

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, 144 OTHO STREET, INVERELL ON TUESDAY, 25 MARCH, 2008, COMMENCING AT 1 PM.

**PRESENT:** Cr B C Johnston (Mayor) [Chairman], Crs D F Baker, D K Barnes, J L Cameron, H N Castledine, P J Harmon, W J Irvine, D C Jones, K L Kneipp, P H Lloyd and D B Mudaliar.

The General Manager (Paul Henry), Director Corporate Services (Ken Beddie), Director Technical Services (Greg Moran) and Director Planning & Development (Brett McInnes).

**APOLOGIES:**

Cr Barnes advised that Cr M P Lewis tendered his apology and sought leave of absence for business reasons.

***34/08 RESOLVED** (Barnes/Lloyd) that the apology from Cr M P Lewis due to his absence for business reasons be accepted, and that leave of absence be granted.*

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***35/08 RESOLVED** (Irvine/Baker) that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 February, 2008, as circulated to members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.*

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS/PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

At this juncture, the time being 1.04 pm, the following interests were declared:

- Cr Lloyd declared a non-pecuniary interest in Section H, Committees Reports, Item 1 'Planning/Community Committee Meeting Minutes', Section F "The Men's Shed request for Development Application fee refund". The nature of the interest relating to Cr Lloyd being a member of the Men's Shed Coordinating Committee.

**PUBLIC FORUM** **13.5.4**

There were no members of the public wishing to address Council.

**SECTION C  
GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

GM-A 1. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2008 - CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM** **13.7.4**

**MOTION** (Barnes/Cameron) that Council agree that this is to be the wording of the case to be presented to the 2008 Local Government Election:

Question: Do you agree that the number of Councillors elected to Inverell Shire Council should be reduced from twelve (12) Councillors to nine (9) Councillors?

The 'Yes' Case

The advantages of a reduction in the number of elected members may include the following:

- The cost of maintaining elected members will be reduced.
- The increase in the ratio of Councillors to electors is unlikely to be significant.
- Consultation with the community can be achieved through a variety of means in addition to individuals and groups contacting their local elected member.
- Fewer elected members are more readily identifiable to the community.
- There appears to be a trend (in newly formed Councils) for reductions in the number of elected members and that has demonstrated that fewer elected members works just as well as a higher number.
- The larger number of councillors combined with the proportional voting system will make it easier for lesser known candidates to be elected.
- Quality representation is the important issue, not the number of councillors.

#### The 'No' Case

The disadvantages of a reduction in the number of elected members may include the following:

- A smaller number of elected members may result in an increased workload and may lessen effectiveness. A demanding role may discourage others from nominating for Council.
- There is the potential for dominance in the Council by a particular interest group.
- A reduction in the number of elected members may limit the diversity of interests around the Council table.
- The larger the number of elected representatives the greater the opportunity for discussion and debate on particular issues.
- Provides for more effective representation as there are more Councillors representing the people within the Shire.
- The fewer the number of Councillors combined with the proportional voting system will make it harder for lesser known candidates to be elected.

**36/08 AMENDMENT** (Cameron/Mudaliar) that Council agree that this is to be the wording of the case to be presented to the 2008 Local Government Election.

*Question: Would you like the number of Councillors elected to Inverell Shire Council to be reduced from twelve (12) Councillors to nine (9) Councillors?*

#### The 'Yes' Case

*The advantages of a reduction in the number of elected members may include the following:*

- *The decision-making process may be more effective and efficient if the number of elected members is reduced. It is timelier to ascertain the views*

*of a fewer number of people and decision-making may be easier. There is also more scope for team spirit and co-operation amongst a smaller number of people.*

- *The cost of maintaining elected members will be reduced.*
- *The impact or need for a casting vote by the Mayor may be eliminated (dependent on all Councillors being present at a Council meeting).*
- *The increase in the ratio of Councillors to electors is unlikely to be significant.*
- *Consultation with the community can be achieved through a variety of means in addition to individuals and groups contacting their local elected member.*
- *A reduction in the number of elected members may result in an increased commitment from those elected reflected in greater interest and participation in Council's affairs.*
- *Fewer elected members are more readily identifiable to the community.*
- *Fewer positions on Council may lead to greater interest in elections with contested elections and those elected obtaining a greater level of support from the community.*
- *There appears to be a trend (in newly formed Councils) for reductions in the number of elected members and that has demonstrated that fewer elected members works just as well as a higher number.*
- *Greater numbers of Councillors can mean that non-committed or uninvolved elected Councillors are hidden from view.*
- *The larger number of Councillors combined with the proportional voting system will make it easier for lesser known candidates to be elected.*
- *Quality representation is the important issue, not the number of Councillors.*

#### The 'No' Case

*The disadvantages of a reduction in the number of elected members may include the following:*

- *A smaller number of elected members may result in an increased workload and may lessen effectiveness. A demanding role may discourage others from nominating for Council.*
- *There is the potential for dominance in the Council by a particular interest group.*
- *A reduction in the number of elected members may limit the diversity of interests around the Council table.*
- *Opportunities for community participation in Council's affairs may be reduced if there are fewer elected members for the community to contact.*
- *The larger the number of elected representatives the greater the opportunity for discussion and debate on particular issues.*
- *Provides for more effective representation as there are more Councillors representing the people within the Shire.*
- *The fewer the number of Councillors combined with the proportional voting system will make it harder for lesser known candidates to be elected.*

The Amendment on being put to the meeting was CARRIED. It then became the Motion.

The Motion on being put to the meeting was CARRIED.

## **SECTION D CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**

1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 12.11.1 & 12.20.2**

**37/08 RESOLVED** (Baker/Irvine) that the report be received and it be noted that accounts totalling \$4,172,625.93 have been paid.

AS-A

2. **EXCLUSION FROM ALCOHOL FREE ZONE FROM THE MOTORCYCLE RESTORATION EVENT AT ASHFORD 18.8.1**

**38/08 RESOLVED** (Baker/Irvine) that Council approves the exclusion from the Alcohol Free Zone in Ashford for the Motorcycle Restoration Club event on 19 April, 2008 only.

3. **COUNCIL OPERATIONS – ACTION CHECKLIST 13.5.1**

**39/08 RESOLVED** (Baker/Irvine) that the information be received and noted.

**SECTION H  
COMMITTEES REPORTS**

DPD-A  
AS-A

1. **PLANNING/COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4.11.3**

**40/08 RESOLVED** (Lloyd/Jones) that:

- i) the Minutes of the Planning/Community Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 March, 2008 be received and it be noted that Cr Castledine was in attendance at the meeting and Cr Irvine was an apology,
- ii) the following recommendations of the Planning/Community Committee be adopted by Council:

1. **KIDS ALIVE DO THE FIVE DROWNING PREVENTION CAMPAIGN TOUR - REQUEST TO PERFORM AT TOWN HALL FREE OF CHARGE 5.24.6**

That a donation of \$40.00 be provided in this matter.

2. **THE MEN'S SHED REQUEST FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FEE REFUND. DA-187/2007**

That a donation of \$110.00 be provided in this matter.

3. **GEOGRAPHICAL LOCALITY OF 'KINGSLAND' 28.13.1**

That a further report be presented to the Committee in this matter, noting the Committee's in-principle support in this matter.

4. **DA 206/2007**

That an options report be prepared in respect of the level of contributions payable in the Villages under the Development Servicing Plan and the matter of DA 206/2007 be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration of what level of support may be provided.

DTS-A  
AS-A

2. **WORKS/SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4.11.4**

**41/08 RESOLVED** (Cameron/Barnes) that:

- i) *the Minutes of the Works/Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 March, 2008 be received and noted; and*
- ii) *the following recommendations of the Works/Services Committee be adopted by Council:*

1. ELSMORE VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY S32.12.7

*That investigations be conducted into the possible establishment of a non-potable water supply.*

2. PLANT CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION 23.7.12

- i) *The following motion be forwarded to the Local Government and Shires Association for inclusion in the conference agenda for 2008; “the Shires Association seek an urgent deputation to the Minister for Roads in respect of the following matters:*
- ii) *Seeking advice from the Minister as to the reasons for the requirement for Council Plant now to be conditionally registered.*
- iii) *Seeking the Ministers level of understanding in regard to the implications of Conditional Registration on local government.*
- iv) *Seek the Minister’s comment to removing the disadvantages of the current system”.*
- v) *The matter be forwarded to the Roads Directorate for inclusion on the agenda of the 2008 Roads Congress.*
- vi) *Correspondence be forwarded to the Minister for Roads through the Local Member regarding the lack of consultation and the affect of Conditional Registration on Local Government; and*
- vii) *Copies of this correspondence be forwarded to the New South Wales Farmers Association as well as the IPWEA Roads Directorate in order to ensure that this issue is given as wide as coverage as possible so that all Councils are made aware of the ramifications of this new situation.*

3. INVERELL WEST RESERVOIRS 32.12.4

- i) *that the approved 6MI reservoir be constructed at “Clinton” and “smart pumps” be installed at West Inverell to improve the pressure in the high zone area.*
- ii) *the Finance Committee provide additional funding for the completion of the program from the Water Future Capital Works Internally Restricted Asset.*

4. UPDATED MAJOR BRIDGE PROGRAM 28.9.1

- i) *Council continue with the bridge asset management infrastructure replacement program as indicated in the current management plan with the replacement of the structures as highlighted in the current program and those in the future program;*
- ii) *Council continue to monitor the condition of the existing timber bridge structures and concrete structures on an annual basis in order to monitor and assess their condition and any further deterioration.*

5. SHIRE TOUR OF THE RURAL AREA AND TOWN WORKS TOUR S28.9.12

*That a Town Works Tour be held on Tuesday, 22 April, 2008, commencing at 9.00 am and the Rural Works Tour be held on Tuesday, 8 April, 2008, commencing at 8.30 am*

6. PROPOSED PINDARI DAM STATE PARK S21.7.5

*That negotiations continue with the Department of Lands with a view to facilitating the establishment of a State Park at Pindari Dam.*

7. SCHOOL CROSSING 30.14.1

*That Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) funding be sought for flashing school zone signs for Gilgai.*

DCS-A  
AS-A

3. FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4.11.2

**42/08 RESOLVED** (Baker/Lloyd) that:

- i) *the Minutes of the Finance/Budget Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 March, 2008 be received and noted; and*
- ii) *the following recommendations of the Finance/Budget Committee be adopted by Council:*

1. NEWSTEAD HOMESTEAD – PLAN OF MANAGEMENT S15.8.8

*That the Management Plan for Newstead Homestead as amended be adopted and Mr David Pryor be appointed Chairperson of this Committee, (subject to Mr Pryors acceptance).*

2. REQUEST FOR DONATION - INVERELL GIRL GUIDES 12.22.1

*That Council advise the Inverell Girl Guides that Council is unable to accede to their request in this matter.*

3. BUDGET VARIATIONS 2007/2008 S12.5.1

- i) *Council's Budget Review for 29 February, 2008 be adopted; and*
- ii) *the proposed variations to budget votes for the 2007/2008 Financial Year be adopted providing an estimated Cash Surplus at 30 June, 2008 from operations of \$1,167.*

4. ASHFORD AIRSTRIP 30.17.2

*That a technical review be conducted of the Ashford Airstrip and subject to the outcome of this review, that design plans and cost estimates be prepared in this matter.*

5. DA 206/2007

*That the General Manager be duly authorised to take appropriate action in this matter, noting the Committee's preferred approach.*

6. EQUINE INDUSTRY S9.12.4

*That Council advise the Member for Northern Tablelands, Mr Richard Torbay and New South Wales Farmers association that it strongly opposes the introduction of any "Annual Horse Registration Fee" or any similar requirement.*

7. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS 24.5.3

*That the partnership agreement signed with the Cancer Council be reviewed in July, 2008.*

8. TOWN ENTRY SIGNAGE 28.27.10

*That Council invite applications from organisations wishing to have their events advertised on the signs, noting that Council will make the final determination in this matter.*

9. SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS 3.16.4

- i) *Council support in principle the pilot project for "community owned and managed supported accommodation for people with mental health problems" as proposed by Best Employment; and*
- ii) *Council support in principle an approach to the Department of Lands in respect of the land identified as a possible site for the proposal.*

CIO-A  
AS-A

4. YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 24.10.3

**43/08 RESOLVED** (Kneipp/Harmon) that:

- i) *the Minutes of the Youth Council Committee Meeting held on 27 February, 2008 be received and noted; and*
- ii) *the following recommendations of the Youth Council Committee be considered by Council:*

1. POOL PARTY S3.16.19

- i) *the next Pool Party be held at the beginning of the year.*
- ii) *the date of the next Pool Party be reviewed at a future meeting.*

2. YOUTH RADIO PROGRAM S3.16.19

*All members of the Committee that have not yet participated in the Radio Show, be scheduled to participate prior to those who have previously been involved.*

3. YOUTH WEEK 2008 S3.16.19

*That a single event only would be conducted by the Youth Council.*

CIO-A  
AS-A

**5. YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 24.10.3**

**44/08 RESOLVED** (Kneipp/Harmon) that:

- i) *the Minutes of the Youth Council Committee Meeting held on 12 March, 2008 be received and noted; and*
- ii) *the following recommendations of the Youth Council Committee be adopted by Council:*

1. YOUTH WEEK/DANCE PARTY S3.16.19

*That the Youth Week Dance Party be held on 11 April at Flanders House from 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm with participants being picked up no later than 11 pm.*

At this juncture the time being 1.52 pm Cr Jones left the meeting for purpose of representing the SES at a funeral. Cr Jones did not return to the meeting.

EXA-A  
AS-A

**6. TOURISM ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 8.6.6**

**45/08 RESOLVED** (Lloyd/Castledine) that:

- i) *the Minutes of the Tourism Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday, 3 March, 2008 be received and noted; and*
- ii) *the following recommendations of the Tourism Advisory Sub-Committee be adopted by Council:*

1. Parking – Inverell Visitors Centre 5.11.13

*That the Tourism Inverell Carpark be zoned '2 Hour Parking Only' from Monday to Friday and that signage to that effect be erected at the earliest opportunity.*

DCS-A  
AS-A

**7. LIVESTOCK MARKETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 8.6.2**

**46/08 RESOLVED** (Kneipp/Cameron) that:

- i) *the Minutes of the Livestock Marketing Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday, 15 February, 2008 be received and noted; and*
- ii) *the following recommendations of the Livestock Marketing Advisory Committee be adopted by Council:*

1. SALEYARDS FEES AND CHARGES 2008/2009 S8.14.1

*That the Saleyard Fees and Charges be increased by 10% in the 2008/2009 Draft Budget, with the exception of sheep and lambs. Sheep are to be \$0.70 per head plus GST with sheep and lambs over the scales to be \$0.80 per head plus GST. Also truck wash fees are to increase by 3% rounded up to the nearest cent.*

2. CATTLE BRUISING S8.14.1

*That a drafting facility design be prepared for presentation at the April Meeting and post sale scanning options be determined.*

**8. GWYMAC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 11.7.1**

**47/08 RESOLVED** (Cameron/Lloyd) that the Minutes of the GWYMAC Committee Meeting held on Friday, 15 February, 2008 be received and noted.

**9. INVERELL AERODROME SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES S30.8.3**

**48/08 RESOLVED** (Castledine/Cameron) that the Minutes of the Inverell Aerodrome Security Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 March, 2008 be received and noted.

**SECTION I  
INFORMATION REPORTS**

**1. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE & PUBLIC FORUM 13.5.5**

**2. MANAGEMENT TEAM MINUTES 4.11.5**

**3. 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 13.7.4**

**4. ROADS & TRAFFIC AUTHORITY – ACQUISITION OF LAND 5.2.1**

**5. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 12.11.4 & 12.12.2**

**6. CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES APPROVED BY COUNCIL FOR FEBRUARY 2008 7.2.4**

**7. CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES APPROVED BY PRIVATE CERTIFIER FOR FEBRUARY 2008 7.2.4**

**8. COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES APPROVED DURING FEBRUARY 2008 7.2.4**

**9. COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES APPROVED BY PRIVATE CERTIFIER FOR FEBRUARY 2008 7.2.4**

**10. DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS AND REFUSALS DURING FEBRUARY 2008 18.10.2**

**11. SEPTIC TANK APPROVALS FOR FEBRUARY 2008 24.9.1**

**12. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2008 18.10.1**

**13. COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2008 19.8.1**

**14. MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS 28.21.1**

**15. PARKS AND RESERVES 21.8.1**

**16. GRAVEL RESHEETING ON SHIRE ROADS 28.21.1 & 15.8.19**

**49/08 RESOLVED** (Kneipp/Irvine) that the items contained in the Information Reports to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 25 March, 2008 be received and noted.

**SECTION J  
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

- DTS-A      **QWN/ORD 17/08**      CBD Crossings      28.10.IN51  
Cr Kneipp
- Is there any possibility of the traffic calming device, located near McDonalds being modified with additional concrete?
- QWN/ORD 18/08**      Gravel Program      28.26.2  
Cr Barnes
- What initiatives has Council implemented to ensure the supply of good quality gravel for Council roads?
- The Director of Technical Services provided Council with information on this matter.
- DTS-A      **QWN/ORD 19/08**      Roadside Growth      S28.9.12  
Cr Castledine
- Noted the significant growth on roadsides in and around the Inverell area.
- Is there any possibility of hazard reduction in these areas?
- QWN/ORD 20/08**      Organ Donation      24.5.3  
Cr Irvine
- Noted the current low level of Organ Donation in Australia. It was noted that this may be a suitable initiative that Rotary could undertake.
- Cr Lloyd will raise this issue with Rotary.
- QWN/ORD 21/08**      Roadside Signage - Cyclists      28.9.18  
Cr Harmon
- Cr Harmon asked what process was required for the erection of road signage highlighting that cyclists utilise a road for training.
- The Director of Technical Services advised Council of the procedure to be followed.
- DTS-A      **QWN/ORD 22/08**      School Bus Route Signage      28.9.18  
Cr Harmon
- Can signage be erected advising members of the public of the School Bus route on the Gunnee Road?
- GM-A      **QWN/ORD 23/08**      Medical Services      24.20.4  
Cr Baker
- Cr Baker noted the recent media coverage of the incorrect recording of the number of emergency department incidents and treatment times in various Health Service areas.
- Would Council request confirmation from the Hunter New England Health Service that the quoted Inverell Hospital figures are correct?

**QWN/ORD 24/08** Parking 28.27.2  
Cr Baker

Could centre parking be considered for Evans Street adjacent to the Evans Street Doctors Surgery?

The Director of Technical Services appraised Council in this matter. There is insufficient space in Evans Street (allowing for angle parking) to provide centre parking.

**QWN/ORD 25/08** Opera in the Paddock S26.3.14  
Cr Baker

Cr Baker asked if Council was aware of the success of the 2008 event. Cr Baker felt that Council's contribution to the advertising costs of the event assisted with the success.

**QWN/ORD 26/08** Inverell Accommodation Services Inc 3.16.8  
Cr Mudaliar

Cr Mudaliar enquired if Council was aware that this local organisation won a tender to provide services into Glen Innes and noted this will also benefit Inverell, in respect of additional employment opportunities.

**QWN/ORD 27/08** Inverell Hospital  
Cr Johnston

Cr Johnston noted that Councillors are invited to attend an inspection of the Inverell Hospital facilities on Tuesday, 1 April, 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

CR B C JOHNSTON

CHAIRMAN