

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 31 JULY 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SCONE COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Cr Maurice Collison (Mayor), Cr James Burns (Deputy Mayor), Cr Ron Campbell, Cr Tayah Clout, Cr Belinda McKenzie, Cr Allison McPhee, Cr Lee Watts and Cr Adam Williamson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Greg McDonald (General Manager), Mr Mathew Pringle (Director Environmental & Community Services), Mr Rag Upudhyaya (Director Infrastructure Services), Mr Wayne Phelps (Finance Manager) and Mrs Robyn Cox (Executive Assistant).

PRAYER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

APPLICATIONS FOR ATTENDING MEETING VIA VIDEO LINK:

Nil

APOLOGIES / APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS:

MOTION

That the application received from Cr Elizabeth Flaherty for leave of absence for a period of three months be accepted with pay.

FORESHADOWED MOTION

That the application received from Cr Elizabeth Flaherty for leave of absence for a period of three months be accepted without pay.

Moved: Cr A McPhee

MOTION

That the application received from Cr Elizabeth Flaherty for leave of absence for a period of three months be accepted with pay.

Moved: Cr L Watts

Seconded: Cr A Williamson

LOST

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor McKenzie	Councillor Burns
Councillor Watts	Councillor Campbell
Councillor Williamson	Councillor Clout
	Councillor Collison
	Councillor McPhee
Total (3)	Total (5)

23/171

RESOLVED

That the application received from Cr Elizabeth Flaherty for leave of absence for a period of three months be accepted without pay.

Moved: Cr A McPhee

Seconded: Cr T Clout

CARRIED

FOR

Councillor Burns
Councillor Campbell
Councillor Clout
Councillor Collison
Councillor McPhee
Total (5)

AGAINST

Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Watts
Councillor Williamson

Total (3)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

23/172

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held on 26 June 2023 be adopted.

Moved: Cr T Clout

Seconded: Cr J Burns

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:

NM.07.2 Notice of Motion – Manning Lane

Cr James Burns declared a non-pecuniary interest / non-significant conflict for the reason that his wife employs Mrs Manning. Cr Burns advised that he would leave the meeting and take no part in discussion or voting.

MAYORAL MINUTES

A.07.1

RECOGNITION OF LENGTH OF SERVICE - PETER WARDEN

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

23/173

RESOLVED

That Council recognise Peter Warden for his 20 years' service to Council.

Moved: Cr M Collison

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCR.07.1

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Rag Upadhyaya - Director Infrastructure Services

AUTHOR: Leah Moore - Infrastructure Support Officer

23/174

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. adopt the minutes of the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 11 July 2023; and,
2. undertake community consultation to discuss the Murrurundi Dam's future.

Moved: Cr R Campbell Seconded: Cr T Clout CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SCR.07.2

ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Mathew Pringle - Director Environmental & Community Services

AUTHOR: Lisa Betts - Administrative Assistant - Environmental & Customer Services

23/175

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. adopt the minutes of the Environmental & Community Services Committee meeting held on 11 July 2023.
2. ESC.7.1 – approve Development Application 184/2022 for alterations and additions to an existing child care facility at 6-8 Cooper Street Scone (Lot 11 DP 718871) subject to the conditions of consent in Attachment 2.

Moved: Cr L Watts Seconded: Cr A Williamson CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SCR.07.3

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Wayne Phelps - Manager Finance

23/176

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. adopt the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on 21 July 2023 and their recommendations; and
2. adopt the proposed budget variations as provided in attachment 2.

Moved: Cr A Williamson Seconded: Cr B McKenzie CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

C.07.1 *COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MURRURUNDI DISTRICT*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Amanda Catzikiris - Manager Community Services

AUTHOR: Heather Ranclaud - Community Services Officer - Murrurundi

23/177

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the minutes of the Community Advisory Committee - Murrurundi District meeting held on 25 May 2023.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr T Clout

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C.07.2 *MERRIWA AGED HOSTEL COMMITTEE*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Mathew Pringle - Director Environmental & Community Services

AUTHOR: Tash Taaffe - Community Services Officer

23/178

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the minutes of the Merriwa Aged Hostel Committee meeting held on 20 June 2023.

Moved: Cr R Campbell

Seconded: Cr A Williamson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

G.07.1 *REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Karen Boland - Governance & Executive Support Officer

23/179

RESOLVED

That Council provide a donation to:

- 1. Texas Longhorns Australia for \$200.00 for sponsorship of the Texas Longhorns Australia Inc. 2023 National Show to be held in Scone on 23 September 2023;**
- 2. Merriwa Central School for \$200.00 to go towards waiving of fees for the hire of School of Arts building on 1 & 2 August 2023 for the Merriwa Central School's 'Variety Night';**
- 3. Merriwa Central School for \$107.10 to go towards waiving of fees for the hire of School of Arts Building for the Annual Little Sprouts day to be held on 24 August 2023; and**
- 4. Murrurundi Landcare Tidy Towns Group for \$200 to go towards the cost of printing entry forms and prize cards for the 2023 Murrurundi Spring Flower Show.**

Moved: Cr R Campbell

Seconded: Cr L Watts

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G.07.2 ***COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR SCONE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY - 2024 & 2025***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

23/180

RESOLVED

That Council undertake a community consultation process to assess response to seeking a half day public holiday from noon for the 2024 and 2025 Scone Cup event days.

Moved: Cr L Watts Seconded: Cr A Williamson CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

POLICY MATTERS

H.07.1 ***POLICY - COMMUNITY RELATIONS - FLAGS***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Karen Boland - Governance & Executive Support Officer

23/181

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the policy, Community Relations – Flags with an amendment to replace the word ‘will’ with ‘may’ in the third paragraph of the section ‘Flying Flags at Half Mast’.

Moved: Cr L Watts Seconded: Cr T Clout CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

I.07.1 ***SCONE CBD REVITALISATION - STREET LIGHTING***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Rag Upadhyaya - Director Infrastructure Services

AUTHOR: Allan Greer - Project Manager

23/182

RESOLVED

That Council support the recommendation on replacing the pedestrian lights with centre median lighting and kerb-side lighting for the Scone CBD Revitalisation Project.

Moved: Cr J Burns Seconded: Cr A Williamson CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.07.2 ***TENDER 06/2023 SUPPLY OF SERVICES - ADDITIONAL SUPPLIERS***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Rag Upadhyaya - Director Infrastructure Services

AUTHOR: Gavin McKenzie - Project Manager

23/183

RESOLVED

That Council accept the three additional contractors for the supply of services (Tender 06/2023) for the period from 1 August 2023 to 30 August 2024.

Moved: Cr L Watts Seconded: Cr R Campbell CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICES OF MOTION

NM.07.1

***NOTICE OF MOTION - MERRIWA DE-AMALGAMATION
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

23/184

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. Call for community submissions regarding the de-amalgamation of Merriwa from Upper Hunter Shire for a period of 28 days from the commencement of consultation.
2. If the results indicate that the community are in favour of de-amalgamation, forward the results to the Minister for Local Government and Member for Upper Hunter for the state government to act on the data as appropriate.
3. If results are negative report to Council and do nothing further.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr A McPhee

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NM.07.2

NOTICE OF MOTION - MANNING LANE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr James Burns declared a non-pecuniary interest / non-significant conflict for the reason that his wife employs Mrs Manning. Cr Burns left the meeting and took no part in discussion or voting.

23/185

RESOLVED

That Council officially name the laneway at 133 Kelly Street, Scone, "Manning Lane".

Moved: Cr M Collison

Seconded: Cr T Clout

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr Burns returned to the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

COR.07.1

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

23/186

RESOLVED

That Council note the correspondence received from:

1. Hon Ron Hoenig, Minister for Local Government in response to Council's correspondence regarding the Emergency Services Levy contributions.
2. Hon Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, in response to Council's correspondence regarding access to the Scone Lawn Cemetery from New England Highway.

Moved: Cr L Watts

Seconded: Cr B McKenzie

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CLOSED COUNCIL

23/187

RESOLVED That Council move into Closed Council with the press and public excluded in accordance with Section 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Moved: Cr A McPhee Seconded: Cr B McKenzie CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

CR.07.1 **TENDER 1/2023 - WHITE PARK ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION - TENDER EVALUATION**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Gavin McKenzie - Project Manager

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (d i) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

23/188

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. **accept Tender No. 1/2023 from Nepean Power Pty Ltd for White Park Electrical Construction for a sum of \$1,314,506 inclusive of GST;**
2. **allocate up to \$677,500 from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund Program phase 4 to complete the project budget;**
3. **provide delegated authority to the General Manager to approve variations within the project budget, and;**
4. **provide delegated authority to the General Manager to conduct all relevant functions under the contract.**

Moved: Cr L Watts Seconded: Cr A McPhee CARRIED

FOR

Councillor Burns
Councillor Clout
Councillor Collison
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor McPhee
Councillor Watts

Total (6)

AGAINST

Councillor Campbell
Councillor Williamson

Total (2)

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

23/189

RESOLVED That the meeting move back into Open Council.

Moved: Cr L Watts Seconded: Cr B McKenzie CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Upon resuming Open Council, and in accordance with the Code of Meeting Practice, the General Manager provided a summary of the resolution passed in Closed Council.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.41PM.