

MINUTES of

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on 24 December 2021 at 9:00am

Attendance at Meeting:

Councillors: Mayor Robert Bell (Chair)

Cr T Bower

Cr S Burrows

Cr R Crouch

Cr L Doran

Cr B McMullen

Cr O'Connor

Cr L Petrov

Cr T Toomey

Staff:

Ms K Jessep, General Manager

Mr S Paul, Chief Financial Officer/ Director Corporate Services

Mr T Seymour, Director Infrastructure & Development

Ms N Heaton, Manager Governance

Ms W Westbrook , Executive Assistant (Minute Clerk)

Mr M Clarkson, Manager Development & Planning

Mr L Finnegan, Manager Waste, Water & Sewerage

Ms C Valencius, Director Community Services

Apologies:

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1 OPENING & WELCOME

The chair declared the meeting opened at 9am, welcomed everyone to the new term of Council and handed over to the General Manager to witness the Mayor and Councillors taking the oath or affirmation of office pursuant to the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) section 233A.

Mayor Robert Bell took the oath of office.

Cr Robert Crouch took the oath of office.

Cr Leonie Petrov took the oath of office.

Cr Sarah Burrows took the oath of office.

Cr Tara Toomey took the oath of office.

Cr Tim Bower took the oath office.

Cr Leanne Doran took the affirmation of office.

Cr Tom O'Connor took the oath of office.

Cr Bruce McMullen took the oath of office.

2 PRAYER

The Chair read the prayer.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair read the acknowledgement of country.

4 WEBCAST INFORMATION

The Chair advised the meeting was recorded, reminded all present to refrain from making defamatory comments, and advised that the recording will be made available on Council's website following the meeting.

5 APOLOGIES & APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCES BY COUNCILLORS

The Chair advised there were no apologies.

The Chair advised there were no applications for leave of absence.

6 DISCLOSURES & DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chair advised there were no disclosures or declarations made and reminded Councillors of their obligation to make disclosures and declarations as necessary.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes to be confirmed at the 24 December 2021 Ordinary Meeting:

7.1 MINUTES 24 NOVEMBER 2021 ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes of, 24 November 2021 Ordinary Meeting the Chair called for any amendments.

AMENDMENTS

There were no amendments requested by Councillors.

MOTION Moved: Cr O'Connor /Seconded: Cr Toomey

That Council adopt the minutes of the meeting held 24 November 2021 Ordinary Meeting, as a true and correct record.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

01.12/21 CARRIED

8 TABLING OF REPORTS & PETITIONS - Nil

9 URGENT, SUPPLEMENTARY & LATE ITEMS/REPORTS OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised there were no supplementary or late items of business. The Chair referred Councillors to the urgent, confidential, item of business.

9.1 URGENT ITEMS

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Uralla Groundwater Project – Drilling Tender Evaluation - December 2021

PROCEDURAL MOTION Moved: Cr Doran /Seconded: Cr Burrows

To hear the CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Uralla Groundwater Project – Drilling Tender Evaluation - December 2021 as Item 17.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Cr O'Connor

Absent: Nil

02.12/21 CARRIED

9.2 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS - Nil

9.3 LATE REPORTS TO COUNCIL - Nil

10 WRITTEN REPORT FROM DELEGATES

10.1 ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

COUNCILLOR NAME:	Michael Pearce – Outgoing Mayor	
DATE	COMMITTEE/MEETING/EVENT	LOCATION
24 Nov 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin 2AD interview	Uralla
25 Nov 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin	Uralla
29 Nov 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin LGNSW Zoom Conference NEJO Board Meeting	Uralla
30 Nov 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin	Uralla
1 Dec 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin Post Card Promotion Invergowrie	Uralla Invergowrie
2 Dec 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin	Uralla
6 Dec 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin	Uralla
	Mayor's Office _ Admin NAIDOC Activities	Uralla
8 Dec 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin	Uralla
9 Dec 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin	Uralla
10 Dec 2021	Mayor's Office _ Admin Rocky River School Presentation 11am	Uralla Rocky River
13 Dec 2021	Changeover with incoming Mayor & General Manager	Uralla
Total expense Claims		\$359.04

The Chair tabled the final Activities Report from Mayor Pearce covering the period 24 November 2021 – 21 December 2021.

- 11 ITEMS PASSED IN BULK - Nil
- 12 MAYORAL MINUTE - Nil
- 13 PUBLIC FORUM/PRESENTATIONS - Nil
- 14 REPORT OF COMMITTEES – Nil

15 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

15.1 CASH AT BANK AND INVESTMENTS

MOTION Moved: Cr Crouch /Seconded: Cr Petrov
That Council Note:

- I. The Cash Position as at 30 November 2021 consisting of cash and overnight funds of \$2,336,083, term deposits of \$13,912,580 totalling \$16,248,663 of readily convertible funds ; and
- II. The loan position as at 30 November 2021 totalling \$1,870,169; and
- III. Projected unrestricted cash position as at 30 June 2022 totalling Nil.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

03.12/21 **CARRIED**

15.2 PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 2021

MOTION Moved: Cr Crouch /Seconded: Cr Toomey

That Council postpone item 15.2 Presentation of Annual Financial Statements June 2021 until a future Ordinary Meeting and Council give notice for the Auditor to attend and request they make a presentation.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

04.12/21 **CARRIED**

15.3 CASUAL VACANCY APPOINTMENT BY COUNTBACK

MOTION Moved: Cr Toomey /Seconded: Cr Burrows

That should a casual vacancy arise prior to the last 18 months of the council term that a bi-election will be held.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Cr McMullen

Absent: Nil

05.12/21 **CARRIED**

15.4 DELEGATION TO THE OFFICE OF MAYOR

MOTION Moved: Cr Crouch /Seconded: Cr Burrows

That Council adopt the Instrument of Delegation – Mayor.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

06.12/21 CARRIED

15.5 SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS 2022

MOTION Moved: Cr Petrov /Seconded: Cr Burrows

That Council:

- I. Rescind Resolution OM 02.09/21 and adopt a revised schedule for the 2022 Ordinary Meeting**
- II. Adopt the meeting cycle as follows:**
 - **Schedule Ordinary Meetings 4th Tuesday in the month to be held at 9.30am, February to November 2022**
 - **December on the 3rd Tuesday of the month**
 - **January no meeting to be held**

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Cr Doran

Absent: Nil

07.12/21 CARRIED

15.6 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR INDUCTION TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2021-2022

MOTION Moved: Cr O'Connor /Seconded: Cr McMullen

- I. That the Mayor and Councillor Induction Training and Professional Development Program 2021-2022 be adopted; and**
- II. That Council delegate to the General Manager and Mayor jointly the authority, in consultation with Councillors, to amend the dates/times and content of the Mayor and Councillor Induction Training and Professional Development Program 2021-2022 should the need arise.**

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

08.12/21 CARRIED

15.7 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Returning Officer (General Manager) announced that there was only one nomination for the position of Deputy Mayor.

MOTION Moved: Cr Doran /Seconded: Cr Burrows

That Council appoint Cr Crouch as Deputy Mayor for the period from 24 December 2021 until the Ordinary Meeting to be held in September 2022.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

09.12/21 **CARRIED**

PROCEDURAL MOTION Moved: Cr Crouch/ Seconded: Cr McMullen

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:34am for a short break.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

10.12/21 **CARRIED**

The Chair resumed the meeting at 10:46am

15.8 COUNCILLOR COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

MOTION Moved: Crs Crouch/Seconded: Burrows

- I. That the following delegates be appointed to the Australia Day Committee for the term of the council: Crs Burrows, O'Connor, and
- II. That the remainder of the item be considered as an adjourned portion of the meeting to occur on the 25 January 2022 at the resumption of the meeting commencing at 9:30am, and
- III. That council establish three (3) further committees as:
 1. Financial advisory committee
 2. Development advisory committee
 3. Capital works advisory committee

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, Petrov, Toomey

Against: McMullen, O'Connor

Absent: Nil

11.12/21 **CARRIED**

15.9 BUNDARRA SEWERAGE SCHEME – PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

MOTION Moved: Cr Crouch /Seconded: Cr McMullen

That Council:

- I. Receive the Bundarra Sewerage Scheme – Project Update Report – November 2021, and

II. Note the private works undertaken in the months of August, September, October and November, 2021, (Attachments 3 & 4) for works carried out under the *Local Government Act 1993* Section 67 Private Works Agreement Part (2)(b) and (4).

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

12.12/21 CARRIED

15.10 PUBLIC SPACES LEGACY PROGRAM PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

MOTION Moved: Cr Burrows /Seconded: Cr O'Connor

That Council:

- I. Extend the public notice period until 30 January 2022 for the Public Spaces legacy Program projects; and
- II. Publicly advertise the projects in the Uralla Wordsworth in the 10 January 2022 edition, Council Website and Facebook and hold a public meeting to talk through the concept options and provide the community with an opportunity for input, before the 31 January 2022; and
- III. Present the feedback to Council to support the adoption of the applicable project designs and strategies.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

13.12/21 CARRIED

15.11 RESOLUTION REGISTER ACTION STATUS

MOTION Moved: Cr Mayor Bell /Seconded: Cr Doran

That Council move item 15.11 Resolution Action Status to be considered as an adjourned portion of the meeting to occur on the 25 January 2022 at the resumption of the meeting commencing at 9:30am.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

14.12/21 CARRIED

16 MOTIONS ON NOTICE QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

16 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

9.1 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - URALLA GROUNDWATER PROJECT – DRILLING TENDER EVALUATION - DECEMBER 2021

PROCEDURAL MOTION Moved: Cr Burrows /Seconded: Cr Doran

To move into Closed Session of Council

That Council move into closed session and close the meeting to members of the public and press for the following reasons:-

This report is presented to the CLOSED section of the December 2021 meeting under section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993.

1. A council, or a committee of the council of which all the members are councillors, may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises:
 - a) the discussion of any of the matters listed in subclause (2), or
 - b) the receipt or discussion of any of the information so listed.
2. The matters and information are the following:
 - d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Reason: report on commercial-in-confidence tender submission.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

15.12/21 CARRIED

17 COMMUNICATION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Mayor advised during the closed meeting the Council made the following resolutions:

- I. That Council award the tender for groundwater drilling to The Impax Group Pty Ltd as being the most advantageous to Council.
- II. That Council allocate a budget of \$900,000 for drilling works funded from the NSW Government Grant.
- III. That a further update report to Council is presented when results of exploration drilling are available, and the consequent review of environmental factors is available and prior to the drilling of bores for extraction.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, O'Connor, Petrov,

Against: Crs Toomey, McMullen

Absent: Nil

16.12/21 CARRIED

Note: Cr Doran wished to have recorded her vote 'For' Item 17 was incorrect, she meant to vote 'Against'

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved: Crs O'Connor /Seconded: Crouch

That Council adjourn the outstanding items of business 15.8 and 15.11 until 25 January 2022 commencing at 9:30am.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

19.12/21 CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

18 RESUMPTION OF MEETING

1. OPENING & WELCOME

The Chair resumed the meeting on 25 January 2022 at 9.30am.

The Mayor confirmed attendance/quorum.

Councillors: Mayor Robert Bell (Chair)
Cr R Crouch (Deputy Mayor)
Cr T Bower
Cr S Burrows
Cr L Doran
Cr B McMullen
Cr O'Connor
Cr L Petrov
Cr T Toomey

Staff:

Ms K Jessep, General Manager
Mr S Paul, Chief Financial Officer/ Director Corporate Services
Mr T Seymour, Director Infrastructure & Development
Ms C Valencius, Director Community Services
Ms N Heaton, Manager Governance
Ms W Westbrook , Executive Assistant (Minute Clerk)

2. PRAYER

The Chair read the prayer.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair read the acknowledgement of country.

4. WEBCAST INFORMATION

The Chair advised the meeting was recorded, reminded all present to refrain from making defamatory comments, and advised that the recording will be made available on Council's website following the meeting.

5. APOLOGIES & APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCES BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

6. DISCLOSURES & DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Nil

The Mayor requested the General Manager to advise the status of the meeting agenda.

The General Manager provided a summary of the business already addressed and the business outstanding.

15.8 COUNCILLOR COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

MOTION Moved: Cr O'Connor /Seconded: Cr Burrows

That delegates be appointed to each of the committees until September 2022, except for the appointment to New England Weeds Authority which is for the term of the Council, as follows:

Audit Risk and Improvement Committee	Cr Toomey Cr O'Connor
Community Grants Panel	Cr Petrov Cr Burrows Cr O'Connor
Central Northern Regional Library	Cr Petrov
Arts North West Strategic Advisory Council (SAC)	Cr Toomey General Manager (alternate)
Community Safety Precinct Committee	Mayor
Country Mayors Association	Mayor
Local Traffic Committee	Cr McMullen
Mid North Weight of Loads	General Manager
New England Joint Organisation	Mayor
New England Weeds Authority	Cr Bower
Northern Joint Regional Planning Panel	General Manager Cr Crouch (Panel Member) Cr McMullen (Alternate)
New England Regional Energy Zone Reference Group	Deputy Mayor General Manager
Winterbourne Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee	Cr Crouch
Thunderbolt Energy Community Consultative Committee	Cr Burrows
GM Performance Review Committee	Mayor Deputy Mayor Cr Burrows
Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee	Cr Crouch General Manager
S355 Uralla Township Environs Committee	Cr Toomey Cr Doran
S355 Bundarra Hall Committee	Cr Doran Cr Crouch

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, Petrov, Toomey, McMullen, O'Connor

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

20.12/21 CARRIED

15.11 RESOLUTION REGISTER ACTION STATUS

PROCEDURAL MOTION Moved: Cr Doran / Seconded: Cr Toomey

To move to Committee of the Whole.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, Petrov, Toomey, McMullen, O'Connor

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

21.12/21 CARRIED

Councillors held a detailed discussion in committee regarding the report.

PROCEDURAL MOTION Moved: Cr Bower / Seconded: Cr Burrows

To resume Standing Orders.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, Petrov, Toomey, McMullen, O'Connor

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

22.12/21 CARRIED

MOTION Moved: Cr Petrov /Seconded: Cr Crouch

That Council receive the Resolution Action Status as at 15 December 2021.

For: Mayor Bell, Crs Bower, Burrows, Crouch, Doran, McMullen, O'Connor, Petrov, Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

23.12/21 CARRIED

21 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10:12am

The next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for 22 February 2022 9.30am

22 COUNCIL MINUTES CONFIRMED

COUNCIL MINUTES CONFIRMED BY:	
RESOLUTION NUMBER:	01.02/22
DATE:	23 February 2022
MAYOR:	Robert Bell 

