



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 28 August 2024

at

3:02pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

**The Audio Statement and Acknowledgement of Country were read by the Chairman.**

**PRESENT:** Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors MA Berry, KW Ferrier, NF Hicks, SJ Kermode, AC Pointing and A Reilly.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr PE Hood – General Manager, Mr AS Butler – Director Infrastructure & Development, Mr CC Martin – Director Corporate & Community and Mrs EL Hobbs – Executive Assistant.

**1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Nil.

MINUTES



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**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31 JULY 2024:**

22 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Berry and Hicks that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 31 July 2024, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**5. MAYORAL MINUTE**

**5.1 Council 2021 – 2024**

As today is the final Ordinary Meeting of this Council I wish to reflect on the last 33 months. A shortened term as a hangover from COVID-19, but one that resulted in Walcha Council left in a stronger financial position than it started. Walcha community put a lot of faith in their Council to maintain a financially secure and delivery focused Council. They supported our proposal for a Special Rate Variation, backed us to return Riverview Aged Care facility to where it rightfully belongs and generally leave us to "get on the with job". This faith should never be taken for granted and constant vigilance and oversight must be the focus of the new Council.

We faced all the challenges of Local Government, cost shifting, project delivery, finance and staff resourcing and outside challenges such as renewable energy. A change of management mid term due to family commitments saw Barry Omundson depart in early 2023 and to be replaced by Phil Hood.

I would like to thank the two Deputy Mayors who served this Council, Clr Scott Kermode and incumbent Clr Anne-Marie Pointing. Your support is not only recognized by me but all of the Councillors and community.

On a somber note the untimely passing of Clr Greg Schaefer rocked both our Council and close knit community.

To the retiring Councillors, on behalf of your colleagues and constituents thank you for your diligence and input. You leave Council with your community not only in a better position but better projects moving forward. This can only pay dividends long into the future.



At this stage I believe it is also important to highlight the contribution of retiring member Cllr Kevin Ferrier, a veteran of over 30 years of dedicated service. I'm sure stepping away will be difficult but you have certainly earned a rest and everyone wishes you good health and plenty of time to concentrate on yourself and family.

Cllr Pointing I wish you good luck in your ambition to be reappointed to Council. Your talent and experience along with your conviction to this community can never be questioned.

With a minimum of 6 new Councillors to be elected I believe the next term of Council will be no less challenging than the current one has been. Without pre-empting what these challenges will be obviously financial management will be at the forefront.

I have been proud to lead this Council through this term and I wish all retiring Councillors all the best.

Cllr Eric Noakes  
Mayor of Walcha

23 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes and Councillor Pointing that the Mayoral Minute as read and submitted be **ADOPTED** by Council.

## **6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT**

24 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Pointing that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

### **6.1 Refer 2023-2024 Financial Statements to Audit WO/2024/01751**

25 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Reilly that Council:

1. **REFER** the 2023-2024 Financial Reports for Audit; and
2. **ENDORSE** the Statements in accordance with Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, to be completed and signed by the appropriate signatories.

### **6.2 Pecuniary Interest Annual Returns for Designated Staff & Councillors for the period 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. WO/2024/01637**

26 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Pointing that Council formally records that the Ordinary Returns of Pecuniary Interest required to be submitted by Councillors, the General Manager and Designated Staff, for



the period of 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 have been submitted as required and have been tabled in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.2.1 and 4.25 of the Walcha Council Model Code of Conduct 2022.

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil.

**8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil.

**9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS**

**9.1 Office of the General Manager**

**WO/2024/01751**

27 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Pointing that items included in the Office of the General Manager Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

**9.2 Infrastructure & Development**

**WO/2024/01711**

28 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Reilly and Ferrier that items included in the Infrastructure & Development Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

**9.3 Corporate & Community**

**WO/2024/01563**

29 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Hicks and Pointing that items included in the Corporate & Community Management Review Report be **NOTED** by Council.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil.

**11. DELEGATE REPORTS**

Nil.

**12. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Nil.



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**13. CLOSED COUNCIL**

**13A Referral to Closed Council – Riverview Clinical Governance Committee Membership – Consideration of Nominations WO/2024/01762**

30 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Noakes and Hicks that the Riverview Clinical Governance Committee Membership – Consideration of Nominations be **DEFERRED** to take advice from the appointed consultant on the best structure and way forward **FURTHER THAT** all nominations received will be included in the relevant report.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:05PM.**