayor Keir read the resolutions passed in the closed session meeting.

**8C/2023/1 Minutes of the Closed Council Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Rummery and Cllr Ramien that the minutes of the Closed Council meeting held 5 July 2023 as itemised in minute numbers 7C/2023/1 to 7C/2023/5, pages 2 to 4 be confirmed.

**8C/2023/2 Lightning Ridge Swimming Pool Complex**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Rummery and Cllr Ramien that:

1. The Council lodge a submission based on this report with the Department of Lands at Dubbo and confirm the Department of Lands Council's desire to meet with the Lands Department and Reserve Trust Managers in Lightning Ridge prior to the Agreement with the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association expiring in 2026.
2. A further report be brought back to Council regarding the status of Lightning Ridge Swimming Pool Complex.

**8C/2023/3 Lease on Lightning Ridge Council Office**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Ramien and Cllr Rummery that a further report be provided by the General Manager after undertaking investigation on space, costing.

**8C/2023/4 Community Assistance Scheme – 2022/23 Applications**

**Resolved** on motion of Cllr Cooke and Cllr Woodcock that the following eligible applicants be granted financial assistance under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 for Round One of the 2023/2024 Community Assistance Scheme.

Walgett Isolated Children's Parents Assoc	\$3000
Burren Junction Progress Committee	\$2035
Walgett Amateur Swimming Club	\$3000
Burren Junction CWA	\$3000
Lightning Ridge Community Radio	\$3000

**8C/2023/5 Write of Bad Debts**

**Resolved** on the motion of Cllr Walford and Cllr Seaton that Council write off outstanding amounts to

- Assessments 18689
- Assessment 58248
- Sundry debtor number 2197

With no further business the meeting was closed by Mayor Keir at 12:00pm

To be confirmed at the next meeting of Council.

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Mayor

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General Manager