



WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

25 November 2008

RAY KENT
General Manager

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT THE BURREN JUNCTION RSL CLUB ON TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2008 COMMENCING AT 10.00am

PRESENT

Clr I Woodcock (*Mayor*)
Clr G Colless (*Deputy Mayor*)
Clr R Greenaway
Clr J Keir
Clr M Martinez
Clr L Walford
Clr G Murray
Mr R Kent (General Manager)
Ms C Medcalf (Director Corporate & Community Services)
Mr I Taylor (Director Rural Infrastructure & Support Services)
Mr F Coralde (Director Urban Infrastructure)
Miss H Lovegrove (Minute Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Clr K Smith
Clr D Lane
Mr M Goodwin (Director of Planning and Regulatory Services)

234/08 Acceptance of Apologies

Motion:

That the apologies of Councillor's Smith and Lane be noted and leave of absence granted for the November Council meeting.

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

Public Forum Presentations

Mr Brett Stevens – Burren Junction Precinct Committee

Mr Stevens spoke on numerous issues including

- Street Sealing
- Playground Equipment
- Pedestrian Crossings
- The Bore Baths
- The Fire Shed
- Removal of Athol Pines
- Tree Planting

Mr Stevens provided his notes for circulation

235/08 Burren Junction Bore Baths

Motion:

That the flow at Burren Junction Bore Baths be increased for one month.

MOVED: Clr Murray
SECONDED: Clr Martinez

CARRIED

Ms Jill Roughley – Country Womens Association

Ms Jill Roughly spoke on the subject of the Country Women’s Association’s Medical Scholarship.

Mr Jack Baker – Walgett Ratepayer Association

A note from Mr Baker was read and discussed the following:

- General Council closedown between Christmas and New Year
- Postponing the Agenda until the December meeting

Declaration of Pecuniary/Non Pecuniary Interests

Clr Greenaway declared an interest in:

- Item 16, as he is a member of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
- Item 17, as his partner has an interest

Clr Keir declared an interest in Item 17

Clr Woodcock declared an interest in Item 16, as he is a member of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Clr Colless declared an interest in

- his Notice of Motion as he is a lessee at the Saleyards
- Item 19

Clr Walford declared an interest in Item 16

236/08 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion:

That the minutes be confirmed with the following change:

Clr Lane asked the following question:

1. Can reflectors be placed on the tree on Lorne Road

MOVED: Clr Murray
SECONDED: Clr Martinez

CARRIED

237/08 Mayoral Minute – CWA Request for Funding

Motion:

1. That \$3000 be allocated from the 2008/2009 budget to the Barwon Group of CWA Medical Scholarship Scheme.
2. That \$500 be given to the Walgett CWA Branch towards the cost of the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.
3. That the contributions to the CWA listed in 1 & 2 be indexed inline with the movement in rates and included in the draft budgets of Council for the balance of this Council's term.
4. That a \$1500 contribution to the Rural Doctors Network Medical Scholarship Scheme be considered in the 2009/2010 draft budget of Council

MOVED: Clr Greenaway
SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

238/08 Mayoral Minute – End of Year Dinner

Motion:

That the Mayor be authorized to host an end of year dinner for Councillors, senior staff and partners in accordance with the proposal outlined in the Minute.

MOVED: Clr Colless
SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

239/08 Mayoral Minute – Donation for Carols in the Park

Motion:

1. That a donation of \$100.00 be made to St Peters Anglican Church for Carols in the Park.
2. That the Mayor be delegated authority to donate an amount to cover the hire fees for any other church which applies for a donation for a similar event within the Shire

MOVED: Clr Keir
SECONDED: Clr Martinez

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 11:06am

Meeting resumed at 11:37am

Clr Colless left the meeting at 12:03pm

Clr Colless rejoined the meeting at 12:05pm

240/08 Mayoral Minute – Regional and Local Infrastructure Grant

Motion:

That:

1. The General Manager circulate to Councillors a schedule of potential projects for ranking
2. A report be presented to the December Council meeting detailing the ranking and costing of projects including the following:

1. Playground Equipment across the Shire
2. Primitive camping grounds for Walgett and Collarenebri
3. Burren Junction Bore Baths development
4. Skate Parks across the Shire
5. Hot Water for the Lightning Ridge Swimming Pool
6. Replace of Athol Pine Tress
7. Historic Walk for Carinda

MOVED: Clr Colless

SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

241/08 Motions of which Notice has been given

Motion:

That Council carry out the Saleyard's maintenance detailed in the attached letter from Clemson Hiscox & Co of 5/11/2008 subject to available funding and recommend any uncompleted maintenance be considered for Council's 2009/2010 budget.

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

Motion:

That the Shire Road 64 (Mission Road from the Kamillaroi Highway to the Castlereagh Highway) be maintained to the Wimbledon mailbox.

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Colless

CARRIED

Motion:

That a report be presented to the next Council Meeting on the Policy, Procedures, Practices and Guidelines governing Council Investments.

MOVED: Clr Murray

SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

Motion:

After each Council meeting, a media release be issued of the minutes and discussion for local newspapers, newsletters and general population.

MOVED: Clr Murray

SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

242/08 Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

Motion:

That the minutes be noted

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

243/08 Mid Term meeting of the Western Division of the Shires Association

Motion:

1. That the minutes be noted
2. The Secretary of the Western Division be advised that the Minutes need to be amended to record the attendance of Deputy Mayor Geoffrey Colless and Acting General Manager Carole Medcalf

MOVED: Clr Colless

SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

244/08 Council Planning Day – Preparation of Community Strategic Plan

Motion:

1. A Council Planning Day be held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 10th February 2009 commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 4.30 pm
2. The Agenda for the Day be as generally outlined in the Report
3. The Mayor and General Manager be authorised to engage a Facilitator for the Planning Day

MOVED: Clr Walford
SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

245/08 “C” Division Conference of the Shire Association

Motion:

That:

1. The report be received
2. A motion be placed before the Conference requesting that the Shires Association undertake a review of the number and membership of Divisions

MOVED: Clr Greenaway
SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

246/08 Walgett Community College Review

Motion:

A letter be sent to the Minister and Director General stating that Council does not object to the proposed model and suggesting that the model could be further improved by having Walgett TAFE brought under the same management as the High School, Primary School and Pre-School

MOVED: Clr Murray
SECONDED: Clr Martinez

CARRIED

247/08 Dates for December Council Meeting and Xmas New Year Administration Close Down

Motion:

1. The December Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday 16th and the General Manager publicise the changed date for the Ordinary Meeting.
2. With the exception of essential operations and emergency services, the outdoor operations of Council be closed from Monday 22nd December 2008 to Friday 2nd January 2009 inclusive and the Administration be closed from Thursday 25th December to Friday 2nd January inclusive.
3. The General Manager publicise the close down dates and advise residents of emergency and essential service arrangements during the close down period.

MOVED: Clr Walford

SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

248/08 Precinct Committees

Motion:

1. General guidelines relating to Precinct Committees be as follows:
 - (i) Committees only to be established if eight or more members of the community from different family groups within the area of the Committee express an interest in establishing, and becoming members of, the Committee
 - (ii) Committees must elect a Chairperson and Secretary annually
 - (iii) Councillors should not be members of Committees
 - (iv) Must be an Annual General Meeting of the Committee when all residents within the area invited to attend
 - (v) Any resident of an area is entitled to attend any meeting of the Committee for the area
 - (vi) Committees should meet a minimum six times a year and generally each meeting should be held in a different month
 - (vii) Committees are responsible for advising residents of meetings
 - (viii) A quorum for any meeting of the Committee is half the number of members plus one
 - (ix) There must be an Agenda for each meeting and the Minutes for each meeting must be forwarded to Council
 - (x) Council will provide Committees with: Agendas and Minutes of all Council Meetings; publicly exhibited documents; press releases
 - (xi) Council will provide each Committee with an annual grant of \$500 to cover the cost of convening and conducting meetings, photocopying, postage, telephone and related
2. The Secretaries of the existing Precinct Committees at Carinda, Burren Junction, Collarenebri and Rowena be advised of Councils resolutions in respect of this subject and further advised that Council will provide an initial grant of \$250 to each Committee to assist them to conduct an Annual General Meeting prior to May 2009 at which, among other things, a Committee would be established that satisfied the general guidelines
3. The Secretary of the Walgett District Ratepayers Association be advised of Council's resolutions and further advised that if they satisfy the general guidelines they will receive an annual grant of \$500
4. A public call be made for persons to register an interest in establishing and becoming a member of a Precinct Committee for the Lightning Ridge area
5. A further report on the implementation of Councils resolutions in respect of this subject be placed before the February 2009 Council Meeting

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Walford

CARRIED

249/08 Future of the Western Division of the Shires Association

Motion:

1. Council not ratify the decision made at the Mid Term Meeting of the Western Group of Councils to support Option 3 from the Consultants Report being the appointment of a full time CEO at an estimated cost of \$9,000 per Council per annum
2. The President of the Western Group of Councils be advised that Council is concerned at the duplication of time and effort between the Group and certain Divisions of the Shires Association and recommends that consideration be given to a request being made to the Shires Association for a review of Division boundaries and the creation of a formal Division to be comprised of the Councils of the Western Group
3. The Mayor and General Manager explore the possible benefits and procedures associated with Council seeking to move from Division C to Division J of the Shires Association

MOVED: Clr Greenaway
SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

250/08 Australia Day 2009

Motion:

1. The Mayor be the Chairperson of the Australia Day Awards Judging Panel
2. The following Councillor/s be members of the Panel:
3. A public invitation be extended for community members to join the Panel
4. The Council members on the Panel be authorised to invite community members to join the Panel

MOVED: Clr Colless
SECONDED: Clr Walford

CARRIED

251/08 Annual Report

Motion:

That Council endorses the Annual Report and that the Annual Report be forwarded to the Department of Local Government

MOVED: Clr Walford
SECONDED: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

252/08 Investment Report as at 30 November 2008

Motion:

That the investment report as at 30 November be received

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

253/08 Staff Consultative Committee

Motion:

That the report be noted

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

254/08 Records Management

Motion:

That Council receive the report on Records Management

MOVED: Clr Martinez

SECONDED: Clr Walford

CARRIED

255/08 Heritage Strategic Plan

Motion:

That Council endorse and adopt the draft amended Walgett Shire Council: Heritage Strategic Plan 2009-11 as prepared by Council's Heritage Advisor, High Ground Consulting, in October 2008.

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

256/08 State of the Environment Report

Motion:

That Council:

1. Note and endorse the draft Namoi Regional State of the Environment Report for 2007-2008, as prepared by Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd in November 2008.
2. Submit the Namoi Regional State of the Environment Report for 2007-2008, as prepared by Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd in November 2008, to the Department of Local Government.

MOVED: Clr Keir
SECONDED: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

Clr Murray left the meeting at 1:50pm

Clr Murray rejoined the meeting at 1:53pm

257/08 Additional Camping Facilities within the Shire

Motion:

That Council consider developing priorities for formalising primitive camping grounds within the Shire as part of the process of developing its management plan and budget for the next financial year.

MOVED: Clr Colless
SECONDED: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

Clr Colless left the meeting at 1:52pm

Clr Colless rejoined the meeting at 1:55pm

258/08 Development and Complying Development Certificate Applications

Motion:

That Walgett Shire Council note the Development and Complying Development Certificate applications dealt with under delegated authority by the Director Planning and Regulatory Services and General Manager during October 2008

MOVED: Clr Walford
SECONDED: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

259/08 Hudson Pear Control Program Funding

Motion:

That Council commit to funding the continuation of the five year Hudson Pear Program

MOVED: Clr Colless

SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

Clr Greenaway left the meeting at 1:58pm

Clr Keir left the meeting at 1:58pm

260/08 Tenders – Plant Hire

Motion:

That Council accept tenders from the following businesses for E08007 Request for Standing Offers: Casual Plant Hire Walgett Shire NSW –

Batterline Earthmoving Pty Ltd
Bows Sand and Gravel
Christopher Underwood
Coats Hire Operations Pty Ltd
Duncorp Pty Ltd
Hunters Agricultural Pty Ltd
JR Weate
KJ Sherar
RGT Cochrane
Rob Rubie
Rollers Australia Pty Ltd
Sherrin Rentals Pty Ltd
Thurston & Sons Pty Ltd
Wax Grading
Wintergreen Investments Pty Ltd

MOVED: Clr Murray

SECONDED: Clr Colless

CARRIED

Clr Greenaway rejoined the meeting at 2:00pm

Clr Keir rejoined the meeting at 2:02pm

261/08 Intelligent Access Program Approvals

Motion:

That approval is endorsed for vehicles operating under the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority Intelligent Access Program on all road train approved routes in Walgett Shire at General Mass Limits.

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Martinez

CARRIED

262/08 Private Use of Council Motor Vehicles

Motion:

1. That Council note it's Policy AFM - Motor Vehicle Policy.
2. That Council note the Procedure AFM – Motor Vehicle.
3. That Council note the current utilisation of private use offered to staff is 20 employees.

MOVED: Clr Colless

SECONDED: Clr Walford

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned for Lunch at 2:32pm

The meeting resumed at 2:55pm

263/08 Burren Junction Aerodrome – Licence to Use Crown Land

Motion:

1. That Council accept the Offer of the Licence LI 411396 from the Department of Lands to occupy the Burren Junction Aerodrome.
2. That Council agree to Lot 37 DP 753960 being converted to a Crown Reserve and Walgett Shire Council being appointed Reserve Trust Manager

MOVED: Clr Greenaway

SECONDED: Clr Walford

CARRIED

264/08 Closed Council Meeting

Motion:

That the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 10A (2) (a) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the basis that the item deals with :

(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)

MOVED: Clr Woodcock

SECONDED: Clr Greenaway

CARRIED

265/08 Family Day Care

Motion:

1. That Council confirm the closure of the Family Day Care Service on 19 December 2008 and pursue arrangements for the continuation of the In Home Care service.
2. That Council continue negotiations with as many parties as possible to enable a wide range of childcare options to be offered in the Shire
3. That Council approach both State and Federal Ministers responsible for childcare funding to assist in the funding approaches that are currently impacting negatively on the Shire

MOVED: Clr Murray

SECONDED: Clr Keir

CARRIED

266/08 Return to Open Council Meeting

Motion:

That Council move out of Closed Session

MOVED: Clr Woodcock

SECONDED: Clr Murray

CARRIED

Questions without notice from Councillors

Clr Murray

1. Why does the youth centre only open from 3pm till 6pm and who sets the hours?

Response

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that Youth Centres are only funded to open those hours and it can be difficult to find staff to operate the centres for additional hours. It is agreed that 3 hours a day is not enough. Council is currently investigating a trial that would see the Youth Centres open on Friday nights for 6 weeks. Councillors have the option of increasing funding for the 2009/2010 Budget.

2. Where in Walgett would you put a skate park?

Response

The Director Corporate and Community Services indicated that opposite the Youth Centre or on the corner of Dewhurst Street where the tennis courts are currently located would be the preferred locations

3. What is happening with the excess water from the Treatment Plant in Walgett

Response

The Director Urban Infrastructure Services advised he would provide a report to Council on this issue at the next Council meeting.

Clr Keir

1. Bill Price from Wee Waa used to sell plants on the footpath outside the BP Service Station. Diana Smith from Narrabri would like to do the same once a fortnight on the grass of the block next to the Service Station which is owned by Jim Woodham. She went to Council to get permission to do so and was given a Development Application for herself and Jim Woodham. Why is a DA necessary when Bill Price did not need one?

Response

The General Manager indicated that the responsible Director would provide an answer to Councillor Keir in the December Council meeting Agenda.

2. Hunter Ag Services would like to purchase the block of land in Peel Street opposite them. Why is it so expensive and how does Council determine the value of the land?

Response

The General Manager advised that the reserve price for Council land is set having regard to the Valuer Generals valuation and the advice of the relevant Real Estate Agent

Clr Greenaway

1. What is happening with the Community Centre?

Response

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised that she has had conversations with Arts NSW regarding funding. Three community groups had approached the Director regarding a Community Centre and a public meeting was held with approximately 30 attendees. They are currently identifying the community facilities within the Shire with a view to upgrading existing facilities.

2. Could we use the BAC Building and are the rates payments on the property up to date?

Response

The Director Corporate and Community Services advised a report would be provided to the next Council meeting on this issue.

Clr Walford

1. Can a Town Hall for Lightning Ridge and a Club House at the sports fields in Lightning Ridge be including in the 10 year plan to be discussed at the Council Planning Day?

Response

The General Manager indicated that this could be discussed at the Planning Day

1. Is the Walgett Youth Centre up to fire code, how often are the fire extinguishers in the building checked and what changes were made during the recent renovations?

Response

The Director of Corporate and Community Services indicated that an answer would be provided to Councillor Walford.

Clr Martinez

1. On the Walgett to Brewarrina Road there are no suitable toilet stop facilities, can we put a toilet block up.

Response

The Director of Rural Infrastructure and Support Services indicated that the Walgett to Brewarrina Road is a State Highway and all works on this road need to be approved by the RTA. The RTA would need to be approached regarding the toilet block.

2. The bus that services Lightning Ridge cannot pull in straight at the bus stop which can cause problems when unloading passengers. Can we extended the bus stop and paint a white line around it?

Response

The Director of Rural Infrastructure and Support Services indicated that the bus stop was the normal length for a bus stop and the problem may be illegal parking in the bus zone. It would not be appropriate to paint a white line around the bus stop as it is only a bus stop during certain hours and the Director is not aware of any line marking configuration that would be correct in this situation. Policing the illegal parking may fix the problem. (A letter from the bus company was tabled)

Clr Woodcock

The Lightning Ridge Mining Board would like to know if they can mine the highlighted area on the map provided (the map was tabled).

Response

The General Manager indicated that the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services would report on the matter at the December Council Meeting

268/08 Disclosure of Interest in Written Returns

The General Manager tabled a Return pursuant to Section 449 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 from Councillor Murray.

The meeting closed at 4:09pm

To be confirmed by Council at its ordinary meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16th December 2008.

Mayor

General Manager