



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held on

Wednesday, 12 January 2022

4pm

at

Armidale Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sam Coupland, Councillor Paul Gaddes, Councillor Jon Galletly, Councillor Susan McMichael, Councillor Steven Mephram, Councillor Debra O'Brien, Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Paul Packham, Councillor Todd Redwood, Councillor Dorothy Robinson and Councillor Bradley Widders.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr James Roncon (General Manager), Mr Darren Schaefer (Acting Chief Officer Corporate and Strategy), Mr Daniel Boyce (Chief Officer Sustainable Development), Mr Alex Manners (Chief Officer Assets and Services), Ms Simone Mooketsi (Manager Governance and Strategy), Ms Jessica Bower (Executive Officer) and Ms Melissa Hault (Executive Officer).

MINUTES

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**1. CIVIC AFFIRMATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Cr O'Brien delivered the Civic Affirmation.

Cr Widders delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

**2. STATEMENT IN RELATION TO LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The General Manager delivered the statement.

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

**4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST - NIL**

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**5.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 November 2021**

*Ref: AINT/2021/37979 (ARC16/0001-6)*

1/22

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 November 2021 be taken as read and accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

**Moved Cr Robinson**

**Seconded Cr O'Brien**

**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 Oath or Affirmation of Office by Councillors**

*Ref: AINT/2021/43131 (ARC21/4520)*

2/22

**RESOLVED**

That all Councillors take an oath or affirmation of office, as required by section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

That it be noted that the following Councillors took the Oath of Office, before the General Manager, prior to the first Ordinary Meeting of the new Council, on 12 January 2022:

- Cr Susan McMichael
- Cr Sam Coupland
- Cr Jon Galletly
- Cr Paul Gaddes
- Cr Margaret Iris O'Connor
- Cr Todd Redwood

That it be noted that the following Councillors took the Affirmation of Office, before the General Manager, prior to the first Ordinary Meeting of the new Council, on 12 January 2022:

- Cr Bradley Craig Widders
- Cr Paul Dennis Packham
- Cr Dorothy Robinson
- Cr Debra O'Brien
- Cr Steven Colin Michael Mephram

**Moved Cr Galletly**

**Seconded Cr Robinson**

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

## **8.2 Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

*Ref: AINT/2021/43135 (ARC21/4520)*

3/22

### **MOVED**

That Council:

- Resolve that the ballot be by open ballot voting.
- The General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of Mayor for the period of 12 January 2022 to September 2023.
- The General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of Deputy for the period of 12 January 2022 to September 2023.
- That each Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral candidates publicly accepting their nomination, be given up to 5 minutes to address Council in support of their nomination and answer questions.

**Moved Cr Robinson**

**Seconded Cr Coupland**

### **Amendment**

That Council:

- Resolve that the ballot be by closed ballot voting.
- The General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of Mayor for the period of 12 January 2022 to September 2023.
- The General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of Deputy for the period of 12 January 2022 to September 2023.
- That each Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral candidates publicly accepting their nomination, be given up to 5 minutes to address Council in support of their nomination and answer questions.

**Moved Cr O'Connor**

**Seconded Cr Robinson**

*DIVISION      The result being:-*

*FOR:            Crs D O'Brien, M O'Connor, P Packham and D Robinson*

*AGAINST:      Crs S Coupland, P Gaddes, J Galletly, S McMichael, S Mephram, T Redwood and B Widders*

*The amendment on being put to the vote was LOST 4 votes to 7.*

**The original motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED.**

The General Manager, acting as Returning Officer, called for nominations for the office of Mayor for 12 January 2022 to September 2023. There were two nominations received, that of Cr Coupland and Cr O'Brien.

The Returning Officer declared Cr Coupland elected as the Mayor, with eight votes to three votes, for the 2022-2023 term.

The General Manager, acting as Returning Officer, called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor 12 January 2022 to September 2023. There were two nominations received, that of Cr Redwood and Cr O'Brien.

The Returning Officer declared Cr Redwood elected as Deputy Mayor, with eight votes to three votes, for the 2022-2023 term.

**8.3 Delegation of Authority to the General Manager**      *Ref: AINT/2021/43967 (ARC21/4520)*

4/22

**RESOLVED**

That Council delegate the functions to the General Manager as described in the Instrument of Delegation attached to this Report, pursuant to Section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**Moved Cr Galletly**

**Seconded Cr McMichael**

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

**8.4 Delegation of Authority to the Mayor**      *Ref: AINT/2021/44765 (ARC21/4520)*

5/22

**RESOLVED**

That Council delegate the functions to the Mayor as described in the Instrument of Delegation attached to this Report.

**Moved Cr Robinson**

**Seconded Cr Gaddes**

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

**8.5 Casual Vacancy in the Office of Councillor**

*Ref: AINT/2021/43640 (ARC21/4520)*

6/22

**RESOLVED**

That Council pursuant to section 291A(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) Armidale Regional Council declares that casual vacancies occurring in the office of a Councillor within 18 months after the last ordinary election of councillors for the Council on 4 December 2021 are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at that election for the office in accordance with section 291A of the Act and directs the General Manager to notify the election manager of the Council's decision within 7 days of the decision.

**Moved Cr Robinson**

**Seconded Cr O'Connor**

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

**8.6 Armidale Regional Council Code of Conduct**

*Ref: AINT/2021/44649 (ARC21/4520)*

7/22

**RESOLVED**

That Council acknowledge the Armidale Regional Council Code of Conduct, and note a review will be completed within 12 months of the Local Government elections.

**Moved Cr Widders**

**Seconded Cr Robinson**

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

**8.7 Revised Code of Meeting Practice**

*Ref: AINT/2021/43838 (ARC21/4520)*

8/22

**RESOLVED in 2 parts.**

**Part 1**

That Council:

- a. Endorse the draft Code of Meeting Practice be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, commencing on 17 January 2022 and concluding on the 15 February 2022 with a report provided to council following the consultation period.
- b. Resolve to utilise clause 15.15 under "Expulsion from Meetings" (highlighted in the attachment).

*DIVISION      The result being:-*

*FOR:            Crs Coupland, S McMichael, P Packham, D Robinson, D O'Brien, M O'Connor and S Mepham*

*AGAINST:      Crs B Widders, J Galletly, P Gaddes and T Redwood*

*The Mayor declared the amendment on being put to the vote carried.*

9/22

**Part 2**

**RESOLVED**

That Council amend 4.13 of the draft Code of Meeting Practice to read from 3 minutes to 5 minutes:

- 4.13. Each speaker will be allowed 5 minutes to address the council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson.

**Moved Cr Robinson**

**Seconded Cr McMichael**

*DIVISION      The result being:-*

*FOR:            Crs Coupland, S McMichael, P Packham, D Robinson, D O'Brien, M O'Connor and S Mephram, P Gaddes and T Redwood*

*AGAINST:      Crs B Widders and J Galletly*

*The Mayor declared the amendment on being put to the vote carried.*

10/22

**8.8 Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy**

*Ref: AINT/2021/44383 (ARC21/4520)*

**RESOLVED**

That Council:

- a. Endorse the Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy for public exhibition commencing 17 January 2022 for a period of 28 days concluding 14 February 2022, noting no amendments have been recommended to the current policy.

**Moved Cr Robinson**

**Seconded Cr McMichael**

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

**8.9 Ordinary Council Meeting Cycle for 2022**

*Ref: AINT/2021/40108 (ARC16/0001-6)*

11/22

**RESOLVED**

- a. That the Ordinary Council Meeting cycle for the remainder of the 2021-2022 financial year be scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month as follows:
- Wednesday 23 February 2022, in Guyra
  - Wednesday 23 March 2022, in Armidale
  - Wednesday 27 April 2022 in Armidale
  - Wednesday 25 May 2022 in Guyra
  - Wednesday 22 June 2022 in Armidale.
- b. That the time for the Ordinary Council meetings to commence is 4pm.

**Moved Cr Galletly**

**Seconded Cr Robinson**

*DIVISION The result being:-*

*FOR: Crs S Coupland, P Gaddes, J Galletly, S McMichael, S Mephram, M O'Connor, P Packham, T Redwood, D Robinson and B Widders*

*AGAINST: Cr D O'Brien*

*The Mayor declared the motion CARRIED.*

**9. GROWTH, PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - NIL**

**10. ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE - NIL**

**11. OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY - NIL**

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - NIL**

**13. MATTERS OF AN URGENT NATURE - NIL**

**14. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - NIL**

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 5:05pm.