



WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

25th AUGUST 2009

MINUTES

RAY KENT
General Manager

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WALGETT COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2009 COMMENCING AT 10:15am

PRESENT

Clr I Woodcock (Mayor)
Clr R Greenaway
Clr Martinez
Clr Colless
Clr K Smith
Clr L Walford
Clr G Murray
Clr D Lane
Mr R Kent (General Manager)
Ms C Medcalf (Director, Corporate and Community Services)
Mr M Goodwin (Director, Planning and Regulatory Services)
Mr I Taylor (Director, Rural Infrastructure & Support Services)
Mr F Coralde (Director, Urban Infrastructure Services)
Miss J Gates (Minute Secretary)

Apologies

An apology had been received from Clr Keir at a previous meeting and Council had resolved to grant leave of absence.

Public Forum Presentations

Yvonne Muller

- Expressed her concern at the delay in getting the building started for the Dementia Day Care Centre at Lightning Ridge.
- Expressed concern regarding losing possible funding opportunities if the building is not completed.

Kathy Barber - Far Western Academy of Sport – item 4

- Presentation received from Far Western Academy of Sport on the programs they offer in our Shire.

Declaration of Pecuniary/Non Pecuniary Interests

Clr Greenaway declared a pecuniary interest in item 26 – Tenders Plant Hire

Director Planning & Regulatory Services, Matthew Goodwin declared a personal interest– item 17 – Proposed Mains Electricity Connections on Preserved Opal Fields

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL MINUTES

251/09 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution:

1. That the minutes of the Council Meeting held 28 July 2009 be confirmed.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

252/09 Application for Financial Assistance for the Walgett Showground to undertake Electrical Repairs

Resolution:

1. Council accept a grant of \$6,000 and loan of \$14,000 from the Public Reserves Management Fund to upgrade the electrical system at the Walgett Showground.
2. Provision be made in the General Fund financial estimates for 2010-2011, and the following 6 years, for the repayment of the \$14,000 loan.

Moved: Clr Murray
Seconded: Clr Colless

CARRIED

253/09 Mayoral Minute - Nomination of the Western Division Group of the Shires Association to the Western Lands Advisory Council

Resolution:

1. That Council's preferences for the Western Division Group of Council's nominee to the Western Lands Advisory Council be as follows: 1. Councillor Murray 2. Councillor Lewis 3. Councillor Mengler.

Moved: Clr Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Lane

CARRIED

10. Motions of which Notice has been given

Nil

11. Presentation of Petitions

Nil

12. Councillors Questions with Notice

Councillor Greenaway

1. Could Council be informed of the break-up of how the \$52,000 was spent, that was Burren Junction's allocation in the first round of the Federal Governments Infrastructure Funding?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that Burren Junction funds are not totally expended at the present time because the project is not complete but current commitments are: shading in two areas with seats within the baths enclosure; additional showers and maintenance to path between baths and showers; new basin external to toilets.

2. Is it correct that there could be a grant of \$250,000 available for beautification of the main street of Collarenebri?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that no specific main street funding appears to be available at the moment. Council currently has an application for funding submitted for \$2.1 million which includes a component of approximately \$88,000 for work on Collarenebri Main Street. Still waiting to see if the application is successful.

254/09 Lightning Ridge Mining Board Draft Minutes

Resolution:

That Walgett Shire Council:

1. Note the draft minutes of the Lightning Ridge Mining Board meeting held on 28 May 2009.

Moved: Clr Greenaway

Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

14. Reservation of items for Debate

Nil

255/09 Comparative Information on NSW Councils 2007/2008

Resolution:

1. That the report be received.

Moved: Clr Murray
Seconded: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

256/09 Far Western Academy of Sport

Resolution:

1. That the report be received.

Moved: Clr Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

257/09 Contractual Conditions of Senior Staff

Resolution:

1. That the report be received.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Smith

CARRIED

258/09 Walgett Community Capability Fund Financial review as at 30 June 2009

Resolution:

That:

1. Council notes the external restricted income balance for the Walgett Community Capability Fund of \$286,090.00 as at 30 June 2009.
2. Council notes the reduction in the expenditure in the 2008/2009 Walgett Shire Council Operational Budget of \$286,090.00.
3. Council approve the expenditure of \$286,090.00 in the 2009/2010 Walgett Shire Council Operational Budget in line with the funding arrangement.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

259/09 Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program Financial review as at 30 June 2009

Resolution:

That:

1. Council notes the external restricted income balance for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program of \$472,840.00 as at 30 June 2009.
2. Council notes the reduction in the expenditure in the 2008/2009 Walgett Shire Council Capital Budget of \$472,840.00.
3. Council approve the expenditure of \$472,840.00 in the 2009/2010 Walgett Shire Council Capital Budget in line with the funding arrangement.

Moved: Clr Martinez
Seconded: Clr Smith

CARRIED

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260/09 Community Assistance Scheme Donations – 2009/2010 Budget

Motion:

1. That Council applies funds for financial assistance under section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the first round of 2009/2010 as recommended below:-

Moved: Clr Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Colless

Community Assistance Scheme - Round 1 - July 2009

	Organisation	Project	Request	Cost of Project / Activity	Recommendation	Stakeholders
1	Collarenebri Jockey Club	Annual Race Meeting - assist with cost of compulsory ambulance attendance	\$500.00	\$40,000.00 (Total Race Meeting)	\$500.00	Community
2	Goodooga CWA * (based in Lightning Ridge but called "Goodooga" for historical purposes)	Annual Wool Day lunch held in Sep/Oct 09 (major annual fundraiser)	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$500.00	Community - especially children and women & medical scholarship
3	Walgett Jockey Club	Annual Race Meeting - assist with cost of compulsory ambulance attendance	\$500.00	\$1,300 (Ambulance only costs)	\$500.00	Community
4	Lightning Ridge Police Bush Safari	Transportation costs for television crew & equipment in the Oct09 Bush Safari	Not specified	Not specified	\$500.00	Community/Shire promotion over Australia-wide television (Imparja)
5	Carinda & District Race Club Meeting	Donations to the club, Sponsorship and/or Prizes for the Race Club meeting on 25 July 2009	Not specified	Not specified	\$250.00	Carinda Community
6	Outback Air Race	RFDS Outback Air Race	\$100.00	Not specified	\$100.00	Community - donation to charity event supporting Flying Doctors
7	Women's Legal Services	Use of the Collarenebri Community Hall -Supper Room for a domestic violence workshop on 13 Aug 09	\$15.00 (excluding cleaning and Bond)	\$15.00	\$15.00	Community - women
8	Rowena Progress Association **	Rowena progress association Xmas in July (July 4 2009)	\$500.00	Not specified	\$250.00	Rowena public school children
9	St Joseph's Catholic School Parents & Friends Association	Music camps in Baradine for 20 students (students have passed an audition in order to gain entry)	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$750.00	Walgett School children (from St Joseph's school choir)
10	Rowena CWA	To cover the cost of hiring Rowena Hall for meetings and functions for 2009/2010	\$100 (approx)	\$100 (approx)	\$100.00	CWA Members and (indirectly) the Community they support
11	Lightning Ridge Rural Fire Service	Cost of kitchen	\$500.00	\$2000 - \$3000	\$nil (Council already pay contributions to the RFS)	RFS Firefighters and (indirectly) the Community they support
12	Lightning Ridge Pistol Club	Construction of "eyebrow" baffles (which prevent accidental shots from being fired over the back mound). This is a requirement of new OH&S guidelines being introduced	\$3,400.00	\$20,000.00	\$nil (suggest the Pistol Club contact NSW Police for a contribution)	Pistol club members (56), visitors, competition shooters, police officer training
13	BAC Rugby League Walgett	Participation in annual Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout in Armidale (nomination fees, uniforms, accommodation, travel, and medical supplies)	\$2,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$500.00	Community - Aboriginal men

261/09 Quarterly Budget Review as at 30 June 2009

Resolution:

1. That Council note the quarterly budget review for the period to 30 June 2009 and adopt the attached changes.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Murray

CARRIED

262/09 Carried Forward Projects as at 30 June 2009

Resolution:

1. That Council approve the completion of the works in progress as at 30 June 2009.
2. That Council carry forward the unexpended budget for these projects into the 2009/2010 financial year.

Moved: Clr Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Lane

CARRIED

263/09 Debt Recovery Progress Report

Resolution:

1. That council note the Debt Recovery Report and the Summary Report Information Comparison Graph.

Moved: Clr Walford
Seconded: Clr Smith

CARRIED

264/09 Cash on Hand and Investment Report as at 31 July 2009

Resolution:

1. That the cash on hand and investment report as at 31 July 2009 be received.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Smith

CARRIED

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265/09 Budget Review as at 31 July 2009

Resolution:

1. Council reduce the general purpose component of the Financial Assistance Grant revenue by \$674,230.00 to \$2,042,161.00 in the 2009/2010 budget.
2. Council reduce the roads component of the Financial Assistance Grant revenue by \$413,216.00 to \$1,239,306.00 in the 2009/2010 budget.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

266/09 Request for Donation

Resolution:

1. That Council writes to Ms Smith informing her that Council generally provides financial assistance for community organisations only and not to individuals.

Moved: Clr Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Smith

CARRIED

267/09 Report on Youth Development and Services – May 2009 to August 2009

Resolution:

1. That the report on Youth Development and Services for the period February 2009 – May 2009 be noted.

Moved: Clr Walford
Seconded: Clr Martinez

CARRIED

268/09 Policy regarding Mains Electricity on Preserved Opal Fields

Resolution:

1. Replace point 10 of its existing policy titled "P & R Opal Mining Related Policies", adopted 15 July 2008, which deals with mains electricity connections on the preserved opal fields as follows:
 - (a) Walgett Shire Council will not agree to any easement over Council owned or occupied land to enable a mining camp on a Western Lands Lease to be connected to mains electricity because of the adverse impacts that will arise for the primary land use of opal mining and prospecting. Those impacts will include:

Sterilisation of land that is potentially opal bearing.
Creation of an unnecessary safety hazard for opal mining and prospecting activities.
 - (b) In circumstances where an easement is not required and Walgett Shire Council's comments are sought, it will respond by indicating to the determining authority that it regards opal mining and prospecting as the dominant land use on the preserved opal fields. Furthermore that the authority should take action to avoid or, where this is not possible, mitigate:

Unnecessary sterilisation of land that is potentially opal bearing.
The establishment of safety hazards for opal mining or prospecting.
 - (c) Walgett Shire Council may agree to an easement over Council owned or occupied land for an established mining purpose, such as powering agitators or a mining equipment workshop, that is located on a Mining Purposes Lease or a Mining Lease for mining purposes if it is satisfied that there is:

No significant adverse impact on Council's current or planned use of the land, and;
No potentially opal bearing land involved.
 - (d) Walgett Shire Council may agree to an easement over Council owned or occupied land to enable the establishment of mains electricity for a public purpose if it is satisfied that:

The route for the proposed power line has been selected to minimise potential adverse impacts on opal mining and prospecting.
Any benefits arising for the public substantially and clearly outweigh any potential adverse impacts on opal mining and prospecting.
2. Amend the Walgett Shire Growth Management Study and Strategy with regard to Walgett Shire Council's updated policy regarding mains electricity on the preserved opal fields, as contained within this resolution.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Smith

CARRIED

269/09 Proposed Mains Electricity Connections on Preserved Opal Fields

Resolution:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. Respond to the request from Noel Hodges for Walgett Shire Council's support to enable the connection of mains electricity to mining camps located on Western Lands Leases 14880, 14856, 14679, 14678, 14715, 14961 and 14865, by stating that it has no objection, provided no easement or infrastructure is required on any Council occupied land.
2. Respond to the request from Michael Cooke for Walgett Shire Council's support to enable the connection of mains electricity to Mining Purposes Lease 269, by stating that it has no objection, provided:
 - (a) No easement or infrastructure is required on any Council occupied land, or;
 - (b) All easements and infrastructure are located on flood plain, hence the land is unlikely to be opal bearing.

Moved: Clr Smith
Seconded: Clr Lane

CARRIED

270/09 Consent Authority Conflict of Interest Policy

Resolution:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. Adopt a revised policy titled "P&R – Consent Authority Conflict of Interest Policy" for dealing with Development Applications where Council may have a conflict of interest as the consent authority (included as attachment B).

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

271//09 Aboriginal Heritage Study Grant

Resolution:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. Increase budgeted expenditure for the Aboriginal Heritage Study from \$25,000 to \$30,000.
2. Create a new budget line item for income of \$15,000 for a grant from the Department of Planning for the Walgett Shire Aboriginal heritage study.
3. Invite expressions of interest from the parties listed in Attachment D, recognised by the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning, to undertake an Aboriginal Heritage Study in accordance with the Walgett Shire Council - Aboriginal Heritage Study Consultant's Brief.

Moved: Clr Walford
Seconded: Clr Colless

CARRIED

272/09 Development and Complying Development Certificate Applications

Resolution:

That Walgett Shire Council resolve to:

1. Note the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Director Planning and Regulatory Services and General Manager during July 2009.

Moved: Clr Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Lane

CARRIED

12:21pm Clr Murray and Clr Greenaway left the meeting.

12:22pm Clr Murray and Clr Greenaway returned to the meeting

12:23pm Clr Lane and the Mayor left the meeting

12:24pm Clr Lane and the Mayor returned to the meeting

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273/09 Water Meter Policy

Resolution:

1. That Council approves 'Pay for use' water charging being implemented from 1 July 2010.

Moved: Clr Murray

Seconded: Clr Lane

CARRIED

12:49pm Clr Walford left the meeting

274/09 Management of Walgett Swimming Pool

Resolution:

1. That Walgett Shire Council delegate authority to the General Manager and Mayor to determine the Walgett swimming pool tender.

Moved: Clr Smith

Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

12:56pm Clr Walford returned to the meeting

275/09 Lightning Ridge Automated Water Standpipe

Resolution:

1. That Council approve the relocation of two standpipes in Lightning Ridge.
2. That Council approve the allocation of \$ 70,000.00 for the relocation of standpipes from the restricted reserves held by the Lightning Ridge Water Fund.

Moved: Clr Lane

Seconded: Clr Smith

CARRIED

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276/09 Roads & Traffic Authority – Block Grant Agreement

Resolution:

That:

1. Council note the 2009/10 Block Grant Agreement
2. Council increase its budget item for revenue Regional Roads Block Grant to \$1,815,000 and expenditure Regional Roads Rural Heavy Patching to \$118,000

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Murray

CARRIED

277/09 Roads & Traffic Authority – Regional Consultative Committee

Resolution:

1. That Council note the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW Regional Consultative Meeting scheduled for 3 September 2009 and appoints Councillor Colless to attend.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

1:10pm Clr Greenaway left the meeting

278/09 Tenders – Plant Hire

Resolution:

1. That Council accept tenders from the following businesses for E08007 Request for Standing Offers:

Casual Plant Hire Walgett Shire NSW
Hunters Agricultural Services Pty Ltd

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Walford

CARRIED

1:11pm Clr Greenaway returned to the meeting

279/09 Higher Mass Limits on Local Roads

Resolution:

1. Approval be granted for Higher Mass Limits on Bugilbone Road for a distance of 200 metres from the intersection with the Kamilaroi Highway;
2. Approval not be granted for Higher Mass Limits on Beanbri Road.

Moved: Clr Lane
Seconded: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

1:17pm Adjourned for lunch
1:58pm Returned from Lunch

17. Councillors Questions without Notice

Clr Greenaway

Question 1:

When will we be getting our group certificates?

Response:

The General Manager advised that they will not be getting group certificates as such but will receive statements of Councillor, Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral payments. He further advised that they should be available by the end of the week.

Question 2:

There is a rumour that a person will be employed in the Finance Section, is this a fact?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that there is currently a staff member on maternity leave and this maternity relief position will be advertised shortly.

Question 3:

At a previous meeting, it was raised about the sign at Clarks lane. Do we know what has happened to this sign?

Response:

The Director Rural Infrastructure and Support Services indicated he has looked into the matter and his conclusion is that the sign has been stolen.

Question 4:

In regards to Yvonne Muller's talk this morning are we going to take some action in respect of the grant for the Dementia Unit?

Response:

The General Manager advised that he will give it a couple of weeks to allow the two Departments time to resolve issues at the State Government level. If nothing eventuates he will write a letter seeking formal resolution.

Question 5

I haven't attended a meeting at all this year for the Moree Regional Library and I would like to resign from this committee. I don't feel that I have been able to fulfil the duties properly. There is a meeting tomorrow, can we send someone else in as a representative on this committee?

Response:

The General Manager advised that at the September Council meeting there will be an election of Mayor and Deputy and Mayor as well as appointment of delegates. He further advised that at this meeting we can then elect a new representative for the Regional Library Committee.

279/09	Nomination on Moree Regional Library Committee
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Resolution:

1. That Councillor Keir be nominated as Council's representative on the Moree Regional Library Committee.

Moved: Clr Greenaway

Seconded: Clr Murray

CARRIED

Clr Murray volunteered to attend the meeting on the 26th August in place of Clr Keir.

Clr Murray

Question 1:

At a previous meeting it was resolved that water restrictions would be lifted until the end of August and then a report was to be prepared for that Council meeting?

Response:

The General Manager advised that due to the Director Urban Infrastructure Services being on leave he has been unable to address this issue. He further advised that the report will be brought to the September Council Meeting.

Question 2:

I thought there was a report on the categories of irrigable and non-irrigable farm land reverting to one category to be brought to this meeting?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that Council had previously resolved to close the gap over the next three year period.

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Question 3:

The Skatepark, has it opened itself? Some children have helmets on and some don't. Are we meant to have signs policing this?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that we have got signs just like Coonamble Skatepark advising of the need for helmets and knee pads. The Director further advised that the park has not been officially opened, but has heard that parents have assisted the children with removing the gate so the children could use the park.

The Director further advised that there are still things that need to be completed on this project such as seating, shading and rubbish bins.

Question 4:

Can the kids be policed to have helmets on at the park? Is there a way to give verbal warnings?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that police have a bike safety officer and there are plans to bring that person over to conduct presentations in our area.

Question 5:

Advertising – there does not seem to be much advertising of events in the Shire? We had the Walgett Festival on and there did not seem to be much in the way of advertising?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that the Walgett Festival was advertised in local papers and in school newsletters. The Director also indicated that she will take these comments on board and try to extend notifications.

Question 6:

Why could Council not have receipted invoices (Council created invoices)?

Response:

The Director Rural Infrastructure and Support Services advised that Council is not permitted to do so under the Local Government Financial Regulations. He further advised that Council's contractors have the same problem and have previously inquired about it.

Question 7:

At the Showground for the Rodeo, there did not seem to be enough garbage containers?

Response:

The Director Urban Infrastructure Services advised that there is a checklist that needs to be completed prior to events happening at the Showground and everything was ok. He advised that he will look further into this matter.

Question 8:

Are the police going to come to the next meeting?

Response:

The General Manager advised that the next police precinct committee meeting is scheduled to be held on the 16th September at the Police Station. He further advised that Councillors had been sent the agenda.

Clr Colless

Question 1:

The toilet was overloading from the Rodeo on the weekend. The man turned up on the Sunday afternoon to pump the Septic tank. Can this be looked into for future events?

Response:

The Director Urban Infrastructure Services advised that he will attend to this matter.

Question 2:

Invoicing for the Saleyards – have we got the booklets ready

Response:

The General Manager advised that the form for the use of the Saleyard had been completed and copies will be provided to the Councillor.

Question 3:

If the pound keeper drives past and sees cattle that should not be at the Saleyard, does he have any authority to check their legitimacy for use of the yards?

Response:

The Director Planning & Regulatory Services advised that he will; look into incorporating it into the Ranger's duties.

Question 4:

Is the pound keeper able to pull up at the skatepark and look at the littering and police the helmets and knee pad use?

Response:

The Director Planning & Regulatory Services advised that the Ranger can enforce a sign but it may be difficult.

Question 5:

Portable grandstand – we are always short of two. Council don't own any of the grandstands other than the tow around one. The rodeo and rugby committee own them. Council will need to get two portable ones.

Response:

The General Manager advised that it can be looked into in the context of the next quarterly budget review in October.

Clr Martinez

Question 1:

Can Council put an honesty box at the Burren Junction Bore Baths?

Response:

The Director Urban Infrastructure Services advised that he has had previous talks with Brett Stevens regarding placing something in his Service Station. He further advised that there are some issues regarding manning an honesty box on site.

The Director Planning & Regulatory Services advised that there is a related issue because the site does not have approval to operate as a caravan park or camping area and there may be legalities that Council may need to look into before going ahead with an honesty box.

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Question 2:

With regard to rates notices for camps on claims, we were under the impression that these were going to be rated under two separate categories. Some claims that are side by side have different amounts for rates and are significantly different in amounts even though they have the same land value. Why is this?

Response:

The General Manager advised that there are currently 111 Assessments that have been placed in the wrong category and this is likely to explain the issue.

Clr Greenaway

Question 1:

Who made the mistake, the consultant or the staff?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that the error had been made quite some time ago and had been picked up by the Finance Officer.

Clr Lane

Question 1:

At our workshop I thought we discussed the base rate for preserved opal field as \$118.87, why has it been changed to \$115.00?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that at a previous Council meeting it was resolved to amend the amount to \$115.00 as the base rate.

Question 2:

Some residents who had a Pension rebate last year have lost their pension rebate this year. Do they have to apply every year?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that the residents will need to contact the rates staff. She further advised that she understood that the rebate is required to be applied for each year.

Question 3:

With regard to the Police Community Consultative Committee, who is the Lightning Ridge representative?

Response:

The General Manager advised that at meetings held in Walgett in 2008, representatives of groups such as the Miners Association attended. It appeared that they were no longer being invited but this needed to be checked.

Question 4:

There has been no police in the Lightning Ridge Police Station for the past four days. The station was closed. Can council express to the Police that it is not good enough to have the station closed?

Response:

The Mayor advised that there have been two sergeants appointed to the Lightning Ridge Police Station but they have not taken up their posts at the present time.

Clr Smith

Question 1:

In relation to the BEST employment scheme is it still working in Walgett and is there any further talking with the man from Inverell? He was hoping that Wali could be cleaned up though he was aware it was not public land.

Response:

The Director Urban Infrastructure Services advised that it is still working in Walgett. He further advised that he contacted the gentleman from Inverell once but has had no further contact.

The General Manager also advised that 6 months ago, Council along with the Lands Council applied for grant funding to clean up the three reserves in our Shire. The application was unsuccessful but is to be lodged again.

Question 2:

Is the Primitive Caravan Park for Walgett going to cost \$84,500?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that the Primitive Caravan Park will cost significantly less. She further advised that there are a number of other projects that have gone over budget and that the savings on one project will be used to fund over expenditure on others.

Clr Walford

Question 1:

Do we have shire staff working on weekends? The oval toilets need cleaning during major events.

Response:

The Director Urban Infrastructure Services advised that most staff work 5 days a week. He further advised that we have staff on call that can respond to any emergencies. He also advised that he will look into ensuring toilets are cleaned on weekends.

Clr Murray

Question 1:

In relation to those 111 rates, with the 31 August deadline for the discount, is there something that is going to be done to help them?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised she will take the question on notice and investigate the matter.

Adjourned at 2:48pm to hear a presentation from a consultant regarding the Walgett Main Street upgrade.

3.34pm Council meeting re-convened.

3.34pm Clr Colless left the meeting

280/09 Closed Session

Resolution:

1. That the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Sections 10A (2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the items deal with:
 - (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals

Moved: Clr Murray
Seconded: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

3.36pm Clr Colless returned to the meeting

281/09 Naming of New Park in Collarenebri

Resolution:

That:

1. The new park in Walgett Street Collarenebri be named "Denyer Park"
2. Appropriate signage be developed for the Park
3. An official opening and naming ceremony be conducted at a time which would allow the principal members of the Denyer family to attend

Moved: Clr Greenaway
Seconded: Clr Lane

CARRIED

Clr Greenaway

Question 1:

With regard to rates that are owed in Collarenebri by Mrs Gallagher. Are we taking action?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that legal action is proceeding.

Question 2:

Are there rates owing on the abattoir – Lot 44 DP 752673?

Response:

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised she will take the question on notice.

Question 3:

Are there rates owing on Bruce's Garage – Lot 1 DP 1860997 and the vacant land next door Lot 4 DP 1098080?

Response:

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The Director Corporate and Community Services advised she would take the question on notice.

Question 4:

I took offense to the radio interview in which the General Manager called Walgett an Aboriginal town?

Response:

The General Manager advised Council that he had received a letter from a member of the public stating the same thing and explained how the comment had been taken out of context.

4:09pm Clr Martinez left the meeting
4:12pm Clr Martinez returned to the meeting

4:26pm Clr Lane left the meeting
4:2pm Clr Lane returned to the meeting

Extraordinary Meeting of Council

The Mayor and Councillors concurred with the General Manager's proposal to call an Extraordinary meeting of Council for 5.00pm on Monday 31st August at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club to address matters related to the Lightning Ridge Caravan Park in respect of which Council is the Reserve Trust Manager.

282/09 Performance Review of General Manager

Resolution:

1. That the key priorities for the General Manager in 2009/10 be as outlined in the report.
2. That the General Manager's Contract be extended to December 2011, rather than December 2012, as it is considered that it is more appropriate for a standing Council to negotiate on Contract matters prior to an election rather than have a newly elected Council negotiate 3 months after an election.

Moved: Clr Walford
Seconded: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

283/09 Open Session

Resolution:

1. That Council return to Open Session.

Moved: Clr Murray
Seconded: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

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The meeting closed 4:36pm

To be confirmed at the meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 29th September 2009

Mayor

General Manager