

**MINUTES OF INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, 144 OTHO STREET,
INVERELL
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2023 AT 3.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Paul Harmon (Mayor), Cr Jo Williams, Cr Di Baker, Cr Stewart Berryman, Cr Kate Dight, Cr Paul King OAM, Cr Jacko Ross, Cr Wendy Wilks and Cr Nicky Lavender.

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Henry (General Manager), Brett McInnes (Director Civil and Environmental Services) Paul Pay (Director Corporate and Economic Services)

1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION 2023/99

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 June, 2023, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS / PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Previously Declared Interests

Cr Dight declared a non-pecuniary (significant) interest in Item #9.1.1 'Holdfast Crossing – Fish Passage Project'. The nature of the interest is that Cr Dight has a family connection to a land owner adjacent to Holdfast Crossing.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

At this juncture, the time being 3.03pm, the Mayor welcomed the members of the public and opened the Public Forum Session by inviting members of the public to speak.

Mrs Judy Bloomfield

Mrs Bloomfield, a member of the local RSPCA spoke about the domestic and feral cat population across the country. Mrs Bloomfield spoke about toxoplasmosis, a disease that cats carry and the effects the disease can have on other animals and people. Mrs Bloomfield spoke about the law that allows cats to roam and the task the RSPCA have taken on to have that law amended.

Mrs Bloomfield requested that Council Ordinance Officers have specific direction to set traps for cats in particular, feral cats and feels that this would make a difference to the numbers of feral cats.

Mr Bob Bensley

Mr Bensley addressed Council about his ongoing concerns regarding the lack of information provided to the community on Council matters and coverage of Council meetings in the Inverell Times and on the radio station 2NZ and has met with Mr Henry (General Manager) to discuss his concerns.

Mr Bensley's noted that Council's 2022/2032 Strategic Plan makes provision for 6 sessions of community consultations per year.

Mr Bensley expressed his concerns about the proposed new location of Bunnings and requested a community consultation meeting be held where these concerns can be discussed and addressed.

5 MAYORAL MINUTE**RESOLUTION 2023/100**

Moved: Cr Paul Harmon

Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the Mayoral Minute be considered in the confidential section of the Agenda in accordance with (s. 10A (2) (a) "Personal Matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)" Local Government Act 1993).

CARRIED**6 ADVOCACY REPORTS****6.1 NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMENS ASSOCIATION (ALGWA) CONFERENCE - 17 - 20 MAY 2023 S4.3.1****RESOLUTION 2023/101**

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the report on the 2023 National ALGWA Conference be received and noted.

CARRIED**6.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM - JUNE 2023 S24.20.5****RESOLUTION 2023/102**

Moved: Cr Wendy Wilks

Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

That the report be received and noted.

CARRIED**7 NOTICES OF BUSINESS**

Nil

8 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

9 COMMITTEE REPORTS**9.1 CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES - 12 JULY 2023****RESOLUTION 2023/103**

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman

Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

- i. That the Minutes of the Civil and Environmental Services Committee held on Wednesday, 12 July, 2023, be received and noted; and*
- ii. The following recommendations of the Civil and Environmental Services Committee be adopted by Council.*

CARRIED**9.1.1 Holdfast Crossing - Fish Passage Project****RECOMMENDATION:***That:*

- 1) The information be received and noted;*
- 2) The proposal be supported in principle;*
- 3) Council undertake community consultation to determine if there are any likely significant impacts on the community; and*
- 4) A further report be presented to the Committee on the outcomes of the community consultation so that Council can make a final determination on the request.*

9.1.2 Walkers Bridge Replacement**RECOMMENDATION:***That;*

- 1. The alternative bridge replacement solution of a large box culvert structure be endorsed for consultation;*
- 2. Council undertake community consultation to determine the level of community support for this option; and*
- 3. A further report be presented to the Committee on the outcomes of the community consultation so that Council can make a final determination on the project.*

9.1.3 Expression of Interest Process - Vernon Street Residential Parcel**RECOMMENDATION:***That:*

1. *The process as identified in the report for offering Council's Vernon Street land parcel for residential development via Expressions of Interest be endorsed; and*
2. *Upon completion, the Expressions of Interest package be approved by Council prior to going to the market.*

9.1.4 Community Garden - Tingha

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

- a) *the concept plan for a Community Garden submitted by the Tingha Community Spirit Aboriginal Corporation be noted;*
- b) *the proposed location of the road reserve adjacent to Guyra Road / Copes Creek Road be approved as the site for the community garden; and*
- c) *Council assist the Corporation and volunteers during the construction phase by preparing a traffic management plan for the site and installing the required warning signage.*

9.1.5 Governance - Performance Reporting on Road Maintenance Council Contracts

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received and noted.

9.1.6 Information Reports

RECOMMENDATION

That the information reports be received and noted.

9.2 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES - 12 JULY 2023

RESOLUTION 2023/104

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

- i. *That the Minutes of the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee held on Wednesday, 12 July, 2023, be received and noted; and*
- ii. *The following recommendations of the Economic and Community Sustainability Committee be adopted by Council.*

CARRIED

9.2.1 Request for Donation - Inverell Youth Centre

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council does not accede to the donation request.

9.2.2 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council not participate in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

9.2.3 Emergency Services Levy (ESL)**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the information be received and noted.

9.2.4 Governance - Monthly Investment Report**RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

- i) the report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted; and*
- ii) the Certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted.*

9.2.5 Information Reports**RECOMMENDATION**

That the information reports be received and noted.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS**9.3 PUBLIC ART SUNSET COMMITTEE MINUTES - 5 JULY 2023****RESOLUTION 2023/105**

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Nicky Lavender

That a supplementary report be received.

CARRIED

9.3.1 PUBLIC ART SUNSET COMMITTEE MINUTES - 5 JULY 2023**RESOLUTION 2023/106**

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM

Seconded: Cr Jo Williams

- i. *That the Minutes of the Public Art Sunset Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 5 July, 2023, be received and noted; and*
- ii. *The following recommendations of the Public Art Sunset Committee be adopted by Council.*

CARRIED

9.3.2 HONOUR WALK

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) *That a quote for the provision of 4 honour boards be obtained for the Committee's consideration;*
- b) *That each year one honour board be added to the 'walk';*
- c) *That the Committee invite the Community to nominate a person for the honour of being recognised in the 'walk'; and*
- d) *That the Committee recommends to Council the person to be recognised and Council determine the final selection.*

CARRIED

9.3.3 JUNIOR ART COMPETITION

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) *That the Inverell Art Society work with Peter Caddey to develop an Art exhibition/competition for young artists (similar to the 'Archies' competition run by the Art Gallery of NSW);*
- b) *That display space be identified at the Inverell Library and Inverell Art Gallery; and*
- c) *The suggestion that this event be held every two years be considered.*

CARRIED

10 DESTINATION REPORTS

10.1 STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT 8911 - SUNDOWN SOLAR FARM - STURMANS ROAD, SPRING MOUNTAIN S18.6.52/09

RESOLUTION 2023/107

Moved: Cr Stewart Berryman

Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That Council make an on-line submission in respect of State Significant Development 8911 – Sundown Solar Farm – Sturmans Road, Spring Mountain in relation to the following matters:

- *After construction, a subsequent report to assess the damage that may have resulted from construction;*
- *On-going and regular measures to restore and reinstate road damage resulting from construction of the project;*
- *The final design of the upgrades to Spring Mountain Road and Sturmans Road being approved by Council;*
- *A detailed waste management plan being prepared for Sundown Soar Farm, in consultation*

with Council, noting that the Inverell Waste Depot may not be able to accept all waste;

- *Council support of the commitment by Sundown Solar Farm to provide a community benefits fund;*
- *Council having the opportunity to review the draft approval conditions prior to being finalised; and*
- *Any other matters as deemed relevant by the Director Civil and Environmental Services.*

CARRIED

10.2 INVERELL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE - MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS S26.3.13

RESOLUTION 2023/108

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That:

- a) The reference to 'Member Organisations' be removed from the Plan of Management for the Equestrian Centre Management Committee;*
- b) The fee for 'Member Organisations' and individuals be removed from the list of fees and charges for the Equestrian Centre, effective 1 July 2023;*
- c) The amended Plan of Management for the Equestrian Centre Management Committee be approved;*
- d) The amended booking procedures and 'Conditions of Hire' for the Centre be noted; and*
- e) Councillors seek nominations from the members of the public for the Management Committee.*

CARRIED

10.3 GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP) SUPPORT PROGRAM POLICY S24.20.5

RESOLUTION 2023/109

Moved: Cr Wendy Wilks

Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That Council adopt the General Practitioner (GP) Support Program Policy.

CARRIED

10.4 REFERRAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS S13.5.2/16

RESOLUTION 2023/110

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM

Seconded: Cr Nicky Lavender

That the Committee refer the items to Closed (Public excluded) meeting of the Committee and that the press and members of the public be asked to leave the chambers whilst the Committee considers the following items:

Item: Mathers Bridge - Demolition and Replacement - Tender

Reason: Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it (s. 10A (2) (d(i)) Local Government Act 1993).

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

RESOLUTION 2023/111

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.1 LETTER OF APPRECIATION - SAPPHIRE CITY CONCERT BAND INC S12.22.1/16

RESOLUTION 2023/112

Moved: Cr Di Baker

Seconded: Cr Jacko Ross

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.2 STRATEGIC TASKS - 'SIGN OFF' - JUNE 2023 S4.13.2

RESOLUTION 2023/113

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Di Baker

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.3 SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES DURING JUNE 2023 S18.10.2/16

RESOLUTION 2023/114

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM

Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

That the following information report be received and noted.

CARRIED

11.4 ORDINANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR JUNE 2023 S18.10.1

RESOLUTION 2023/115

Moved: Cr Wendy Wilks

Seconded: Cr Di Baker

*That the following information report be received and noted.***CARRIED****RESOLUTION 2023/116**

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

*That the following information report be received and noted.***CARRIED**

11.5 REVIEW OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROCESSES S14.18.6/16

12 GOVERNANCE REPORTS

Nil

13 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)

At 4.25pm, the Chairperson offered the opportunity to members of the public to make representations as to whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council. There was no response.

RESOLUTION 2023/117

Moved: Cr Kate Dight

Seconded: Cr Di Baker

*That Council proceeds into Closed Council to discuss the matters referred to it, for the reasons stated in the motions of referral.***CARRIED****RESOLUTION 2023/118**

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM

Seconded: Cr Wendy Wilks

*That Council proceeds out of Closed Council into Open Council.***CARRIED**

Upon resuming Open Council at 4.27pm, the Chairperson verbally reported that the Council had met in Closed Council, with the Press and Public excluded, and had resolved to recommend to Council the following:

13.1 MATHERS BRIDGE - DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT - TENDER S28.7.18/91**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council accept the tender from DavBridge Constructions for the Demolition and Replacement of Mathers Bridge in the amount of \$3,985,941.04 including GST.

At 3.50 pm, Mr Brett McInnes and Mr Paul Pay left the meeting.

5.1 RECRUITMENT OF GENERAL MANAGER S22-24/23**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. *That Council invite the following firms to submit a proposal for appointment as the Human Resource Consultant to assist Council with the recruitment process for a General Manager:*
 - *Local Government Solutions*
 - *Leading Roles*
 - *Mason Blackadder & Associates;*
2. *That the Mayor be delegated authority to consider the proposals and appoint a Consultant to oversee the recruitment process;*
3. *That a Selection Panel be established, consisting of the following persons:*
 - *Mayor*
 - *Deputy Mayor*
 - *Cr Berryman*
 - *Appointed Consultant;*
4. *That the role of the Selection Panel be:*
 - *To assist the consultant with 'pre-interview' phase activities; and*
 - *To assess applicants and determine a shortlist of candidates for interview by the 'full Council';*
5. *That interviews of the shortlisted candidates be conducted by the 'full Council'; and*
6. *The appointed Consultant be the contact person for the role.*

CARRIED

At 4.27pm, Mr Brett McInnes and Mr Paul Pay returned to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**RESOLUTION 2023/119**

Moved: Cr Paul King OAM

Seconded: Cr Kate Dight

That the recommendations of Closed Council be adopted.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 4.28 pm.