



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday, 23 June 2021

4pm

at

Armidale Council Chambers

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Tiley (Mayor), Councillor Debra O'Brien (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Peter Bailey, Councillor Jon Galletly, Councillor Andrew Murat, Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Dorothy Robinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr James Roncon (General Manager), Mr John Rayner (Financial Controller/Temporary Advisor), Mr Scot MacDonald (Director Businesses & Services), Mr Damien Connor (Chief Officer Corporate and Strategy) Ms Jessica Bower (Executive Officer) and Ms Melissa Hoult (Executive Officer).

MINUTES

Index

1.	CIVIC AFFIRMATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	
2.	STATEMENT IN RELATION TO LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS	
3.	APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS	
4.	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST	
5.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	
	Ordinary Council - 26 May 2021.....	4
6.	MAYORAL MINUTE	
7.	NOTICES OF MOTION	
8.	LEADERSHIP FOR THE REGION	
8.1	Constitutional Referendum 4 Sept 2021 - Balanced Case For Reducing The Number of Councillors From 11 to 9.....	5
8.2	Community Leasing Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition).....	6
8.3	Asset Management Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition)	6
9.	GROWTH, PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
9.1	Armidale Regional Local Environmental Plan (ARLEP) - Forwarding of Planning Proposal to the Minister for review and determination.....	7
9.2	FOR INFORMATION: The Big Chill - Post Event Report	7
9.3	Public Exhibition of Financial Reserves Policy.....	8
9.4	Corporate Banner and Flag Pole Sponsorship Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition)	8
9.5	FOR INFORMATION: Cash and Investment Report 31 May 2021	8
10.	ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
10.1	Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 4 - Request for grant application approval - Council submissions - Lynches Road Netball Courts lighting installation and Jack Vallance Oval lighting installation and field renovation.....	9
10.2	Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 4 - Request for grant application approval for community groups	9
10.3	Development Application Approvals: monitoring targets	10
10.4	Appointment of Public Works Advisory to project manage Bushfire Local Economic Recovery projects - Dumaresq Dam Ecotourism Development and Armidale and Guyra Livestock Selling Centre Upgrades	10
10.5	Koala Management Strategy.....	11
10.6	Public Exhibition of Urban Streetscape Policy	11
10.7	Public Exhibition of Cemeteries Operations Management Policy	11
10.8	Public Exhibition of Memorials Policy.....	12

10.9	Public Exhibition Acceptance of Waste from Outside of Armidale Regional Council's Local Government Area Policy	12
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11. OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

11.1	BCRRF Council led Community Grants - Applicant assessment notification	12
11.2	Public Art Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition)	13

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1	Access Advisory Committee - Minutes of meeting held 13 May 2021	13
12.2	Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes of meeting held 18 May 2021	14
12.3	Community Wellbeing Committee - Minutes of meeting held 27 May 2021	14
12.4	Traffic Advisory Committee - Minutes of the meeting held 1 June 2021	15
12.5	Sports Council Committee - Minutes of meeting held 9 June 2021	15

13. MATTERS OF AN URGENT NATURE

14. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. CIVIC AFFIRMATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Galletly read the Civic Affirmation.

Cr O'Connor read the Acknowledgement of Country.

2. STATEMENT IN RELATION TO LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The General Manager read the statement.

3. APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS - NIL

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST - NIL

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2021

249/21

RESOLVED

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

Moved Cr O'Brien

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

6. MAYORAL MINUTE - NIL

7. NOTICES OF MOTION - NIL

8. LEADERSHIP FOR THE REGION

8.1 Constitutional Referendum 4 Sept 2021 - Balanced Case For Reducing The Number of Councillors From 11 to 9

Ref: AINT/2021/18533 (ARC21/4520)

250/21

RESOLVED

That Council present the following balanced case for and against the need to reduce the number of Councillors elected to Armidale Regional Council from 11 to 9:

The case For reducing the number of Councillors from 11 to 9	The case AGAINST reducing the number of Councillors from 11 to 9
<p>Reducing the number of councillors would result in savings of \$49,620 per annum (the 21/22 fee per councillor is \$24,810pa)</p> <p>Additional savings would be accrued in relation to various allowances paid to councillors (phone, internet, computer hardware, professional development etc.) These vary between councillors but on average would be a minimum \$10,000 per councillor</p> <p>Armidale Regional Council is currently has a ratio of 1 Councillor to 2,792 residents</p> <p>Tamworth (9 Councillors) 1 : 6,906 residents</p> <p>Port Macquarie Hastings Council (9 Councillors) 1 : 9,237 residents</p> <p>Kempsey (9 Councillors) 1 : 3,296 residents</p> <p>Clarence Valley Council (9 Councillors) 1 : 5,739 residents</p> <p>A smaller team is more likely to focus on the 'big issues' and be more efficient and effective in its decision making</p> <p>Quality of representation should be the focus rather than the quantity of representation.</p> <p>Many of the Regional Councils classified as grade 4 by the Office of Local Government elect nine Councillors and cover a geographic area larger than that of Armidale Regional Council.</p>	<p>Savings of \$49,620 across a \$77m operational budget is a small price to pay to ensure Councillor representation from across the region</p> <p>The region covers an area of some 8,600 sq. klms including the town of Guyra and several small villages. It may be difficult for nine Councillors to have a good understanding of the key issues across a large geographic area.</p> <p>It may be difficult for nine councillors to adequately support the current number of community advisory committees resulting in a loss of community input to important decisions</p> <p>Fewer Councillors may reduce community access to a Councillor</p> <p>A larger number of Councillors may provide a broader range of viewpoints and ideas for Council to consider.</p> <p>A smaller number of councillors may lead to Council being controlled by political or self interest groups</p> <p>Fewer councillors may make it harder for lesser known candidates to be elected.</p>

Moved Cr Galletly Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

8.2 Community Leasing Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition)

Ref: AINT/2021/18507 (ARC17/1770)

251/21

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the "Community Leasing Policy", noting no feedback was received during the public exhibition period.

Moved Cr Galletly **Seconded Cr Murat**

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

8.3 Asset Management Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition)

Ref: AINT/2021/17890 (ARC21/4611)

252/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a. Receive this report in relation to the updated Asset Management Policy, noting no submissions were received from the public during the 28 day public exhibition period; and
- b. Adopt the updated Asset Management Policy.
- c. In Section 5.1 Life cycle approach replace "renewal funding" in Decisions to accept, acquire or construct new assets will consider the full life cycle costs (operation, maintenance and renewal funding) with 'the need to renew the asset at the end of its useful life'.
- d. In Section 5.2 Back to basics/Focus on maintenance and renewal of existing assets add "useful" before assets in "Maintenance and renewal expenditure will be planned and prioritised in order to keep assets in an acceptable condition and minimise increase in renewal backlog".
- e. In "Council will only acquire new assets where there is demonstrable need in the community for the service and the lifecycle costs of the asset can be funded by Council" replace "need" with 'benefit'.

Moved Cr Robinson **Seconded Cr O'Brien**

FOR: *Crs P Bailey, J Galletly, D O'Brien and D Robinson*

AGAINST: *Crs A Murat, M O'Connor and I Tiley*

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED.

9. GROWTH, PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Armidale Regional Local Environmental Plan (ARLEP) - Forwarding of Planning Proposal to the Minister for review and determination

Ref: AINT/2021/15819 (ARC19/3364)

253/21

RESOLVED

That Council :

- a. Endorse the ARLEP Planning Proposal for forwarding to the Minister under section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- b. Forward the endorsed ARLEP Planning Proposal to the Minister for review and determination under section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- c. Following receipt, comply with the requirements of the Minister's determination.
- d. Unless otherwise determined by the Minister, publically exhibit the ARLEP Planning Proposal for a minimum period of 28 days as required under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- e. Not commence the public exhibition period for the ARLEP Planning Proposal before Monday 13 September.
- f. If no submissions are received during the public exhibition period, proceed to finalise the ARLEP Planning Proposal.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

FOR INFORMATION: 9.2 The Big Chill - Post Event Report

Ref: AINT/2021/18449 (ARC20/3772)

254/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report "The Big Chill – Post Event Report"
- b) Endorse and support The Big Chill Festival for 2022.
- c) Note and support profits made from the event being directed toward offsetting the cost to run future events.
- d) Delegate to the General Manager the ability to seek grant funding to assist with growing the event and minimising the costs to council and patrons.

Moved Cr Bailey

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

9.3 Public Exhibition of Financial Reserves Policy *Ref: AINT/2021/18978 (ARC17/2058)*

255/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a. Endorse the draft Financial Reserves Policy for public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
- b. Receive a further report at the conclusion of the exhibition period.
- c. Table the report at the next meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for information.

Moved Cr Robinson

Seconded Cr O'Connor

DIVISION The result being:-

FOR: Crs J Galletly, A Murat, D O'Brien, M O'Connor, D Robinson and I Tiley

AGAINST: Cr P Bailey

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED.

9.4 Corporate Banner and Flag Pole Sponsorship Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition)

Ref: AINT/2021/18034 (ARC17/1764)

256/21

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the Corporate Banner and Flag Pole Sponsorship Policy.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

FOR INFORMATION: 9.5 Cash and Investment Report 31 May 2021

Ref: AINT/2021/18534 (ARC16/0001-6)

257/21

RESOLVED

That Council note the Cash and Investment Report for May 2021.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10.1 Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 4 - Request for grant application approval - Council submissions - Lynches Road Netball Courts lighting installation and Jack Vallance Oval lighting installation and field renovation

Ref: AINT/2021/14213 (ARC16/0330)

258/21

RESOLVED

That Council note the two priority applications being submitted to the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4, on behalf of Armidale Regional Council, for approximately \$780,000 are:

- a) Lynches Road Netball Courts lighting installation (approximately \$380,000); and
- b) Jack Vallance Oval lighting installation and field renovation (approximately \$400,000).

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.2 Stronger Country Communities Fund - Round 4 - Request for grant application approval for community groups

Ref: AINT/2021/14268 (ARC16/0330)

259/21

RESOLVED

That Council note the following community groups will submit applications to the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4 grant program as follows:

- a) Narwan Eels Rugby League and Sporting Club to apply for approximately \$400,000 for the installation of additional field lighting at the Newling Oval sporting fields.
- b) North Armidale Tennis Club to apply for approximately \$140,000 for the upgrade of 2 existing clay courts to 2 synthetic grass courts at the North Armidale Tennis Complex.
- c) Hillgrove Progress Association to apply for approximately \$380,000 for the redevelopment of 2 old clay/grass tennis courts to 2 synthetic multi-use sporting courts, including fencing, at the Hillgrove Recreation Ground and Tennis Courts.
- d) Armidale Riding Club to apply for approximately \$280,000 to build a new amenities block including canteen, training and administration space for Armidale Riding Club, Riding for the Disabled NSW, Showjumping Club and Armidale Horse and Pony Club, at the Armidale Equestrian centre.
- e) Armidale District Cricket Association to apply for approximately \$110,000 to complete the final stage of the Indoor Cricket Training Facility at Armidale Sportsground.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.3 Development Application Approvals: monitoring targets

Ref: AINT/2021/17312 (ARC16/0681)

260/21

RESOLVED

That Council note the report on the financial year to date figures relating to Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.4 Appointment of Public Works Advisory to project manage Bushfire Local Economic Recovery projects - Dumaresq Dam Ecotourism Development and Armidale and Guyra Livestock Selling Centre Upgrades

Ref: AINT/2021/19268 (ARC16/0488-5)

261/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a. Invoke Section 55(3)(g) of the Local Government Act for the purpose of engaging Public Works Advisory under a procurement exemption as they are registered under a NSW State Government Buying Scheme.
- b. Accept the fee estimates tabled at the attachment from Public Works Advisory for project management and contract administration of the following projects funded by the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund:
 1. Dumaresq Dam Ecotourism Development
 2. Armidale and Guyra Livestock Selling Centre Upgrades
- c. Appoint Public Works Advisory for project management and contract administration services of the above projects in accordance with the fee proposals provided.
- d. Delegate to the General Manager the power to approve variations to the original fee proposal to a maximum of 25%.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.5 Koala Management Strategy

Ref: AINT/2021/16469 (ARC20/4183)

262/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a. Receive and note the submissions contained in the report on the draft Koala Management Strategy;
- b. Adopt the Koala Management Strategy and provide a copy to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

Moved Cr Robinson

Seconded Cr O'Connor

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.6 Public Exhibition of Urban Streetscape Policy

Ref: AINT/2021/12915 (ARC17/1844)

263/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a. Endorse the Urban Streetscape Policy for public exhibition to commence 24 June 2021 for a period of 28 days.
- b. Receive a further report at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.7 Public Exhibition of Cemeteries Operations Management Policy

Ref: AINT/2021/13219 (ARC18/2895)

264/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft Cemeteries Operations Management Policy for public exhibition commencing 24 June 2021 for a period of 28 days.
- b) Receive a further report at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.8 Public Exhibition of Memorials Policy

Ref: AINT/2021/13305 (ARC16/0651)

265/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a) Endorse the draft Memorials Policy to be placed on public exhibition commencing 24 June 2021 for a period for 28 days.
- b) Receive a further report at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10.9 Public Exhibition Acceptance of Waste from Outside of Armidale Regional Council's Local Government Area Policy

Ref: AINT/2021/18776 (ARC16/1455)

266/21

RESOLVED

That Council:

- a. Endorse the draft Acceptance of Waste from Outside of Armidale Regional Council's Local Government Policy for public exhibition until Monday 26 July 2021.
- b. Receive a further report at the end of the exhibition period.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

11. OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

11.1 BCRRF Council led Community Grants - Applicant assessment notification

Ref: AINT/2021/18606 (ARC21/4614)

267/21

RESOLVED

- a. That Council approve the recommended applicants provided in this report for the BCRRF Council led Community Grants.
- b. That the remaining funds of \$24,223.00 be reallocated to projects as determined by the General Manager that meet the goals of the grants program guidelines in supporting communities overcome the social impact of the 2019/2020 bushfires and/or locally led community recovery and resilience activities.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

11.2 Public Art Policy - For Adoption (Post Public Exhibition)

Ref: AINT/2021/17935 (ARC18/2995)

268/21

RESOLVED

That Council adopt the Public Art Policy.

Moved Cr Galletly

Seconded Cr Murat

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 Access Advisory Committee - Minutes of meeting held 13 May 2021

Ref: AINT/2021/17952 (ARC16/0524-3)

269/21

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Access Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 May 2021 be noted.

That the following recommendations be considered by Council:

- a. That Council update a list of disability contacts, and develop a process by which notification of future works to roads and footpaths are distributed to relevant disability groups and individuals 14 days prior to works commencing.
- b. Investigate the need for an additional accessible carpark outside One Connection offices at 89 Beardy Street.
- c. Investigate the need for accessibility works to be undertaken on Council owned land near Equestrian Centre on Kirkwood Street where the Riding for Disabled program is based.

Moved Cr Bailey

Seconded Cr O'Brien

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

12.2 Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes of meeting held

18 May 2021

Ref: AINT/2021/19292 (ARC16/0864)

270/21

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 May 2021 be noted.

That the following recommendations from the Committee meeting be considered by Council:

- a. That the Committee review items from the 2021-2022 Council draft budget from the Climate Emergency Working Group report *A Framework for Climate Action*;
- b. That the Budget items that were successfully incorporated into the draft Budget be noted;
- c. That items that were initially costed for Councils draft Budget and that were removed due to Councils dire financial situation be noted.
- d. That the Incoming Council consider becoming a member of the Cities Power Partnership.
- e. That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will undertake a review of items designed to be undertaken by Air Quality Working Group.

There will be no Air Quality Working Group formed as there is such a short period of time during which this Council is still operating.

Moved Cr Bailey

Seconded Cr O'Brien

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

12.3 Community Wellbeing Committee - Minutes of meeting held 27 May 2021

Ref: AINT/2021/17951 (ARC16/1052)

271/21

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held 27 May 2021 be noted.

That the following recommendations be considered by Council:

- a. That Council work with Homes North to make representations to our State Member for assistance (via subsidy) to address the financial impact of drought and water pricing on the more vulnerable members of the community.
- b. The Council conduct desktop research via Real Estate Institute of Australia or via a local real estate agent in property management to understand if they have experienced an increase in rental arrears and evictions in the area.

Moved Cr Bailey

Seconded Cr O'Brien

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

12.4 Traffic Advisory Committee - Minutes of the meeting held 1 June 2021

Ref: AINT/2021/18538 (ARC16/0168-6)

272/21

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 1 June be noted and that Council:

- a) Endorse the Special Event Transport Management Plan that was tabled at the meeting - Duval Dam Busters 50km Trial Run scheduled to be held Sunday 19 September 2021 on public road as per the risk assessment, and with the additional requirement to advise participants to run in single file.
 - b) Deny the request to remove or extend the timed parking limits in Naughton Avenue in keeping with the Parking Strategic Plan and Council resolution 204/21.
 - c) Endorse the installation of painted BB lines (Double Barrier lines) on the Kirkwood Street leg of the intersection with Canambe Street to help with the visual aspect of highlighting the centre of the road.
- a) Endorse the request to use two parking spaces adjacent to 122 Faulkner Street (the Old Library) as a work zone for the refurbishment of the Hub from June 2021 to the end of September 2021.
 - b) Endorse the temporary relocation of the disability parking space adjacent to 122 Faulkner Street (the Old Library), closer to the taxi rank in conjunction with the work zone.

Moved Cr Bailey

Seconded Cr O'Brien

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

12.5 Sports Council Committee - Minutes of meeting held 9 June 2021

Ref: AINT/2021/18867 (ARC16/0330)

273/21

RESOLVED

- a) That the Minutes of the Sports Council Committee meeting held on 9 June 2021 be noted.
- b) That it be noted that the committee recommended Council commit funds from the Sports Council development levy fund (current balance of \$68,816 held by Council) to the following Sports Council Priority List projects:-
 - Rologas cricket storage shed - \$8000.00
 - Armidale Sportsground replacement of electronic scoreboard - \$15,000.00
 - Armidale Sportsground extension of Armidale District Cricket Association clubhouse - \$10,000.00

TOTAL FUNDING COMMITMENT: \$33,000.00

REMAINING IN FUND: \$35,816.00

Moved Cr Bailey

Seconded Cr O'Brien

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

13. MATTERS OF AN URGENT NATURE - NIL

14. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - NIL

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 4:22pm.