



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2019
COMMENCING AT 7.10PM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present:

Councillors:

Cr. Paul Maytom (Mayor), Cr. George Weston (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Paul Smith,
Cr. Peter Davidson, Cr. Tony Ciccia, Cr. Tony Reneker, Cr. Sandra Nardi,
Cr. Tracey Morris and Cr. Michael Kidd

Staff:

Jackie Kruger (General Manager), Peter Keane (Director Environment and
Engineering), Brent Lawrence (Manager Communications and Marketing) and
Alison Balind (Governance and Corporate Planning Coordinator)

Press: Talia Carn (The Irrigator)

LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

T. (02) 6953 0911 F. (02) 6953 0977
council@leeton.nsw.gov.au
23-25 Chelmsford Place Leeton NSW 2705
www.leeton.nsw.gov.au 

1. **CIVIC PRAYER** Cr Peter Davidson

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** Cr Paul Maytom

3. **APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

19/205

Resolved

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2019, as circulated, be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

(Moved Cr Ciccia, seconded Cr Weston)

5. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Item No 7.7: Councillor George Weston declared a Less-than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 7.7 – Youth Development Grant Application – Blayne Thompson.

The reason for the declaration is that Cr Weston employs the applicant's mother.

Cr Weston intends to remain in the meeting, participate in the debate and vote on this matter as he does not believe that the interest is significant enough to affect his ability to make a decision on this matter.

Item No 7.13: Councillor George Weston declared a Less-than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 7.13 – Leeton Family and Local History Society Inc Licence of Part Lower Ground Floor 27-33 Chelmsford Place Leeton.

The reason for the declaration is that Cr Weston is a financial member of the Leeton Family and Local History Society.

Cr Weston intends to remain in the meeting, participate in the debate and vote on this matter as he does not believe that the interest is significant enough to affect his ability to make a decision on this matter.

SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Item No 7.13: Councillor Tony Reneker declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 7.13 – Leeton Family and Local History Society Inc. Licence of Part Lower Ground Floor 27-33 Chelmsford Place Leeton.

The reason for the declaration is because Cr Reneker is the President of the Leeton Family and Local History Society.

Cr Reneker intends to vacate the meeting, not participate in the debate and not vote on this matter.

Item No 7.1: Councillor Paul Maytom declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 7.1 – Request for Partnership – Leeton Women in Business.

The reason for the declaration is because Cr Maytom's daughter is one of the conveners of the Leeton Women in Business Group.

Cr Maytom intends to vacate the meeting, not participate in the debate and not vote on this matter.

6. MAYORAL MINUTES

Item 6.1 PREPARING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

19/206

Resolved

THAT:

1. That Leeton Shire Council acknowledges that our farmers, our community and our Council will be impacted by a changing climate. The climate is forecast to become hotter but with more severe frosts and to have changes to the seasonality of our rainfall. We need to be prepared to make adjustments so that we can remain resilient into the future. To get started, we need to undertake a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Leeton Shire. We also need to plan for climate resilience when we prepare our Local Strategic Planning Statement.
2. That Leeton Shire Council formulates motions to the 2020 LGNSW Conference and ALGA Congress calling for increased leadership from the Local Government sector to drive climate resilience, if not adequately progressed by similar resolutions adopted in 2019.

(Moved Cr Maytom)

ADDITIONAL/LATE ITEMS

19/207

Resolved

THAT the following item, namely:

10.1. PROPERTY MATTER

are accepted as late items onto this Agenda for discussion.

(Moved Cr Weston, seconded Cr Smith)

7. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

GENERAL MANAGER'S MATTERS

Cr Maytom declared a Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 7.1 – Request for Partnership – Leeton Women in Business.

The reason for the declaration was that Cr Maytom's daughter is a convener of the Leeton Women in Business group.

Cr Paul Maytom left the meeting, the time being 7.35 PM, did not participate in the debate and did not vote on this matter.

Deputy Mayor Cr George Weston assumed the chair for Item 7.1 – Request for Partnership – Leeton Women in Business.

Item 7.1 REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP - LEETON WOMEN IN BUSINESS

MOTION

THAT:

1. Council agrees to financially support the Leeton Women In Business for the period up until December 2020 as a pink sponsor to the value of \$250.
2. The funding be derived from the 2019/2020 Economic Development Budget.

(Moved Cr Davidson, seconded Cr Kidd)

Cr Nardi moved the following amendment.

AMENDMENT

THAT:

1. Council agrees to financially support the Leeton Women In Business for the period up until December 2020 as a gold sponsor to the value of \$500.
2. The funding be derived from the 2019/2020 Economic Development Budget.

(Moved Cr Nardi, seconded Cr Reneker)

The Amendment was put and carried. The Amendment then became the Motion.

19/208

Resolved

THAT:

1. Council agrees to financially support the Leeton Women In Business for the period up until December 2020 as a pink sponsor to the value of \$500.
2. The funding be derived from the 2019/2020 Economic Development Budget.

(Moved Cr Nardi, seconded Cr Reneker)

Cr Paul Maytom returned to the meeting, the time being 7.44pm, Cr Weston vacated the chair and Cr Maytom resumed the chair for the meeting.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 7.2 AUSTRALIAN ART DECO FESTIVAL LEETON 2020

19/209

Resolved

THAT Council:

1. Notes the Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton 2019 report.
2. Endorses, in principle, holding the Australian Art Deco Festival, Leeton on an annual basis.
3. Endorses the 2020 Festival dates as Friday 10, Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 July 2020.

(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Morris)

Cr Kidd requested that his vote against the above motion be recorded, specifically the dates selected.

Item 7.3 ADOPTION OF AMENDED LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

19/210

Resolved

THAT Council adopts the amended Code and its associated attachments as the Leeton Shire Council Code of Meeting Practice.

(Moved Cr Weston, seconded Cr Morris)

Item 7.4 INVESTMENTS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2019

19/211

Resolved

THAT the information contained in the Investments Report for August 2019 be noted.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Reneker)

19/212

Resolved

THAT Items 7.5, 7.6, 7.7 and 7.8 in relation to the Youth Development Grant Applications be dealt with in toto.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Nardi)

Item 7.5 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION - WILLIAM RAWLE

19/213

Resolved

THAT Council awards William Rawle a \$250 Youth Development Grant to assist with the costs associated with representing Leeton at the New South Wales Combined High Schools Sports Association Secondary Squash Finals in Dapto, NSW.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Nardi)

Item 7.6 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION - DION DEMAMIEL

19/214

Resolved

THAT Council awards Dion DeMamiel a \$250 Youth Development Grant to assist with the costs associated with representing Leeton at the New South Wales Combined High Schools Sports Association Secondary Squash Finals in Dapto, NSW.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Nardi)

Item 7.7 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION - BLAYNE THOMPSON

19/215

Resolved

THAT Council awards Blayne Thompson a \$250 Youth Development Grant to assist with the costs associated with representing Leeton at the New South Wales Combined High Schools Sports Association Secondary Squash Finals in Dapto, NSW.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Nardi)

Item 7.8 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION - COOPER HOLMES

19/216

Resolved

THAT Council awards Cooper Holmes a \$250 Youth Development Grant to assist with the costs associated with representing Leeton at the New South Wales Combined High Schools Sports Association Secondary Squash Finals in Dapto, NSW.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Nardi)

Item 7.9 QUICK RESPONSE GRANT APPLICATION - KURRAJONG

19/217

Resolved

THAT Council awards Kurrajong a \$1,000 Quick Response Grant to assist with the costs associated with hiring the Leeton Roxy Community Theatre required for their community theatre production, Grease.

(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Kidd)

Item 7.10 MINUTES OF THE LEETON MEN'S SHED COMMITTEE (AUGUST 2019)

19/218

Resolved

THAT Council receives for information the Minutes of the Leeton Men's Shed Committee meeting held on Wednesday Wednesday 14 August 2019 and notes the information contained within the Minutes.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Nardi)

Item 7.11 UNION PICNIC DAY 2019

19/219

Resolved

THAT Council approves Friday 8 November 2019 to be the Union Picnic Day, noting

1. Council offices will remain open on Friday 8 November 2019, and
2. All employees who are not financial members of the union(s) and not on a Rostered Day Off or on Approved Leave be required to work on Friday 8 November 2019.

(Moved Cr Nardi, seconded Cr Davidson)

Item 7.12 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

19/220

Resolved

THAT:

1. Council's Depot, Administration Office and Library be closed for the period from Wednesday 25 December 2019 until Friday 3 January 2020 (reopening 6 January 2020) and staff be permitted to take annual leave or other suitably authorised leave for the days which are not public holidays during the closure period.
2. Extensive publicity be given to the closure in the lead up to Christmas.

(Moved Cr Reneker, seconded Cr Kidd)

ENVIRONMENT AND ENGINEERING MATTERS

Councillor Reneker declared a Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest for Item 7.13 – Leeton Family and Local History Society Inc. Licence of Part Lower Ground Floor 27-33 Chelmsford Place Leeton.

The reason for the declaration is that Councillor Reneker is the President of the Leeton Family and Local History Society.

Councillor Reneker vacated the meeting at 8.04pm did not participate in the debate and did not vote on this matter.

Item 7.13 LEETON FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY INC. LICENCE OF PART LOWER GROUND FLOOR 27-33 CHELMSFORD PLACE LEETON

19/221

Resolved

THAT Council:

1. Grants a Licence to Leeton Family and Local History Society Incorporated for the purpose of office accommodation and storage of archives and artifacts over part Lots 6-9 DP 758606 for a term of five (5) years with an option for two (2) further terms of 5 years for a peppercorn rent of \$1.00 per annum.
2. Notes that the rooms set aside for the Leeton Family and Local History Society are to be named the Dorothy Eurell Rooms.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Smith)

Cr Reneker returned to the Chamber at 8.12pm.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

9. COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS

CR GEORGE WESTON

Water Restrictions: Councillor Weston asked whether there were any moves to implementing water restrictions in Leeton Shire area. Director Environment and Engineering said that Council has sufficient supply to meet local needs but will continue to promote wise use of water.

CR TONY CICCIA

Salami Night: The Salami night was a great evening. Good luck to Tony Celi who was the winner on the evening and has bragging rights for the next 12 months.

Citizenship Ceremony: Congratulations to the nine local people who became Australian Citizens at the Citizenship Ceremony on Monday. They now have increased security and increased rights. I know they are going to have challenges ahead not dissimilar to what my grandparents faced when they came to this country. As a society, we have to accept people for what they are – they may talk differently, they may dress differently, they may look different but we are all equal.

CR TRACEY MORRIS

Park Run: Representatives from Park Run visited Leeton on Saturday. It is looking positive. It will be a not-for profit community event.

CR TONY RENEKER

Leave of Absence: Cr Reneker advised that he would be an apology for the next meeting of Council and will seek a leave of absence.

Citizenship Ceremony: Thought it was a great ceremony but would like to see more leaders from the community invited to attend. Suggested a welcome to country from the Aboriginal community as well.

Hospital issues: There continues to be community angst in relation to hospital. Council needs to be aware of this and take action, particularly as we have two boarding schools within the community.

CR MICHAEL KIDD

Salami Night: Thank you Cr Ciccica for the invitation. It was a great night, fantastic camaraderie and caught up with quite a few people.

Roxy Community Theatre: Another very successful Eisteddfod season with three full houses. This is becoming increasingly important to the community and there are some schools taking the whole school to the event. It's great to see people participating to that extent.

Health Matters: Media release from MLHD (Murrumbidgee Local Health District) stating they would consult with the community as to what it is they want with regards to the Hospital. It would be good if Council collected its own information through Have Your Say so we can make sure that we are really reflecting what the community wants. Council needs to be proactive on this and not wait for MLHD.

CR PAUL SMITH

Whitton Museum: On Monday night, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cr Smith went out to Whitton for a Museum meeting. It's fantastic that the Museum has gone from being open one day a month to being open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 to 2, Fridays from 10 to 4 and every first Saturday and Sunday of every month. Margaret Strong is opening the Museum off her own bat and now there is a really positive vibe coming out of Whitton.

Work at Yanco: Good to see the work with the cleaning up of the channel banks happening around Yanco.

Redevelopment Signage: A new sign that has gone up for the work on Wade Avenue is causing some traffic issues.

Murrumbidgee CWA: Cr Reneker and Cr Smith will be attending the 70th Anniversary of the Murrumbidgee CWA this weekend.

CR GEORGE WESTON

Salami Night: Cr Weston commented on the success of the Salami night.

Magpie problems: Wondered if there were areas with magpie attack issues and if Council has an obligation to warn residents.

CR PAUL MAYTOM

Murray Darling Association Meeting: The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Jody Swirepek, presented to the Region 9 meeting so we could better understand the priorities for environmental water.

Senior Citizens Meeting: The General Manager did a presentation and spoke about the Wade Avenue projects. There was a good roll up of people.

Whitton School Fun Day: That was a good day with all the parents and kids.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Meeting: Met with the Chief Executive Officer and the Chair. Good meeting. Concern expressed about volume of water sold out of the MIA since 1 July.

Adult Day Lunch: Attended the Adult Day Lunch at the community centre which was prepared by the people from Post School Options program.

NSW Ports Meeting: This was the first time Council has met with them. Generally the meeting was to discuss efficiencies, improvements and costs of moving freight out of the area.

Wade Avenue Enhancement: The working group was held, chaired by Cr Weston.

RAMJO Water Meeting: The General Manager and Mayor attended a meeting in Berrigan to develop a strategy and action plan on water.

NSW RFS Awards: The Awards were held at Griffith and it is great to know that if there is a fire out there that there are people there to deal with it.

Jeff Amatto Workshop: We are looking at trying to bring Jeff Amatto to Leeton late in November for a presentation at the Roxy Theatre. It will be all about rehabilitation for those on the drug ice. He is a reformed addict and his presentation is quite impressive.

Assumption Villa Lunch: The lunch was to welcome the new manager who is a local person and a nurse.

Chinese Consul-General: The General Manager and Mayor met with the Broughton Robertson, Australian Consul-General, Shenyang, Liaoning Province in China to discuss trade opportunities. Meeting was also attended by the Mayor of Griffith and Austrade.

Lion Group Management: The General Manager, Mayor, Director Environment and Engineering and Economic Development Coordinator had an update from the new management of Berri Juice operations (now Lion/Daily Drinks Company). The operation is for sale.

Whitton Museum: The Whitton Museum was a highlight – Margaret Strong is a whirlwind and the work she has done putting it all together has made it a showpiece. She has collated photos of the railway which supports the story of Whitton's past.

Citizenship Ceremony: That was inspiring to me and the excitement on the faces of those who received their citizenship, especially the little children.

SBS Show: The "Lake Cargelligo Back Track Group" documentary was extremely good. The show is emotional and inspiring and full credit to the person who is bringing young people and give them hope.

Hospital Issues: We have meetings after meetings after meetings and the information we should be getting is what the reality is (with the hospital). A full needs analysis is planned.

10. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Note: Pursuant to Section 10A(4), the public were invited to make representations to the Council meeting before any part of the meeting is closed, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

19/222

Resolved

1. That Council moves into Closed Council to consider business identified, together with any late reports tabled at the meeting.
2. That in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting to enable Council to determine items listed in Confidential Matters for the reasons indicated.
3. That the report relevant to the subject business be withheld from access to the media and public as required by Section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

(Moved Cr Ciccia, seconded Cr Weston)

Item 10.1 PROPERTY MATTER

This report is considered confidential in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, as the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business (Section 10A(2)c).

The Mayor asked the gallery if there were any objections to Council going into Closed Session to consider the matters listed.

No objections were received from the Gallery.

Council closed its meeting at 9.03pm and the public and press left the Chambers.

CLOSED COUNCIL - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

19/223

Resolved

THAT the time of the Council Meeting be extended beyond 10pm.

(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Weston)

Item 10.1 PROPERTY MATTER

MOTION

THAT Council:

1. Authorises the General Manager to negotiate for the purchase of the Lot set out in Option 1 of this report, up to the recommended value.
2. Authorises the Mayor and General Manager to sign and seal all documentation in relation to the purchase.
3. Upon acquisition that Council classifies the land as operational land and gives 28 days public notice of the classification under section 34 of the Local Government Act 1993.
4. Authorises the subdivision of the Lot in Option 1 of this report to enable the consolidation of part of the lot into the neighbouring property owned by Council.
5. Authorises the General Manager to commence negotiation with the current tenants for lease agreements upon acquisition.

(Moved Cr Weston, seconded Cr Kidd)

AMENDMENT

THAT Council:

1. Authorises the General Manager to negotiate the purchase of part of the Lot set out in Option 2, up to a maximum value of \$100,000 more than the value in the report for Option 2, and noting that a subdivision is required.
2. Authorises the Mayor and General Manager to sign and seal all documentation in relation to the purchase and development agreement.
3. Upon acquisition that Council classifies the acquired part of the land as operational land and gives 28 days public notice of the classification under section 34 of the Local Government Act 1993.
4. Authorises the General Manager to commence negotiation with the current tenants for lease agreements upon acquisition.

(Moved Cr Ciccica, seconded Cr Maytom)

The Amendment was put and carried. The Amendment became the Motion.

19/224

Resolved

THAT Council:

1. Authorises the General Manager to negotiate the purchase of part of the Lot set out in Option 2, up to a maximum value of \$100,000 more than the value in the report for Option 2, and noting that a subdivision is required.
2. Authorises the Mayor and General Manager to sign and seal all documentation in relation to the purchase and development agreement.
3. Upon acquisition that Council classifies the acquired part of the land as operational land and gives 28 days public notice of the classification under section 34 of the Local Government Act 1993.
4. Authorises the General Manager to commence negotiation with the current tenants for lease agreements upon acquisition.

(Moved Cr Ciccia, seconded Cr Maytom)

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

19/225

Resolved

THAT this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 10.20pm.

(Moved Cr Smith, seconded Cr Weston)

The Mayor advised that during the Closed Council ONE resolution was passed. The General Manager read out the resolution made in Closed Council for Items 10.1 – Property Matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.21pm.

..... signed by
the Chairman of the meeting held on
28 Oct 2019 at which meeting the
signature hereon was subscribed.