

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 21st April 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

Minutes of the Meeting of 21st April 2021

PRESENT: Councillor M. Dusting - Chairperson, Councillor S. Kermode, Councillor A Murat, Councillor M O'Connor, Councillor J Galletly, Councillor C Sparks.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager (Acting) Mr Glenn Wilcox, Biosecurity Officer, Mr Trent McIntyre.

APOLOGIES:

Nil.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020.

69/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat / Sparks

that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council held on 9th March 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th MARCH 2021.

Nil.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair advised of the following:

At our last meeting we had a change of structure to bring Glen Innes Severn Council into the County Council officially and become a valued member of New England Weeds Authority. It is also a positive that we are meeting at Glen Innes today and ensuring that our organisation is visible to our member Councils, but also to the public and press.

New England Weeds Authority is a quiet achiever and sometimes this has drawbacks in that our member Councils do not understand our role and the staff in the Councils do not see what we do.

We have invited Glen Innes Severn Councillors and the General Manager to attend through our Councillor Sparks and Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council.

Since our last meeting in March we have undergone a change of senior staff and I would like to welcome officially Mr Glenn Wilcox as our Acting General Manager.

As we can see from today's business paper and the workshop to be held, that a large amount of work has been undertaken to review the authority, to ensure we are compliant with the Office of Local Government expectations, those of our Auditors and to develop our staff along the way.

Today we will review the Annual Operational Plan which has been reformatted to make reporting of activities easier and to provide for the next financial year's budget.

The budget is in the positive subject to grants continuing and the major inclusion is the \$1 Million Loan to be applied for to develop the new Depot and Office facility at the Armidale Airport subdivision.

For the public, Council will also be holding a strategic workshop following today's meeting to start to plan future directions. These include the advertising for a permanent General Manager, Councillor consideration of and training under the Model Code of Conduct, any changes to the Model Code of Meeting Practice as we have a new member, a consideration of the staff structure and gaining an understanding of our internal and external risks.

I would like to thank our hosts, Glen Innes Severn Council and the support they have shown towards our organisation.

70/20 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat / O'Connor

That the Chairs report be received and noted.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Item 7.1.1 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2021-2022

71/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Murat / O'Connor

1. That the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2021-2022 be placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition period a further report be presented to Council on submissions received and for the adoption of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2021-2022.
3. That the constituent member Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Walcha and Uralla be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2021-2022 for comment.
4. That Inverell Shire Council be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2021-2022 for comment.

ITEM 7.1.2 AUDIT OFFICE OF NSW – AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 2021

72/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Sparks / Murat

That the report on the Audit process of Council's financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2021 be received and noted.

ITEM 7.1.3 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT 2020 & MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES 2020

73/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Galletly / Murat

That Council adopt the Model Code of Conduct 2020 and the Model Code of Conduct Procedures 2020 as required under Clause 440 the Local Government Act 1993 as amended and Regulations thereto.

ITEM 7.1.4 DRAFT NEWA WORK FORCE PLAN AND STRATEGY

74/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Murat / Sparks

1. That Council adopt the Draft Work Force Plan and Strategy,
2. That Council write to the Union Groups advising of the Workforce Plan and Strategy as required by the Local Government Award,
3. That Council publically display the Work Force Plan and Strategy as required by the Local Government Act; and
4. Submit a Report to Council following the display period.

ITEM 7.1.5 REVIEW & UPDATE OF NEWA LOCAL POLICIES

75/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Kermode / Murat

1. That Council undertake a review of its Draft Local Policies in accordance with section 165 Local Government Act 1993,
2. That Council undertake amendments as required to its policies;
3. That Council advertised all policies for a period of 40 days to allow for public comment; and
4. That Council consider all public comments at the time of adopting any policy.

ITEM 7.1.6 INVESTED FUNDS REPORT

76/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Murat / Galletly

1. That the report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted.
2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

ITEM 7.1.7 MARCH 2021 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

77/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Murat / Galletly

That Council adopt the March 2021 Quarterly Budget Review and approve the proposed Budget variations.

WEED CONTROL MATTERS

Item 7.2.1 2020/2021 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

78/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors Murat / O'Connor

That the report on the 2020/2021 Weeds Action Program report be received and noted.

ITEM 8 MATTERS OF URGENCY

79/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors O'Connor / Sparks

That Council approve the Delegations of Authority Policy and Delegations to the General Manager.

80/20 Resolved On the Motion of Councillors O'Connor / Murat

Tropical Soda Apple Grants

That Council investigate and prepare grant applications if possible with Kempsey Shire Council for the control and eradication of Tropical Soda Apple along the Macleay River.

Councillor Kermode recorded his vote against the motion.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th June, 2021 at 9:00am at Uralla Council

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:15am.