

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF
WINTON HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, WINTON SHIRE COUNCIL,
VINDEK STREET, WINTON ON THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2008,
COMMENCING AT 8.00AM.**

Present: Cr EL Warren (Mayor), Cr RB Archer, Cr NA Banning, Cr PS Mann,
Cr GS Sorensen, Cr CR Angus, Cr DR Nichols, Cr GT Lenton,
Cr JP Paynter, Cr LA Fraser.

Chief Executive Officer - B Hoogland
Deputy Chief Executive Officer - A Rayment
Minute Secretary - D Murphy

Observers: Mr C Kennedy, Mrs G Barr, Mrs C Carn.

Item 1: Apologies

Nil

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes - General Meeting

Sorensen/Fraser

That the minutes of the General Meeting held on 17th January, 2008, Folio 15199 to Folio 15210, be confirmed.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Item 3: Cheque List

Archer/Fraser

That the cheques for the month of January 2008, as presented be endorsed.

CARRIED

Financial Report/Statements

Council considered the Financial Statements.

Nichols/Mann

That the Financial Statements be received.

CARRIED

Item 4: Legal Action for Recovery of Sundry Debts/Rates

That the matter remain on Business Arising.

Item 5: Planning for a new hospital
Cr Warren further updated Council on the recent deputation to the Minister for Health.

That the matter remain on Business Arising.

Item 6: Flood Mitigation Applications
That the matter remain on Business Arising.

Item 7: Expenses Incurred by Chairs of Committees
That the matter remain on Business Arising.

Item 8: Replacement of the TDO
The CEO updated Council on his actions in advertising the position of TDO.

That the matter be removed from Business Arising.

CORRESPONDENCE - FINANCIAL

Item 9: Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards - 398/173
Seeking Council assistance for Bush Poetry Awards – Junior Section.

The CEO noted that the assistance requested was similar to that of previous years.

Mann/Archer

That the “in kind” assistance as requested, be donated.

CARRIED

Item 22: LATE CORRESPONDENCE

LATE FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. Minister for Main Roads and Local Government - 81/620
Informing Council of estimated cost of the March 2008 local government election.

That the information be received and noted.

2. King and Company - 414/551
Providing a copy of the “Proposal for Services” on behalf of Dr Kevin Heathcote.

Fraser/Mann

That Council accept the proposal and confirm that the writer be instructed to engage Dr Heathcote.

CARRIED

With the agreement of Council, Standing Orders were altered to permit earlier attention to the Engineering section of the meeting.

Attendance: At this stage, Consulting Engineers Mr D Timms and Mr K Luckhurst, Overseer – Mr P Stockham, Acting Town Foreman – Mr J Anderson and the Water Officer – Mr R Dooley attended the meeting, the time being 8.40am.

Water Officer's Report

Consulting Engineer Mr Timms updated Council on problems with the new water system, mainly due to power fluctuations, and proposed actions to remedy the situation.

Consulting Engineer Mr Timms presented a Winton Water Works – Plan of Operational System plan to Council, as requested by a previous meeting.

The Water Officer updated Council on the reasons for replacement of the sewerage lagoon pumps/motors mentioned in his report.

Cr Mann asked for an update on the Corfield water situation, and the Water Officer advised that there had been one slight problem which has now been rectified.

CORRESPONDENCE ENGINEERING

Item 10: Mr C Searle - 394/9
Enquiring about the possibility of water connection at Lot 4 Old Tancreds Paddock.

and

Item 11: Mr S Taylor - 394/10
Enquiring about the possibility of water connection at Lot 2 Old Tancreds Paddock.

Departure: At this stage, Cr Paynter left the meeting for a prior appointment, the time being 9.08am.

Consulting Engineer Mr Timms advised of the need for accurate levels to properly determine supply issues and costs; that the writers be advised of the situation and that their request will be reviewed in the near future.

Attendance: At this stage, Cr Paynter returned to the meeting, the time being 9.12am.

Departure: At this stage, the Water Officer left the meeting, the time being 9.13am.

Parks and Gardens Report

Cr Warren congratulated the Acting Town Foreman on his quick action With respect to the matter of the Singapore Ants.

Cr Paynter also noted his appreciation of the Acting Town Foreman and Parks and Gardens team for their work on Australia Day. Cr Warren reiterated his comments.

Cr Mann advised of proposed tree planting in the area of the cricket pitch at the Eric Lenton Recreation Grounds.

Airport Caretaker's Report

Departure: At this stage, the Acting Town Foreman left the meeting, the time being 9.22am.

Safety Officer's Report

Attendance: At this stage, Ms Amy Wilson from the Longreach Leader attended the meeting, the time being 9.23am.

Cr Warren welcomed Ms Wilson to the meeting.

Overseer's Report

Cr Warren noted a job well done by the crew who erected netting at the State School.

The Overseer noted that he is going to proceed with formation grading, noting there is some risk of a late wet season affecting any work undertaken.

The Overseer advised of a rough quote, as requested by Council, for repairs to Mulray Creek. He advised a cost of approximately \$60,000.

The Overseer also advised that the first 50 kilometres of the Diamantina River Road is the worst he has seen it, and recommended another floodway as well as Mulray Creek. Consulting Engineer Mr Timms advised that there is Roads to Recovery money available for lesser floodways. The Overseer confirmed that staff/plant resources should be available to undertake the work before the end of June 2008.

Paynter/Fraser

That Council place this project as a priority to be completed this financial year, and that the original applicant be so advised.

CARRIED

Engineer's Report

Consulting Engineer Mr Timms updated Council on his written report.

ENGINEERING MATTERS ARISING

F 15141 Rural Addressing

That the matter remain on Business Arising.

F15174 That the Consulting Engineer and Overseer prepare costings for installing a causeway on the Diamantina River Road across Mullray Creek for cost/benefit analysis.

That the matter be removed from Business Arising.

F15176 Awning at the front of library

That the matter remain on Business Arising.

Cr Archer asked about toilets for the disabled. The Consulting Engineer advised that a local builder would be providing a quote shortly.

Engineer's Report

Angus/Paynter

That the Engineer's Report be received.

CARRIED

Item 22: LATE CORRESPONDENCE

LATE ENGINEERING CORRESPONDENCE

3. Campbell Higginson Town Planning - 443/110

Advising of actions required for Council to undertake for the Integrated Planning Act - Preparing Priority Infrastructure Plans and Infrastructure Charges Schedules.

Fraser/Lenton

That Council propose to prepare a planning scheme amendment to include a Priority Infrastructure Plan, in accordance with Schedule 1, Section 1 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997.

CARRIED

4. Outback Aussie Tours - 414/550

Advising of restrictions by QPWS who have concerns about adequate toilets coping with increased capacity at Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways.

Consulting Engineer Mr Timms has advised that he has requested the Water Officer to investigate the existing toilets for maintenance. Council requested the Consulting Engineer investigate costs to upgrade the facility and enable greater numbers for larger visitation. The CEO to also approach National Heritage Trust to see if they can assist with funding suggestions.

The matter to be placed on Engineering Business Arising.

Cr Warren asked about the proposed truck stop on the Kennedy Development Road, noting that the area may encroach on future rural residential development in that area, but not the road reserve.

Departure: At this stage, the Overseer and Consulting Engineers left the meeting, the time being 10.15am.

CORRESPONDENCE - SHIRE RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Item 12: Department of Natural Resources - Pf 668/1
Seeking Council views regarding renewal of Special Lease.

Resolved, that Council offer no objection to the renewal of the Special Lease subject to the applicant having a Property Pest Management Plan.

CORRESPONDENCE - GENERAL

Item 13: WHK-TCM Smith Audit Partnership - 9/476
Audit management letter 2007.

The CEO noted that a technical issue identified by the QAO required that the financial statements be adopted again. The CEO identified the major issues raised in the audit report.

Nichols/Sorensen

That Council adopt the 2006/2007 Annual Report and Financial Statement.

CARRIED

Item 14: Belyando Shire Council - 204/109
Advising of 2008 WLGWA Conference.

That the matter be placed on Business Arising.

Item 15: MacAir - 3/834
Enclosing two vouchers to use under MacAir Airlines' Community Support Program.

Resolved, that the tickets be donated to WBTA and that the writer be thanked.

Adjournment: At this stage, the meeting adjourned for morning tea, the time being 10.25am, and resumed at 11.00am with all in attendance. Also in attendance after morning tea was Ms V Howard, the Community Options Coordinator.

Mrs Carn and Mr Kennedy were still attending the meeting as observers.

Item 20: CEO'S REPORT

Community Options Report

Ms Howard noted that an Occupational Therapist will be visiting Winton shortly.

Ms Howard also noted a few issues with elderly people having difficulty accepting the changing doctors, and are therefore not visiting the surgery as frequently as they should, which was causing an overload on the Domiciliary Nurse.

Cr Fraser asked about rotation of HACC staff, and Ms Howard explained the reasons for the rotations.

Departure: At this stage, Ms Howard left the meeting, the time being 11.08am.

CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE GENERAL

Item 16: Mrs T Harbour - 21/249

Giving notice that she is asserting her rights as direct descendants of the Yurendali as a party under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

That the writer be thanked for her correspondence and advised that Council acknowledges her Cultural Heritage rights. Resolved that Council request a meeting with Mrs Harbour and family representatives to proactively consider heritage issues relevant to her tribal area, after the local government election.

Item 22: LATE CORRESPONDENCE

LATE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

6. Corfield Race Club - 333/1087
Re sale of old school house.

Resolved, that Council advise of no objection of the sale of the donated school house and that Council looks forward to advice when the cleaning up

is finished.

5. Winton Health and Fitness - 128/750

Seeking permission to use the football field for an outside class with the Gym members.

Resolved, that Council offer no objection to the requested use of the football field.

That a quote be sought to enlarge the current gym for budget consideration.

8. Western Picnic Race Club (tabled)

Requesting permission to hang banners advertising forthcoming race meeting.

Resolved that permission be granted, provided traffic visibility is not obstructed and the area is not required by other organisations.

7. Queensland Boulder Opal Association Inc - 409/213

Asking for permission to hold monthly markets in Riley Street car park from April to December.

Council noted the success of the 2007 markets.

Resolved, that Council offer no objection to the request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 17: Little Swaggies Child Care Committee Report

Fraser/Archer

That the minutes of the Little Swaggies Child Care Centre be received.

CARRIED

Item 18: Showgrounds Users Committee Report

Sorensen/Fraser

That the minutes of the Showgrounds Users Committee be received.

CARRIED

Resolved, that Council accept the Committee's recommendation to not bird proof the grandstand and that the matter be removed from 2008/2009 budget consideration.

Item 19: Tourism Strategy Committee Report

Mann/Banning

That the minutes of the Tourism Strategy Committee be received.

CARRIED

Item 20: CEO'S REPORT

CEO's Report

Attendance: At this stage, Ms Wilson from the Longreach Leader attended the meeting, the time being 12.06pm.

Adjournment: At this stage, the meeting adjourned for lunch, the time being 12.30pm, to inspect the Australian Age of Dinosaur site and resumed at 2.50pm with all in attendance except Cr Nichols and Cr Lenton.

Mrs Carn and Mr Kennedy were still in attendance as observers.

The Mayor requested that the CEO write to thank the AAoD for hosting the visit to the Australia Age of Dinosaurs museum site.

CEO's Report – continuing

Attendance: At this stage, Cr Lenton and Ms Wilson attended the meeting, the time being 2.52pm.

Cr Banning noted the condition inside the Youth Centre in the Old Capell Building leaves a lot to be desired. CEO and DCEO to inspect.

Angus/Lenton

That the CEO's Report be received.

CARRIED

Paynter/Mann

That Council receive the CEO's quarterly report on the implementation of the 2007/2008 Operational Plan.

CARRIED

CEO's General Business

Attendance: At this stage, Cr Nichols attended the meeting, the time being 3.05pm.

North Queensland Sports Awards

Resolved that Council sponsor attendance at the awards for each nominee to a maximum of \$200, partly recoverable from NQ Sports Foundation.

Droughtmaster Bull Signs

Resolved that the plaque be placed on a concrete plinth and no objection be offered to the wording.

Local Government Week

The CEO advised Council that Local Government Week will be 4-10th June.

Central West Industry Excellence Awards

Other than the Mayor, no Councillors were available to attend.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Plebiscite

The Mayor and CEO reported on the meeting with LGAQ manager Greg Hallam. Immediately after the elections, most non-amalgamated Councils expressed interest in having referendums to support amalgamated Councils, to express anger at the undemocratic processes and to possibly have some ammunition against further amalgamations. Mr Hallam advised that Winton was the only Council left asking about a plebiscite. Council noted that the length of time that had passed meant that the issue was no longer as important as it was. Council also noted that the retirement of Premier Beattie had changed the relationship between local and state government. Another factor identified was that relations between Winton Shire and our state member and the office of the Premier were quite good and a referendum could put this at some risk.

On this basis, Council decided that, although there was still a great deal of anger and resentment about the reform process, it was in the best interest of the Shire not to proceed with a referendum.

Lenton/Nichols

That Council not proceed with a plebiscite.

CARRIED

Cr Nichols updated Council on the recent WHAT Community planning meeting.

Cr Nichols and Cr Mann sought clarification of a situation where a person with the position of Public Servant/State Government employee stands as a nominated Councillor in the Local Government Elections. The CEO advised that there may have been confusion between the Brisbane Act and the other Local Government Act.

Adjournment: At this stage, the meeting adjourned for afternoon tea, the time being 3.30pm. Central West Health District Manager Ms Jill Koeneman joined

Council for afternoon tea. The meeting resumed at 3.55pm, with all in attendance except Cr Nichols and including Ms Koeneman. Mrs Carn, Mr Kennedy, Mrs Sale and Ms Wilson returned to the meeting as well.

Attendance: At this stage, Mrs K Ludwick attended the meeting, as an observer, the time being 3.58pm.

Ms Koeneman updated Council on the medical situation in Winton, including the possible appointment of a permanent Director of Nursing at the Winton Hospital. She also updated Council on being unable to appoint a permanent doctor until after the end of April.

She also advised of different avenues being looked at to source funds to build a replacement hospital.

Departure: At this stage, Ms Koeneman and Mrs Ludwick left the meeting, the time being 4.28pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS (continuing)

Cr Paynter reported to Council on the Australia Day celebrations. He wished to have his thanks to the Acting Town Foreman and Ms Vickie Heslin noted in the minutes.

Cr Paynter gave his best wishes to Councillors not standing in the forthcoming elections, and offered his best wishes for those standing for the elections.

Cr Warren also noted his thanks for Cr Paynter and Vickie Heslin for their work for Australia Day, with special thanks to Toni Lenton for the presentation of the Hall.

Cr Fraser noted that a Councillor Farewell dinner will be at 6.30pm on 27th February.

Cr Fraser offered her best wishes to Councillors and thanks for support over the years.

Cr Sorensen asked if there was any way to change flight days with MacAir. The CEO advised that the Tuesday and Thursday flight are the days selected to meet the contract.

Attendance: At this stage, Cr Nichols returned to the meeting, the time being 4.42pm.

Cr Sorensen thanked Council for letting him be a part of this last Council.

Cr Lenton noted Rev John Smith, a speaker at a recent conference who was

an ex bikie and drug user who gave a very worthwhile presentation and suggested using him in conjunction with the Drug and Alcohol implementation.

Cr Lenton noted how rewarding it has been to be a Councillor and thanked everyone concerned.

Cr Mann advised that there would be plans/information forthcoming regarding the redevelopment of Long Waterhole.

Cr Mann wished everyone the best for the future.

Cr Lenton updated Council on a recent meeting at Long Waterhole.

Cr Banning thanked all for the last four years and wished everyone the best.

Cr Angus thanked all and wished everyone the best.

Cr Archer asked if unsuccessful tenderers are notified, and the CEO advised that normally they are and requested specific instances.

Cr Archer echoed everyone's wishes, wishing everyone all the best.

Cr Nichols noted a Council vehicle driving too fast in the main street. Cr Nichols wished everyone all the best for the future.

The CEO asked for availability, for catering reasons, for the Council Structure Review Workshop on Monday 25th February.

Cr Warren advised that Bruce Collins had let Council know of the passing of Mr Maurice Ashman, a former Councillor.

Cr Fraser requested Council protest to the Premier and the Minister for the Arts regarding the loss of considerable funding to Arts West and other organisations. The CEO requested greater detail to properly word the letter.

Cr Warren thanked Council for assistance over the years and wished everyone the best for the future.

Item 23: Dates Next Meeting

- March Ordinary Meeting - 25th March, 2008

Item 24: Mayor's Minute

Nil

Item 25: Other items if any

Nil

Closure: The meeting closed at 5.05pm.

Confirmation: Confirmed before me this 31st March, 2008.

Signed
Cr EL Warren
MAYOR