



MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

16 MARCH 2017

**FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, 13 March 2017

TO:

- Councillors
- General Manager
- Director – Corporate Services
- Director – Planning and Community Development
- Director – Engineering Services
- Manager – Water and Waste
- Manager – Executive Projects

Notice is hereby given that the **Finance and Governance Committee Meeting** will be held in the Council Chamber, the Max Centre, 30 Heber Street, Moree, on **Thursday, 16 March 2017** commencing at **12pm**.

Please note that all Council meetings are recorded.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Johnson
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Agenda

1. Open Meeting
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Reports
 - a) Review of Guidelines for appointment of Directors to a Council Corporation or other entity
 - b) Acquisition and Disposal of Land Policy
 - c) Confidential – Offer of purchase Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427, 21 Auburn Street, Moree
6. Standing agenda item: New Questions on Notice
7. Standing agenda item: Strategic Planning Proposals and Current Project Updates
8. Standing agenda item: Overseas Trade and Investment
9. Responses to previous Questions on Notice
10. Closed Committee/Confidential reports
11. Close meeting

Finance and Governance Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

16 March 2017

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MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HEBER STREET, MOREE ON THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2016, COMMENCING AT 12.02PM

PRESENT:

Councillors K Humphries (Mayor), S Ritchie (Deputy Mayor), J Crawford, J Tramby OAM, G Smith, S Price, M Montgomery AM and G Chiu.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr L Rodgers (General Manager), Mr A Witherby (Director of Planning and Community Development), Mr D Wolfenden (Water and Waste Manager), Mr M Johnson (Director of Corporate Services), Mr A Probert (Finance Manager), Ms A Pippas (Client Services Manager), Mrs L Fisher (Project and Development Manager), Mr A Connolly (Economic and Community Development Manager), Mrs A Colbran (Governance Projects Officer) and Miss L Colley (Executive Assistant).

APOLOGIES:

Nil.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Councillor K Cassells.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST:

Councillor Smith noted he will be away 2 April 2017 – 8 April 2017. No meetings are currently scheduled during this time.

MINUTES:

Minutes from the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting of 16 February 2017.

17/03/01 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (TRAMBY/MONTGOMERY):

That the Minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2017 be adopted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- Councillor Jim Crawford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Report 3 “Confidential – Offer of purchase Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427 Auburn Street, Moree” due to his representation for an organisation having interest in this building.
- Councillor Sue Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in Report 1 “Review of Guidelines for appointment of Directors to a Council Corporation or other entity” as she is a member of the MAAC Board.
- Councillor Greg Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in Report 1 “Review of Guidelines for appointment of Directors to a Council Corporation or other entity” as he is a member of the MAAC Board.

REPORT TITLE:	1. REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO A COUNCIL CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY
REPORT FROM:	GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NUMBER:	FILE 15/656

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to review the *Guidelines – Appointment of Directors to a Council Corporation or Other Entity* (the Guidelines). At the present time, the Guidelines are only applicable to the appointment of the Board of Directors for Moree Artesian Aquatic Centre Limited (MAAC Ltd).

17/03/02 RESOLVED (PRICE/RITCHIE):

That the Committee move into workshop mode.

The Committee moved into workshop mode at the time being 12.06pm.

17/03/03 RESOLVED (MONTGOMERY/CRAWFORD):

That the Committee move out of workshop mode.

The Committee moved out of workshop mode at the time being 12.36pm.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Finance and Governance Committee review the document titled “Guidelines – Appointment of Directors to a Council Corporation or Other Entity” and recommend any necessary changes to the Council.

17/03/04 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (MONTGOMERY/CRAWFORD):

That the Finance and Governance Committee review the document titled “Guidelines – Appointment of Directors to a Council Corporation or Other Entity” and endorse the recommended changes to the Council as they exist in the marked up document.

REPORT TITLE:	2. ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL LAND POLICY
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
FILE NUMBER:	FILE 13/655

SUMMARY:

This report is provided to Council to consider the parameters around selling and acquiring land.

17/03/05 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (PRICE/MONTGOMERY):

That Council adopt the Acquisition and Disposal of Council Land Policy.

CLOSED COMMITTEE

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.

3. CONFIDENTIAL - OFFER OF PURCHASE LOT 1 DP 166345 AND LOT 10 DP 665427, 21 AUBURN STREET, MOREE

Should the Council wish to consider the details of the offer on Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427 21 Auburn Street, Moree, then they will need to resolve with explanation as follows:

That Report - Confidential - Offer of Purchase Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427, 21 Auburn Street, Moree, be dealt with in Closed Council as it relates to Section 10A (2)(d)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1993* being:

- (d) *Commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed:*
 - (i) *Prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it*

17/03/06 RESOLVED (RITCHIE/CHIU):

1. That Council resolve into closed committee to consider business identified, tabled at the meeting.
2. That pursuant under Section 10A(1)-(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified confidential under the provisions of Section 10A(2) as outlined above.
3. That the correspondence and reports 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*.

The meeting went into closed committee at 12.50pm. The public and media left the chamber.

REPORT TITLE:	3. CONFIDENTIAL - OFFER OF PURCHASE LOT 1 DP 166345 AND LOT 10 DP 665427, 21 AUBURN STREET, MOREE
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
FILE NUMBER:	FILE 14/190

SUMMARY:

This report is provided to Council to consider an offer to purchase Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427, 21 Auburn Street, Moree.

17/03/07 RESOLVED (CRAWFORD/CHIU):

That the Committee move into workshop mode.

The Committee moved into workshop mode at the time being 1.07pm.

17/03/08 RESOLVED (RITCHIE/PRICE):

That the Committee move out of workshop mode.

The Committee moved out of workshop mode at the time being 1.37pm.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider the offer of purchase for Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427, 21 Auburn Street, Moree.

17/03/09 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (CRAWFORD/RITCHIE):

That a further report be provided to Council in relation to 21 Auburn Street, Moree.

REPORT

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT:

Should the Council wish to consider the details of the offer on Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427 21 Auburn Street, Moree, then they will need to resolve with explanation as follows:

That Report - Confidential - Offer of Purchase Lot 1 DP 166345 and Lot 10 DP 665427, 21 Auburn Street, Moree, be dealt with in Closed Council as it relates to Section 10A (2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993 being:

(d) Commercial information of a confidential nature that would if disclosed:

(ii) *Prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it*

17/03/10 RESOLVED (RITCHIE/PRICE):

That the meeting resume into open committee.

The meeting moved into open committee at the time being 1.37pm.

Questions on Notice:

Councillor Tramby:

1. These questions are in addition to a previous Question on Notice.

Is the management of the Moree Plains Water and Waste aware of the amount of investigation and planning that previous Council were involved with regard to Moree's township water supply?

Is management aware that extensive drilling was carried out approximately 10 years ago to establish the extent of the aquifer under the town of Moree?

Is management aware it was found the Moree aquifer is pear shaped and southern boundary limit is considered Halls Creek for volume quantity?

Is management aware the pipeline from Yarraman Bore Field was increased from 300pm to 450pm. That this pipeline was considered capable to supply sufficient water to Moree for 20,000 people, 2.5 times the current population.

Also, sufficient water supply was proven to be available from the Yarraman Bore Field to supply that quantity. That it was shown that the most cost efficient method to supply Ashley Potable water was by a pipeline to Ashley. The capital cost saving and operational savings was proven to be the preferred method.

That the Yarraman Bores were placed south and to the south east of Yarram Landfill to minimise possible contamination. Also, if there were ongoing concerns, additional bores could be sunk between the town and the Gwydir River.

That the continued supply to the Industrial Drive Water Tower was identified as part of that inquiry. The recommendation that the most cost effective method was by pipeline from the Broadwater site and a number of alternative routes were identified across public land. The cost then was approximately \$750,000.

That all this information is contained in records stored on disc at Water and Waste. This project was overseen by Public Works and included a two day workshop by Councillors.

My source of this information is Mr Grahame Boughton, retired Manager of Water and Waste. Mr Boughton is still living in Moree and would be willing to pass on the history of this project if requested, if the records of the extensive work carried cannot be located.

General Manager, Lester Rodgers:

A response to your initial enquiry was allocated to Mr Wolfenden and investigation has been undertaken. The response provided will be supplementary to your initial question.

Water and Waste Manager, David Wolfenden:

A response in writing will be provided based on the previous question to the next available Committee Meeting. I have spoken to Mr Boughton and have asked for more information. It sounds like to me the information may be held electronically on a disc. I will be looking further for the documents.

A further response is required.

Councillor Price:

- 2. To Mr Connolly. There were a number of grant opportunities listed in Councillor Correspondence this week. There was an Expression of Interest for six tourism destination headquarters and \$100 million for the NSW Growth and Tourism fund. There is also another fund that would be suitable for Magic on the Mehi. Have we been looking at these?**

Economic and Community Development Manager, Mark Connolly:

I have been speaking with Mr Hartin on this already and will be discussing the Restart NSW Regional Growth, Environment and Tourism Funding at the end of the meeting. No further response required.

Councillor Ritchie:

- 3. In Tuesdays Moree Champion there was an advertisement regarding corruption of Moree Plains Shire Council. Can Mr Rodgers please provide information on what this is about?**

General Manager, Lester Rodgers:

I was extremely disappointed to see the advertisement and I take those matters very seriously. It impacts us all as part of the organisation. As soon as I was made aware of the ad in the paper I started investigations. A memorandum was distributed to you all this morning regarding the matter. We are checking with the Moree Champion who lodged the ad.

This matter is ongoing. A further update will be provided when available.

- 4. Regarding the House Raising Scheme. I receive phone calls every week from two applicants who are ready to go. We picked the Scheme prior to Christmas. The quotes the applicants have obtained only last 30 days and there has been no action. Can you please advise what is the hold up?**

Director of Planning and Community Development, Angus Witherby:

I have been following up on those matters in the last couple of days. The hold-up is the Office of Water. The grant funding is coming from them and therefore needs their approval. Quotes have been submitted for some time and they are yet to issue a decision on the preferred contractor. The Office of Water were seeking further evidence in the ability to provide other quotes. It is in the hands of Office of Water in terms of time frames for a decision. They are a state authority and provide the funding.

General Manager, Lester Rodgers:

This matter should be referred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet for a decision.

Councillor Tramby:

Will these be the first two house to be lifted?

Director of Planning and Community Development, Angus Witherby:

There has been one recently finished in Iris Street. In the absence of Mr Dinham, the flood study is coming to Council. As part of this, consideration is being given to a levy for Moree. Preliminary numbers show it is much more cost effective than the house raising scheme.

A further response is required.

- 5. Regarding the pigeon problem in town. Over the years we have made complaints through the Urban Advisory Committee. The pigeons have come back getting and are getting out of control again. What action can we take?**

Director of Planning and Community Development, Angus Witherby:

The problem is known. The Environment section is working with local businesses for a solution. If the pigeons are on private property we can't do anything but we are liaising with owners. We can no longer poison the pigeons, we can only shoot them.

Councillor Price:

Music and noise works to scare them away.

This matter is ongoing. A further response is required.

Strategic planning Proposals and Current Project Updates:

Mr Connolly provided a presentation to the Committee regarding a funding opportunity from the Restart NSW Regional Growth, Environment and Tourism Funding program. Due to time constraints and the inability to address a report, the Committee endorsed the below projects to be considered.

17/03/11 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (PRICE/MONTGOMERY):

That Council support an EOI application to the Restart NSW Regional Growth, Environment and Tourism Funding program for the following projects:

- **Enhancement of infrastructure at the Moree Artesian Aquatic Centre (in partnership with the MAAC Pty Ltd).**
- **Development of new infrastructure at the Moree Water Park (in partnership with the Moree Ski Club).**
- **Expansion of oval and sports facilities at Ron Harborne Oval.**
- **Development of environmental and tourism infrastructure at the Moree Common (in partnership with the Moree Local Aboriginal Land Council).**
- **Boggabilla footpaths/tourism trails.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at the time being 2.09pm.
