



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
OF THE BOULIA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 17TH AUGUST 2020
COMMENCING AT 9 AM**

Attendance:

Councillors: Councillor Eric (Rick) Britton
Councillor Sam Beauchamp
Councillor Timothy Edgar
Councillor Jack Neilson
Councillor Jan Norton

Officers: Ms Lynn Moore (Chief Executive Officer)
Mrs Nicole Tonkies (Executive Assistant)

Opening:

The Mayor opened the meeting at 8.54 am.

Mr Harin Karra joined the meeting at 8.54 am.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional carers of the land on which Council meets, the 'Pitta Pitta' people, and paid Council's respects to the elders past and present.

The Mayor also acknowledged past and present service personnel.

It has been noted that the Mayor has reminded all Councillors in regards to registration of interests.

**2020/8.1 PROCESSING OF COUNCILLOR DECLARATION OF INTERESTS –
AUGUST 2020 ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

<u>Moved:</u> Councillor Britton		<u>Seconded:</u> Councillor Beauchamp	
Council acknowledged receipt of the following Councillor Declaration of Interests relevant to reports in the August 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council and resolved to handle the declaration as follows:			
Councillor	Agenda Item Number	Type of Declaration	How the interest will be handled
Jan Norton	Item DCS3 - Good Shepherd Parish Catholic Church Rates	Conflict of Interest	Councillor Jan Norton has a perceived conflict of interest in the matter and, notwithstanding the conflict, may participate in the matter, discuss and vote upon it.

Carried

2020/8.7 RURAL LANDS PROTECTION OFFICER JULY 2020 REPORT

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of current activities relating to weed management, pest control, animal management and stock routes.

Moved: Councillor Beauchamp Seconded: Councillor Edgar

That the Rural Lands Protection Officer's July 2020 Report be received for information.

Carried

2020/8.8 BOULIA WORK CAMP JULY 2020 REPORT

PURPOSE:

To advise of the activities of the Boulia Work Camp from 30th July to 8th August.

Moved: Councillor Edgar Seconded: Councillor Britton

That the Boulia Work Camp July 2020 report is received for information.

Carried

2020/8.9 REQUEST FOR GRID REMOVAL

PURPOSE:

To inform Council of an application received to requesting permission to remove a grid.

Moved: Councillor Norton Seconded: Councillor Britton

That Council advise Alderley Pastoral Company that Council has no objection to the removal of the Boulia Township/Hartnell Downs grid located on the Diamantina Development Road 93E, chainage 4.99.

Carried

Mr Newman left the meeting at 9.56 am.

2020/8.10 CLOSED MEETING AT 9.56 AM

Moved: Councillor Neilson Seconded: Councillor Norton

Closed Session - Local Government Regulation 275
(e) contracts proposed to be made by it;

Carried

2020/8.11 OUT OF CLOSED SESSION AT 10.01 AM

Moved: Councillor Britton Seconded: Councillor Neilson

It was resolved Council move out of the closed meeting, and adopt the recommendations discussed in closed committee.

Carried

The following recommendations were resolved from the closed session: 2020/8.12.

2020/8.12 QRA PLANT RATES – AUGUST 2020 REPORT

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to review plant hire rates for Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) work.

Moved: Councillor Edgar

Seconded: Councillor Beauchamp

1. That Council approve the plant hire rates for Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) work, as per the rates attached to the QRA Plant Rates – August 2020 report and that these rates also be implemented for all works external to QRA work that involve the hire of the noted Council plant.
2. That the plant hire rates be forwarded to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for benchmarking.

Carried

Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.08 am.

Mr Karra left the meeting at 10.08 am.

The meeting resumed at 10.35 am.

Mr Rhys Newton and Mr Jeff Magnus from Queensland Police Service (QPS) entered the meeting at 10.37 am. Mr Newton and Mr Magnus discussed with Council the current COVID-19 situation in relation to border control; upcoming restructures to QPS; the positive results being obtained from the QPS and community stakeholders working together in Boulia; and the potential for a QPS/QGAP facility to be included in the proposed future Regional Community Hub for Boulia.

Mr Newton and Mr Magnus left the meeting at 11.04 am.

Ms Shaneen Fantin and Ms Ellen Buttrose from People Oriented Design (POD) joined the meeting via Zoom casting at 11.13 am. Ms Fantin and Ms Buttrose presented to the Councillors the current designs for the proposed Regional Community Hub.

Ms Fantin and Ms Buttrose left the meeting at 12.19 pm.

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.23 pm.

Meeting resumed at 12.54 pm.

Mrs Kaylene Sloman and Mr Rahul Bhargava entered the meeting at 12.57 pm.

Mrs Julie Woodhouse entered the meeting at 1.10 pm.

2020/8.13 DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES JULY 2020 REPORT

PURPOSE:

Financial Summary as at 31st July 2020

Moved: Councillor Norton

Seconded: Councillor Britton

That the Director of Corporate Services July 2020 Report be received for information.

Carried

2020/8.14 AMENDMENTS TO 2020/2021 FEES AND CHARGES

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of amendments required to be made to the 2020/2021 Fees and Charges following an update of pricing received from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Moved: Councillor Britton

Seconded: Councillor Neilson

That Council make the following amendments to page 9 of the 2020/2021 Boulia Shire Council Fees and Charges -

1. The Right of Information Request Application fee be increased to \$51.70
2. The Right of Information Processing Fee be increased to \$8.00.

Carried

Councillor Norton declared a Conflict of Interest in the Item DCS3 - Good Shepherd Parish Catholic Church Rates due to being an employee of North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services (NWQICSS) within which, Father Michael Lowcock from the Good Shepherd Parish Catholic Church is a board member. In accordance with the resolution made under 2020/8.1, Councillor Norton was able to participate, discuss and vote upon the matter.

2020/8.15 GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCH RATES

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of the request to waiver the rates relating to the Good Shepherd Parish Catholic Church.

Moved: Councillor Britton

Seconded: Councillor Edgar

1. That Council with the exemption as per the Act and Regulations, not charge general rates and subsidise the utility charges for garbage (no charge) and water (50% of normal charge) to Good Shepherd Parish.
2. Council to then pay the Water, Sewerage and Emergency Services Levy charges as a donation.
3. That the Director of Corporate Services write to the Good Shepherd Parish and advise that Council will pay and exempt all rate charges.
4. Action to be completed by Finance to change the Assessment, to maintain the exemption for general rates and utility charges to reflect no charge for garbage services, water be charged at 50% of the normal rate, sewerage to be charged as normal for the 2020/21 financial year. Council to then pay for the Water, Sewerage and Emergency Services Levy charges at the time of the Rates being issued, this payment to be recognised as a donation. Notation to be made in the rates system for future records.

Carried

Mrs Sloman and Mr Bhargava left the meeting at 1.30 pm.

2020/8.16 COMMUNITY SERVICES JULY 2020 REPORT

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with an update of the activities associated with Councils' community development activities.

Councillors were presented with a design proposal that has been drawn up for proposed changes to the current Min Min Encounter Centre and the addition of a new Eromanga Sea Display.

Moved: Councillor Britton **Seconded:** Councillor Norton

That the Community Services July 2020 Report is received for information.

Carried

Mrs Woodhouse left the meeting at 2 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.08 pm for the Plant Committee Meeting.

The meeting resumed at 3.14 pm.

2020/8.17 ACTION LIST

PURPOSE:

To inform Council on the actions taken on the Action List report.

Moved: Councillor Edgar **Seconded:** Councillor Britton

That the updated Action List report be received for information.

Carried

2020/8.18 POLICY REVIEW

PURPOSE:

Regular review of Council policies ensure that Council maintains an up to date guide for staff to refer to in the day to day management of Council. This report deals with minor changes to existing policies which do not have any material effect on the intent of the documents.

Moved: Councillor Britton **Seconded:** Councillor Edgar

1. That the changes to the policies as presented be adopted:

Changes to policy – 128 Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedure	Page No	Paragraph
In the <i>Other agencies that can receive PIDs</i> column: Add the word <i>for</i> after <i>Department of Environment and Science</i>	8	Table
Changes to policy – 132 Study Policy	Page No	Paragraph
Change the sentence: <i>A training course or seminar is not directly relevant to the employee's current position</i> To <i>A training course or seminar not directly relevant to the employee's current position</i>	2	7
Under Determination of Category of Training: Change <i>Consultative Committee</i> to <i>ManEx team</i>	3	1
Under Special Leave a) and b): Change <i>with pay be granted</i> to <i>with pay will be granted</i>	4	1, 2
Under Fees: Change <i>HECS</i> to <i>HECS-HELP</i>	4	7
Under Special Leave b): Change <i>with pay be granted</i> to <i>with pay will be granted</i>	5	3
Under Fees: Change <i>HECS</i> to <i>HECS-HELP</i>	6	1

Changes to policy – 137 Employee Assistance Program Policy	Page No	Paragraph
Nil	n/a	n/a

- That a copy of the policies be forwarded to the Councillors electronically via email and loaded into the Councillor Hub.

Carried

2020/8.19 POLICY UPDATE REQUIRED - DEALING WITH A COMPLAINT INVOLVING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (CEO)

PURPOSE:

It has been identified that some small changes are required to be made to policy 130, Dealing with a Complaint involving a Public Official (CEO). This report seeks Council approval of the updated policy version.

Moved: Councillor Britton Seconded: Councillor Beauchamp

- That the updated version of policy 130 Dealing with a Complaint involving a Public Official (CEO) be adopted as presented.
- That a copy of the policy be forwarded to the Councillors electronically via email and loaded into the Councillor Hub.

Carried

2020/8.20 ANNUAL VALUATION 2020-2021

PURPOSE:

To respond by the 21st August 2020 to the request for an annual valuation to be completed by the Valuer General.

In line with the requirements of the Act, they seek our local government's opinion on whether a valuation of our local government should be undertaken to be effective on 30 June 2021.

Moved: Councillor Edgar Seconded: Councillor Neilson

That a letter of response be returned to advise the Valuer General of Council's recommendation regarding valuation for the 2021 period.

Carried

2020/8.21 MIN MIN ENCOUNTER JULY 2020 REPORT

PURPOSE:

To report on the day to day operations of the Min Min Encounter and to promote tourism in the Shire and surrounding region.

Moved: Councillor Britton Seconded: Councillor Norton

That the Min Min Encounter July 2020 Report be received for information.

Carried

2020/8.22 LIBRARY JULY 2020 REPORT

PURPOSE:

To update Council on the visitations and activities in the Library.

Moved: Councillor Neilson **Seconded:** Councillor Edgar

That Council receive the Library July 2020 report for information.

Carried

2020/8.23 WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY JULY 2020 INFORMATION REPORT

PURPOSE:

To inform Council of progressions and or issues of concern regarding Workplace Health and Safety.

Moved: Councillor Neilson **Seconded:** Councillor Edgar

That Council receive the Work Health and Safety July 2020 Report for information.

Carried

General Business

Meeting Attendance – Councillors discussed potential attendance at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) ‘Roads, Regions, Resilience: A Special Local Roads & Transport Congress’ in November 2020 and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference in October 2020. It was agreed that the Mayor would attend the LGAQ Annual Conference, however no Councillors would attend the ALGA Congress.

Recycling letter – The Mayor acknowledged receipt of a letter from a young citizen within the community regarding suggestions for recycling in the shire. It was agreed the Mayor would write a letter of response.

Western Alliance meeting – The Mayor provided Council with a short brief on his recent attendance at the Western Alliance meeting in Longreach with Deputy Mayor Beauchamp.

Meeting Closure

The Mayor closed the meeting at 4.14 pm.

Confirmed:

Minutes confirmed 25th September 2020

Resolution No. 2020/9.1

The full agenda with all reports can be found on the Boulia Shire Council's website under the heading 'Council' with a dropdown box selection of 'Council Meetings'.