



LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016

COMMENCING AT 7.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present:

Councillors: Cr. Paul Maytom (Mayor), Cr. George Weston (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Peter Davidson, Cr Tracey Morris, Cr. Emerson Doig, Cr. Tracey Valenzisi, Cr Steve Dowling, Cr Greg O'Callaghan and Cr Michael Kidd

Staff: Jackie Kruger (General Manager), Duncan McWhirter (Director Corporate Services), Barry Heins (Director Engineering and Technical Services), Garry Stoll (Director Environmental and Community Services) and Brent Lawrence (Corporate Communications Coordinator)

Press: Talia Pattison (The Irrigator)

CIVIC PRAYER Cr Greg O'Callaghan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Cr Paul Maytom

APOLOGIES

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

16/001

Resolved

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday, December 16 2015, as circulated, be taken as read and CONFIRMED.

(Moved Cr Doig, seconded Cr Davidson)

GENERAL MANAGER'S MATTERS

**Item 1 FIT FOR THE FUTURE
UPDATES FROM NSW STATE GOVERNMENT**

16/002

Resolved

That Council receives the report on "Fit For The Future Updates from the NSW Government", noting that:

- 1.) On 18 December 2015 that Leeton Shire Council was declared 'fit to stand-alone' and able to access the new TCorp borrowing facility;
- 2.) The senior management team is working on a revised Improvement Plan to improve annual operating performance by \$1.3M per annum and;
- 3.) Proposed Phase One changes on Local Government Act amendments are now open for consultation, with submissions due by 15 March 2016.

(Moved Cr Valenzisi, seconded Cr Kidd)

CORPORATE SERVICES MATTERS

Item 1 COUNCIL MEETING DATES MARCH 2016 – MARCH 2017

16/003

Resolved

That the Ordinary Council Meetings for the ensuing twelve (12) months be held at 7.00pm on each of the following dates:

- Wednesday 27 April 2016
- Wednesday 25 May 2016
- Wednesday 29 June 2016 (moved to fifth Wednesday of the month to allow for end of financial year reporting requirements)
- Wednesday 27 July 2016
- Wednesday 24 August 2016
- Wednesday 21 September 2016 (moved to third Wednesday to avoid school holidays)
- Wednesday 26 October 2016
- Wednesday 23 November 2016
- Wednesday 14 December 2016 (moved to second Wednesday to avoid school holidays)
- Wednesday 18 January 2017 (moved to second Wednesday to avoid clash with eve of Australia Day)
- Wednesday 22 February 2017
- Wednesday 22 March 2017

(Moved Cr Doig, seconded Cr Davidson)

Item 2 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT - REVISED CODE

16/004

Resolved

That Council formally adopt the new Model Code of Conduct – November 2015 and the new Model Code be included in Council's external policy register.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Doig)

Item 3 INTERNAL REPORTING (PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES)

16/005

Resolved

That Council formally adopts the minor amendments to Section 9 of the Internal Reporting Policy as outlined in this report.

(Moved Cr Valenzisi, seconded Cr Morris)

**Item 4 RATES AND VALUATIONS - GENERAL REVALUATION OF
LEETON SHIRE LAND VALUES**

16/006

Resolved

That the report "General Revaluation of Leeton Shire Land Values" be received and noted.

(Moved Cr Doig, seconded Cr Valenzisi)

Item 5 LEETON GOLF COURSE DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE

16/007

Resolved

That Council note the December 2015 report on the activities of Leeton Golf Course and requested future reports to have additional information provided on major variances.

(Moved Cr Kidd, seconded Cr Morris)

Item 6 COUNCIL COMMITTEES - REVISED STRUCTURE

16/008

Resolved

- a) That Council establish the following as **Section 355 Committees** of Council and appoint the following Councillor/s to the Committees:

Whitton Court House and Historical Museum Group
Cr Paul Maytom, Cr Greg O'Callaghan
Whitton Community Hall Group
Cr Greg O'Callaghan, Cr Emerson Doig (alternate)

Yanco Community Hall Group
Cr Peter Davidson, Cr Tracey Valenzisi (alternate)
Murrami Community Hall Group
Cr Greg O'Callaghan, Cr Tracey Valenzisi (alternate)
Leeton's Men's Shed
Cr Greg O'Callaghan
SunRice Festival Committee
Cr George Weston
Light Up Leeton Committee
Cr Emerson Doig
Bidgee Classic Committee
Nil

- b) That Council establish the following as **Advisory Committees** of Council and appoint the following Councillor/s to the Committees:

Leeton Tree Advisory Group
Cr Paul Maytom, Cr Greg O'Callaghan (alternate), Cr Peter Davidson (alternate)
Leeton Shire Heritage Group
Cr George Weston, Cr Greg O'Callaghan, Cr Michael Kidd (alternate)
Roxy Community Theatre Group
Cr Michael Kidd, Cr Tracey Morris (alternate), Cr Emerson Doig (alternate)
Leeton Crime Prevention Group
Cr Paul Maytom, Cr George Weston, General Manager)
Leeton Traffic Committee
Mayor, Deputy Mayor (alternate)
Whitton Town Improvement Committee
Cr Greg O'Callaghan, Cr Paul Maytom
Leeton Early Learning Centre
Cr George Weston, Cr Paul Maytom (alternate)

- c) That Council establish the following as **Action Groups** of Council and appoint the following Councillor/s to the Committees:

Leeton Tidy Towns
Cr Michael Kidd, Cr Peter Davidson (alternate)
Leeton Youth Committee
Cr George Weston, Cr Tracey Morris (alternate), Cr Emerson Doig (alternate)
Leeton Australia Day Group
Cr George Weston, Cr Paul Maytom (alternate)

- d) That Council relinquishes the Trusteeship of the Whitton Common and supports the Whitton Commoners to begin to deal directly with the Crown in relation to all future Common matters.

- e) That terms of references be developed for each of the Committees in consultation with each committee and appropriate delegations from Council to these Committees be provided to a future Council meeting for approval, where relevant.
- f) That Council note that the Tourism, Economic Development and Events Advisory Committee continue in its current format with Cr Valenzisi and Cr O'Callaghan to oversee the adoption of the new Leeton Shire Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. Once the Strategy is adopted, this Committee will cease to exist.

(Moved Cr Weston, seconded Cr O'Callaghan)

Item 7 TOWN WATER ALLOCATION - TEMPORARY TRANSFER

16/009

Resolved

That Council commence temporary transfer of any excess water held in the town water accounts on the following conditions:

- At all times residential and commercial water supply to remain the primary priority before any trading is considered to ensure enough water is maintained for Leeton Shire.
- The annual allocation of Town Water reaches a minimum of 80% allocation prior to any trade occurring.
- A buffer of 500ML is always maintained to ensure that usage plus any water traded does not go within the 500ML of the annual allocation in any given year.
- The transfer is offered to irrigators and industries within the Leeton Shire Council Local Government Area in the first instance.

(Moved Cr Doig, seconded Cr Morris)

Item 8 INVESTMENTS - DIVIDENDS

Investments – December 2015

16/010

Resolved

That the information contained in the report on Investments be noted.

(Moved Cr Morris, seconded Cr Doig)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cr George Weston declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in relation to this matter as he is a foundation member of the Leeton Motorcycle Club and his brother is the President. Cr Weston made the declaration, stayed in the Chamber and participated in the debate and voted.

Cr Tracey Valenzisi declared a Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary Interest in relation to this matter as she is a member of the Leeton Motorcycle Club. Cr Valenzisi made the declaration, stayed in the Chamber and participated in the debate and voted.

Item 1 EXTENSION OF LEETON MOTORCYCLE CLUB

16/011

Resolved

That Council resolve;

1. To sell Lot 277 in DP 723199 and part of Lot 278 in DP 723199 to the Leeton Motorcycle Club, in order to permit the proposed expansion of the Leeton Motorcycle Club site at a nominal amount of one dollar (\$1), on the condition that the Leeton Motorcycle Club will be responsible for all costs associated with the subdivision, land consolidation and preparation of legal documents.
2. To provide twenty-eight (28) days public notice that it intends to sell Lot 277 in DP 723199 and part of Lot 278 in DP 723199 to the Leeton Motorcycle Club, for a nominal amount of one dollar (\$1), in accordance with Section 356 of Local Government Act 1993.
3. That at the completion of the twenty-eight day public notice period, should no submissions against this proposal be received, that the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to sign all associated contracts and agreements and that the Common Seal of Council be affixed to the Contract of Sale. If any submissions are received a further report to be prepared for Council.
4. That Council will seek to have the land purchased by the Leeton Motorcycle Club re-zoned from its current zone of Special Purpose Zone SP2 Infrastructure (Waste or Resource Management Facility) to RE2 Private Recreation.

(Moved Cr O'Callaghan, seconded Cr Dowling)

STATEMENTS BY COUNCILLORS

1. Cr Peter Davidson

- Welcomed staff and Councillors to the New Year.
- Raised a concern in regards to lack of soap at Leeton Swimming Pool and Mountford Park. The Director of Environmental and Community Services Mr Garry Stoll is to investigate.

2. Cr Tracey Morris

- Attended the Australia Day celebrations at Murrami which was a very welcoming and well run event.

3. Cr Emerson Doig

- Enquired when the town entrance signs would be completed with the art deco finish. Director of Engineering and Technical Services, Mr Barry Heins, advised this would be completed in the near future.

4. Cr Tracey Valenzisi

- Commented on the 2015 Leeton Show signs located at the town entrances. In particular, the sign located on Brobenah Road which impedes the town entrance sign. Director of Engineering and Technical Services, Mr Barry Heins, advised these signs would be removed in the near future.
- Thanked the Traffic Committee for the recently installed Stop sign in Karri Road.

5. Cr George Weston

- Enquired about the tourism signs that are used to direct visitors to specific tourist sites, such as the Henry Lawson Cottage. Director of Environmental and Community Services, Garry Stoll, to investigate.
- Congratulated Australia Day winners and thanked Council staff for their efforts on Australia Day.
- Commented that the Australia Day ambassador for Leeton Suzie Elelman was well received by the community.
- Thanked all Councillors for their attendance at the ceremonies conducted.
- Made comment that a mirror may be beneficial for traffic movement in Church Street at the back of the Wade Hotel. Director of Engineering and Technical Services, Barry Heins, to investigate.
- Commented that it was important that the round-a-bout flowers were maintained for the upcoming SunRice Festival at Easter. Director of Environmental and Community Services, Garry Stoll, to follow up.

6. Cr Greg O'Callaghan

- Commented that the town entrance signs required on-going maintenance as growth around the signs can reduce their visual appearance. Noted that there was significant growth around the new "Wamoon" sign on the Griffith Road that needed attending to. The Director of Environmental and Community Services Mr Garry Stoll is to investigate.
- Made comment that disability car parking is not fit for purpose in areas such as Mountford Park and the Yanco All-Serviceman's Club. Director of Engineering and Technical Services, Barry Heins, to investigate options to achieve accessibility standards.

7. Cr Michael Kidd

- Commented that the signs at the Leeton Pool (above ground) which indicate the depth of the water are at a hazardous height and need investigating. The Director of Environmental and Community Services, Mr Garry Stoll is to follow up this matter.
- Commented it was pleasing that Leeton Shire Council had been declared a fit and standalone Council prior to Christmas as part of the Fit for the Future process and thanked staff for all their efforts during this process.

8. General Manager Jackie Kruger

- As part of Council's Fit for the Future operations improvements plan, she and the Mayor have met with the General Manager and Mayor of Narrandera Shire Council in relation to shared services. Council's Directors have also met with their counterparts in Narrandera to commence investigations into improvement opportunities that may result from shared services. The results of these investigations will be reported back to Council at a future date.

9. Director of Corporate Services

- Advised Council of recent vandalism attacks at Whitton Museum and Whitton Pool as well at other non-Council facilities at Whitton. The extent of the damage at the Museum is still being collated but is quite significant.

10. Mayor Paul Maytom

- Outlined a number of activities that he and the Australia Day ambassador Suzie Elelman attended on Australia Day, including a Citizenship ceremony which was very well received.
- The ambassador has expressed via a direct email to the Mayor her heartfelt thanks for the hospitality provided to her by the Leeton community. The Mayor will distribute this email to his fellow Councillors.

CLOSED COUNCIL – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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.

16/012

Resolved

- 1 That Council move 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 Valenzisi, seconded Cr Doig)

Item 1 INVESTMENTS LEGAL UPDATE

This report is considered confidential in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, as the report contains advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege(Section 10A(2)g).

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 open meeting at 8.45pm and the public and press left the Chambers.

Item 1 INVESTMENTS LEGAL UPDATE

16/013

Resolved

That the update on the legal developments in respect of Council's investments be noted.

(Moved Cr Valenzisi, seconded Cr Morris)

REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL

16/014

Resolved

That this meeting of the Closed Council revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 8.50pm.

(Moved Cr Valenzisi, seconded Cr Kidd)

The Mayor advised that during the Closed Council one resolution was passed. The General Manager read out the resolutions made in Closed Council for Items

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52pm.

..... signed by
the Chairman of the meeting held on
24/02/2016 at which meeting the
signature hereon was subscribed.