



MINUTES of

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 26 September 2023 at 4:00pm

Attendance at Meeting:

Councillors:

Mayor R Bell (Chair)
Deputy Mayor R Crouch
Cr T Bower
Cr S Burrows
Cr L Doran
Cr McMullen
Cr T O'Connor – via zoom
Cr L Petrov
Cr T Toomey

Apologies:

Nil

Staff:

Ms T Averay, Interim General Manager
Ms E Kinkade Acting Executive Director Infrastructure & Development
Mr S Williams, Acting Executive Director Corporate & Community
Mr M Ahammed, Manager Finance & IT
Ms W Westbrook, Executive Assistant – Minute Clerk

CONTENTS

1	OPENING & WELCOME	4
2	PRAYER	4
3	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	4
4	WEBCAST INFORMATION	4
5	APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS	4
6	DISCLOSURE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/S	4
7	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
	7.1 Confirmation of Minutes 22 August 2023 Ordinary Meeting.....	5
8	URGENT, SUPPLEMENTARY, AND LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS (INCLUDING PETITIONS)	5
9	WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DELEGATES	5
	9.1 Written Delegate Activity Report from the Mayor for August 2023.....	5
	9.2 Written Delegate Report - New England Weeds Authority.....	6
10	PUBLIC FORUM	6
	Nil	
11	MAYORAL MINUTE	6
	Nil	
12	NOTICE OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	7
	12.1 Notice of Motion -Constitutional Referendum.....	7
13	REPORT OF COMMITTEES	9
	13.1 Uralla Local Traffic Committee (ULTC) - Minutes of Meeting held 10 August 2023.....	9
	14.10 DRAFT End of Year Financial Statements 2023 - Referral to Audit.....	10
	13.2 Bundarra School of Arts Hall and Community Consultative s355 Committee - Minutes of Meeting held 26 July 2023.....	11
	13.3 Uralla Township and Environs S355 Committee (UTEC) - Minutes of Meeting held 5 June 2023.....	11
	13.4 Uralla Township and Environs S355 Committee (UTEC) - Minutes of Meeting held 4 September 2023	12
14	REPORTS TO COUNCIL	12
	14.1 Membership - Uralla Township and Environs s355 Committee (UTEC)	12
	14.2 Requests for Sponsorship	13
	14.3 Waiver of Development Applications Fees for Thunderbolts Festival	14
	14.4 Local Roads and Community Program Phase 4 - Project Nominations	15
	14.5 Draft Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy	16
	14.6 Project Updates - Public Spaces Legacy Program	16
	14.7 Investments at 31 August 2023	17
	14.8 Loans as at 31 August 2023	17

14.9	Monthly Finance Report for August 2023	17
14.11	McMaugh Gardens status report	18
14.12	Complaints 1 January - 31 March 2023	18
14.13	Register Resolutions Actions Status as at 19 September 2023	19
15	CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS	19
	Nil	
16	COMMUNICATIONS OF COUNCIL DECISIONS	19
17	CONCLUSION OF MEETING.....	19

CONFIRMED

1 OPENING & WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting opened at 4:00pm.

2 PRAYER

The Chair recited the Uralla Shire Council prayer.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair read the acknowledgement of country.

4 WEBCAST INFORMATION

The Chair advised the meeting was recorded, with the recording to be made available on Council's website following the meeting and reminded the attendees from making defamatory statements.

5 APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

Cr O'Connor currently on leave attended via zoom.

6 DISCLOSURE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/S

Cr Tom O'Connor declared non-significant non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 13.1.2i, due to Residence on Hill St .

Cr Tara Toomey declared non-significant non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 14.2, due to Child at Uralla Central School.

Cr Leanne Doran declared significant non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 14.1, due to Volunteer Coordinator on Thunderbolts Festival .

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 22 AUGUST 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLUTION 01.09/23

Moved: Cr Tim Bower

Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov

That the Minutes of 22 August 2023 Ordinary Meeting be adopted as a true and correct record.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

8 URGENT, SUPPLEMENTARY, AND LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS (INCLUDING PETITIONS)

The Chair advised there were no late, urgent and supplementary items or reports of business.

9 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

9.1 WRITTEN DELEGATE ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE MAYOR FOR AUGUST 2023

RESOLUTION 02.09/23

Moved: Mayor Robert Bell

Seconded: Cr Sarah Burrows

That Council receive the Mayor's Delegate Activity Report for August 2023.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

9.2 WRITTEN DELEGATE REPORT - NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY**RESOLUTION 03.09/23****Moved:** Cr Tim Bower**Seconded:** Cr Bruce McMullen

That Council receive the report Cr Tim Bower presented as a written delegate report on an update for the New England Weeds Authority meeting held 19 September 2023.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**10 PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil

11 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

CONFIRMED

12 NOTICE OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

12.1 NOTICE OF MOTION -CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Crouch

That Council:

1. Resolves to hold a Constitutional Referendum in conjunction with the next ordinary Council election, due in September 2024, to seek community opinion [Local Government Act (1993) Chapter 4, Part 3] with respect to:
 - a. reverting back to 3 Wards in the Uralla Shire Council Area [Local Government Act (1993) Division 2, s 16 (a)] and;
 - b. change the basis on which the mayor attains office from: election by electors - to election by Councillors [Local Government Act (1993) Division 2, s 16 (b)].
2. Proposes the Constitutional Referendum question be: Do you support reverting back to 3 Wards; A, B and C, and that the Mayor be decided by the Councillors who are elected as your representatives.

For: Crs Robert Crouch, Leanne Doran and Tara Toomey

Against: Crs Robert Bell, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor and Lone Petrov

LOST 3/6

FORESHADOWED MOTION

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows

Seconded: Cr Tara Toomey

That Council

1. Resolves to hold a Constitutional Referendum in conjunction with the next ordinary Council election, due in September 2024, to seek community opinion [Local Government Act (1993) Chapter 4, Part 3] with respect to:
 - a. abolishing Wards in the Uralla Shire Council Area [Local Government Act (1993) Division 2, s 16 (a)] and;
 - b. changing the basis on which the mayor attains office from: election by electors - to election by Councillors [Local Government Act (1993) Division 2, s 16 (b)].
2. Proposes the Constitutional Referendum question be: Do you support abolishing Wards, and that the Mayor be decided by the Councillors who are elected as your representatives.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

RESOLUTION 04.09/23

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Sarah Burrows

To defer consideration of the Item 12.1 Foreshadowed Motion pending further advice from the Parliamentary Secretary on the proposal.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Cr Bruce McMullen

CARRIED 8/1

CONFIRMED

13 REPORT OF COMMITTEES

13.1 URALLA LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE (ULTC) - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 AUGUST 2023

RESOLUTION 05.09/23

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Crouch

Seconded: Cr Leanne Doran

That Council

1. receive the Minutes of the Uralla Local Traffic Committee (ULTC) meeting held 10 August 2023 and
2. adopts the following recommendations:
 - i. Item 2. Pedestrian Crossing across Hill Street - (between Subway and Alternate Root)
 - ii. Item 4. Thunderbolts Way – Near Alma Park – Site of Recent B-Double Truck Accident
 - iii. Item 5. Improve visibility and signage – Bundarra Road and Pinegrove Road intersection (Barbados Corner)
 - iv. Item 6. Northeys Road 'No Trucks' Signage.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO MOVE AN ITEM

RESOLUTION 06.09/23

Moved: Cr Tim Bower

Seconded: Cr Leanne Doran

That Council move Item 14.10 to be heard after Item 13.1

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.10 DRAFT END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023 - REFERRAL TO AUDIT

RESOLUTION 07.09/23

Moved: Cr Tom O'Connor

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Crouch

That Council:

1. Endorses the Draft General Purpose Financial Statements and Draft Special Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 as prepared and refers them to the Auditor pursuant to Section 413 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*; while recognising the inclusion into these financial statements of the value of Rural Fire Service vehicle assets, the non-cash contribution of \$250k and depreciation is in submission to the expressed requirements of the NSW Auditor General, rather than in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards Board pronouncements *SAC1 Definition of Reporting Entity and Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (notably clauses 4.19 to 4.25)*; and
2. Makes the following amendments to the Draft Financial Statements:
 - a) The details of the Public Officer under the heading *H1-1 Council information and contact details* be amended to reflect the current officer details; and
 - b) The execution clause in the Consolidated Financial Statements *Statement by Councillors and Management* be amended to state Deputy Mayor Crouch instead of Councillor Crouch; and
 - c) The Cash expense cover ratio indicator be corrected to 16.49 months, with the corresponding ratio amounts amended to 24,307 over 1,474; and
 - d) Section *F1-1 KMP* be updated to reflect 2023 figures; and
 - e) Review page 269 of the business paper G5-2 Item 6. Cash expense cover ratio;
3. Express appreciation to staff on achieving positive outcomes under difficult circumstances.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

13.2 BUNDARRA SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE S355 COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26 JULY 2023**RESOLUTION 08.09/23****Moved:** Cr Leanne Doran**Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Robert Crouch

That Council receives the minutes of the Bundarra School of Arts Hall and Community Consultative s355 Committee meeting held 26 July 2023.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**13.3 URALLA TOWNSHIP AND ENVIRONS S355 COMMITTEE (UTEC) - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 5 JUNE 2023****RESOLUTION 09.09/23****Moved:** Cr Tara Toomey**Seconded:** Cr Leanne Doran

That Council receive the minutes and note the recommendations of the Uralla Township and Environs S355 (UTEC) Committee meeting held 5 June 2023.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

13.4 URALLA TOWNSHIP AND ENVIRONS S355 COMMITTEE (UTEC) - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 4 SEPTEMBER 2023**RESOLUTION 10.09/23**

Moved: Cr Tara Toomey
Seconded: Cr Leanne Doran

That Council receives the minutes and note the recommendations of the Uralla Township and Environs S355 (UTEC) Committee meeting held 4 September 2023.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**14 REPORTS TO COUNCIL****14.1 MEMBERSHIP - URALLA TOWNSHIP AND ENVIRONS S355 COMMITTEE (UTEC)****RESOLUTION 11.09/23**

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran
Seconded: Cr Tim Bower

That Council:

Accepts the membership application received from Ms Gai Buchanan and appoints her as a member of the Uralla Township and Environs s355 Committee (UTEC).

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.2 REQUESTS FOR SPONSORSHIP

RESOLUTION 12.09/23

Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows

Seconded: Cr Leanne Doran

That Council resolved as follows:

1. Advise Uralla Central School that Council will continue to provide \$200 sponsorship for their end of year presentations; and
2. Support The Spaces Make Lace November 2023 Event:
 - i. with in-kind support for printing of programs to a maximum value of \$100; and
 - ii. promote the event through Council's social media page and newsletter.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

PROCEDURAL MOTION - BREAK

RESOLUTION 13.09/23

Moved: Cr Leanne Doran

Seconded: Cr Tara Toomey

The Chair called for a short break at 6:00pm.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

PROCEDURAL MOTION - RETURN

RESOLUTION 14.09/23

Moved: Cr Tara Toomey

Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov

The Chair reconvened the meeting after a short break at 6:25pm.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

At 6:26 pm, Cr Leanne Doran left the meeting previously declaring a non-pecuniary conflict of interest

14.3 WAIVER OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FEES FOR THUNDERBOLTS FESTIVAL

RESOLUTION 15.09/23

Moved: Mayor Robert Bell

Seconded: Cr Tim Bower

That Council

1. Waives the \$495 development application fee for the Thunderbolts Festival.
2. Notes that if Council agrees to waive this fee, the \$495 drawn from the \$12,000 financial contribution will be reimbursed for Rotary to use for other components of the Festival.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

Absent: Crs Leanne Doran

CARRIED 8/0

At 6:29 pm, Cr Leanne Doran returned to the meeting.

14.4 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM PHASE 4 - PROJECT NOMINATIONS**RESOLUTION 16.09/23****Moved: Cr Sarah Burrows****Seconded: Cr Lone Petrov**

Council reviewed the list of projects attached to this report and adopted a list to be submitted to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 - Work Schedule - Project Nominations :

1. Approve the following projects to be submitted for funding for the full amount of \$596,106 under part A – Roads and/or Community Infrastructure
 - Bundarra – Replacement and installation of compliant pram ramps \$30,106;
 - Park Street from Bridge Street to Maitland Street footpath \$75,000; and
 - John Street From Bridge Street to Maitland Street footpath \$75,000; and
 - King and Maitland Street roundabout \$390,000; and
 - Kentucky – Construction of footpath from the Public School to the General Store (Stage 1 \$25,000); and
2. Approve the following project to be submitted for funding for the full amount of \$343,847 under part B – Roads Only:
 - a. The Terrible Vale Crossing subject to the grant funding both the design and delivery; or if this does not meet the grant requirements then progress the Rocky River Road proposal; and
3. Request the General Manager provide a map showing the location of the proposed works on Rocky River Road; and
4. Note amendment to page 162 item 10 replace Kingstown with Kentucky due to a typographical error.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.5 DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFIT POLICY**RESOLUTION 17.09/23****Moved:** Cr Tom O'Connor**Seconded:** Cr Leanne Doran**That Council**

- i. Endorses the Draft Renewable Energy Community Benefit Policy for public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days; and
- ii. Receives a further report once the submission period closes to consider any submissions received; and
- iii. Delete the third paragraph in section 4. Community Benefit, and the word 'some' in the last line of the paragraph under section 5. Public Purpose, on page 2 of 3 of the draft policy.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**14.6 PROJECT UPDATES - PUBLIC SPACES LEGACY PROGRAM****RESOLUTION 18.09/23****Moved:** Cr Tara Toomey**Seconded:** Cr Sarah Burrows

That Council notes the update and status reports for the Rotary Park Project; the Pioneer Park Project; and the Glen Project.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.7 INVESTMENTS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**RESOLUTION 19.09/23****Moved:** Deputy Mayor Robert Crouch**Seconded:** Cr Tara Toomey

That Council notes the cash position as at 31 August 2023 consisting of cash and overnight funds of \$3,706,460 and term deposits of \$20,768,862 totalling \$24,475,322 of readily convertible funds, including restricted funds.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**14.8 LOANS AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 20.09/23****Moved:** Cr Tara Toomey**Seconded:** Cr Sarah Burrows

That Council notes the loan position as at 31 August 2023 totalling \$1,459,522.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**14.9 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023****RESOLUTION 21.09/23****Moved:** Cr Tim Bower**Seconded:** Cr Tom O'Connor

That Council receives the attached Monthly Finance Report for August 2023.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.11 MCMAUGH GARDENS STATUS REPORT**RESOLUTION 22.09/23****Moved:** Cr Leanne Doran**Seconded:** Cr Tara Toomey**That Council**

1. Notes the reported changes to the operating environment in aged care impacting on the cost of operations
2. Notes the McMaugh Garden site plans submitted by Coverite as part of the development of the Expansion Master Plan
3. Postpones further work on the Master Plan pending an update on the strategic options report and business plan for McMaugh Gardens
4. Receives a further report on the costs and scope of a review of the Strategic option and business plan for McMaugh Gardens following a RFQ from suitably qualified consultants
5. Writes to the Minister for Health to :
 - a. highlight the difficulties in recruiting registered nurses to aged care to meet the new care requirements, and the significant cost of agency staffing ;and
 - b. request clear direction on how Council can administer the AN-ACC funded wage increase without further adding to the cost of delivering the aged care service to the community.

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**14.12 COMPLAINTS 1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2023****RESOLUTION 23.09/23****Moved:** Cr Tara Toomey**Seconded:** Cr Sarah Burrows**That the report relating to complaints from 1 January to 30 June 2023 be received.**

For: Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

14.13 REGISTER RESOLUTIONS ACTIONS STATUS AS AT 19 SEPTEMBER 2023**RESOLUTION 24.09/23****Moved:** Cr Bruce McMullen**Seconded:** Cr Leanne Doran**That Council note the Resolution Action Status Report as at 19 September 2023.****For:** Crs Robert Bell, Robert Crouch, Tim Bower, Sarah Burrows, Leanne Doran, Bruce McMullen, Tom O'Connor, Lone Petrov and Tara Toomey**Against:** Nil**CARRIED 9/0****15 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

Nil

16 COMMUNICATIONS OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**17 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 7:48pm.

Council Minutes confirmed by **Mayor Robert Bell** 24 October 2023: **Resolution 02.10/23**