

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD 19 OCTOBER 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF
ARMIDALE REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMENCING AT 09:00am**

PRESENT: Councillor Mark Dusing – Chairperson, Councillors Scott Kermode, Margaret O'Connor, Carol Sparks, Andrew Murat

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager, Tim Weeks

APOLOGIES: Councillor John Galletly

92/21 Resolved on the Motion of Councillors O'Connor / Murat that Councillor John Galletly's apology be accepted.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
15 JUNE 2021**

93/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 15 June 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 15
JUNE 2021**

There were no matters arising.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2021**

94/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the New England County Council held on Tuesday 29 June 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

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**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2021**

There were no matters arising.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021**

95/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on Wednesday 1 September 2021, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2021**

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair advised of the following items:

- Firstly, I would like to thank Armidale Regional Council for hosting our meeting today.
- While we would normally be electing a Chair, Deputy Chair and executive at our October meeting, the impact of COVID-19 has delayed General Council Elections until 4 December. As a result, we will be holding our elections following the general council election, hopefully, before the end of the year.
- The organisational changes that have taken place during the latter half of the financial year have had the effect of reducing the momentum with which inspections and spraying have been taking place. This 'slowing' has been compounded by the COVID-19 lock-down(s) and the inability for a time for our staff to get into the field. This loss of momentum is reflected in the achieved results.

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- We have recently appointed an additional full-time Bio-security Officer and are in the final stages of recruiting two full time weeds spraying officers. This will rebuild NEWA's strength and capacity.
- On a more positive note, the purchase of land at the Airport has been settled and our Development Application submitted to Armidale Regional Council for the construction of offices and a workshop has been approved. Design of the proposed facility has been completed and a stamped copy of the approved plans is attached.
- A tender document has been prepared for the construction of the NEWA facility and the necessary timing for the award of a construction contract is around February 2021.
- A meeting was requested with Adam Marshall, Member for New England, to discuss potential funding for construction of the new office and workshop; and our proposal has been received favourably. NEWA has been asked to submit a formal request for funding which will be forwarded shortly. We have received a favourable response to our request and proposal.
- Our Audited, Annual Financial Statements are presented for adoption at this meeting (Item 9.3). The result, a deficit of \$74,000 (compared with \$94,000 for the prior year), is almost totally accounted for by an increase in expenditure – with income remaining constant.
- I would like to record my thanks to the Acting General Manager, Glenn Wilcox, the staff and councillors for their support during this period of re-building.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR PERSON

**ELECTION OF A DEPUYY CHAIR PERSON UNTIL THE HOLDING OF A GENERAL
COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 4th 2021**

96/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Sparks:

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- a) That Council continue the position of Deputy Chair
- b) That the current incumbent, Cr. Kermode, remain in the position of Deputy Chair until the holding of General Council Elections on 4 December 2021
- c) At the time of holding the General Council Elections, the position shall be vacated and an election be held to appoint a Deputy Chair for a two-year period.

INVESTED FUNDS REPORT as at 30th September 2021

97/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Sparks:

- a) that the report indicating Council's Fund Management position be received and noted.
- b) That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer is noted and the report adopted.

SEPTEMBER 2021 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

98/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Conner that Council adopt the September 2021 Quarterly Budget Review and note and approve the proposed Budget variations.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT 2020/21

99/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermode and Sparks that the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2020 be received and adopted.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 /2021

100/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and Kermode Sparks that:

- a) Council adopt the 2020/2021 Annual Report
- b) A copy of the Annual Report is placed on Council's web-site, and

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- c) The Office of Local Government is notified that the Annual Report is available on Council's website.

**CALL FOR TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OFFICE AND DEPOT/
WORKSHOP AT 21 WALLER AVENUE, ARMIDALE**

101/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Murat and O'Connor that:

- a) Council approve the preparation of a Tender calling for the construction of Offices and a Depot on land at 21 Waller Avenue, recently purchased and owned by the County Council.
- b) A Tender be finalised for the construction of the office and depot and be listed on TenderLink for a period of not less than 20 working days, and
- c) A report be prepared with a recommendation of the preferred tenderer for approval by Council.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

102/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Councillors Kermodé and Murat:

- a) That Council undertake a review of its Local Policies at a future workshop, to be held after the General Council Elections, in accordance with Section 165 of the Local Government Act 1993.
- b) That Council undertake amendments as required to its policies following its workshop, and
- c) That Council adopt all existing draft policies until such time as the policy review, above, has been undertaken.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PICNIC DAY

103/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Dusting and O'Conner that Council approve the attendance of Staff who are members of the Union at the Local Government Picnic Day in accordance with the NSW State Award.

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2020/2021 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

104/21 RESOLVED on the motion of Murat and O'Conner that the report on outcomes of the 2021/2022 Weeds Action Program be received and noted.

MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were no matters arising.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 09:57am.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 8th March 2022 at 10:00 am, at the NEWA Offices.