



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

18 MARCH 2020

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 10.00am

2 PRAYER OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Melisa Hederics (Mayor)
Councillor Tim Elstone (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Greg Evans
Councillor Steve Heywood
Councillor Jane MacAllister
Councillor Susan Nichols
Councillor Bill Wheeldon OAM

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
Matthew Carlin (Director Health and Planning)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Paula Mastrippolito (Manager Organisational Support)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Don McKinnon is an apology for this meeting.
Councillor Peter Nunan is an apology and has requested a leave of absence for this meeting.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the apologies from Councillor McKinnon and Councillor Nunan and grants the Leave of Absence Request from Councillor Nunan for this meeting

Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19 February 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 19 February 2020 be confirmed as circulated, noting that Councillor MacAllister updated her conflict of interest declarations for items 9.17 and 12.1.

Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 WILLANDRA LAKES REGION WORLD HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

File Number: RPT/20/119

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update councillors on the appointment of Cr MacAllister to the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee, as reported in item 4.1 of the General Manager's Report 19 February 2020.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the appointment of Cr MacAllister to the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the appointment of Cr MacAllister to the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Advisory Committee.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

6.2 ELECTRICITY COSTS

File Number: RPT/20/163

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

This report responds to an action raised at the Ordinary Council meeting on 19 February 2020, item number 10.2.6.

Councillor Susan Nichols requested electricity costs for the past 12 months for the Midway Centre, new Civic Centre, current Office building, the Library, Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and Wentworth and Alcheringa (Carramar Drive) sporting complexes. Councillor Nichols also asked what grants we have sought for Solar Energy and if drought funding extended to provide solar energy to these buildings.

Recommendation

That Council notes the electricity costs for the past 12 months and the availability of grant funding for solar energy.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the electricity costs for the past 12 months and the availability of grant funding for solar energy.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

6.3 OUTSTANDING ITEM - SUMMARY REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/164

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Matrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

This report summarises the details of actions raised from previous Council meetings that remain outstanding. Individual items that require detailed responses are reported separately.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the current list of outstanding action items.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the current list of outstanding action items.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/127

At 10:07 am Councillor Melisa Hederics left the Council Chambers and Cr Elstone took the chair. In the absence of the Mayor the meeting moved to item 8.1 and returned back to this item when the Mayor returned to the Chambers.

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 COUNCILLOR REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/20/165

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

This report provides the opportunity for Councillors to provide verbal updates on the activities of organisations to which they have been appointed as council's delegate.

The notable meetings that have occurred during the reporting period where councillors are encouraged to provide a verbal report are:

Date	Meeting	Proposed Attendees	Location
26 Feb 2020	Wentworth Shire GP Plan Meeting	Cr MacAllister & GM	Dareton
12-13 Mar 2020	MDA Strategic Planning Meeting	Cr MacAllister, Cr Heywood & Cr Elstone	Moama

Recommendation

That the information provided by councillors on the activities of external bodies to which they are council's nominated delegate be noted.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information tabled by Councillor MacAllister on the MDA Strategic Planning Meeting, and that the Wentworth Shire Health Interagency Group sub-committee has been disbanded.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

At 10:13 am Councillor Melisa Hederics returned to Council Chambers and the meeting returned to item 7.1

8.2 WENTWORTH SPORTING COMPLEX USER GROUP MEETING TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/117

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
Reporting Officer: Barbara George - Administration Officer, Roads and Engineering

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.5 Encourage the self determination of individual townships and community groups

Summary

A meeting of the Wentworth Sporting Complex User Group was held on Tuesday 18 February 2020 and the Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

Recommendation

That Council notes the minutes of the Wentworth Sporting Complex User Group meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2020.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the minutes of the Wentworth Sporting Complex User Group meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2020.

Moved Cr. Evans, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/128

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars
 - Details of OLG Circulars 20-04 and 20-06 are listed
2. Meetings

As listed
3. Upcoming meetings or events

As listed
4. Other items of note

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager and approves the out of region travel listed in the list of upcoming events.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager and approves the out of region travel listed in the list of upcoming events, noting that the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Advisory Committee meeting has been postponed and the Menindee Lakes Water Savings Project Advisory Committee meetings have been cancelled.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

9.2 2020 LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/20/122

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.5 Recognise the importance of a healthy Murray-Darling River system

Summary

The annual Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Water Management Conference will be held from 15-17 July 2020 in Narrabri. A broad range of information from a local government perspective on water management, issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities are presented at the conference.

Recommendation

That Council nominates delegates to attend the 2020 LGNSW Water Management Conference to be held in Narrabri from 15-17 July 2020.

Council Resolution

That council, due to COVID-19 alerts, defers a decision about attending this conference.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

9.3 2020 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/20/125

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.3 Prepare for natural disasters, biosecurity risks and climate change

Summary

The 2020 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference is being held from 19 May to 22 May 2020 at the Empire Theatre, Toowoomba QLD.

The theme of the conference is “*A Flood Resilient Australia: Transforming vision into action*”

Recommendation

That Council notes the report and determines whether to nominate a delegate to attend the 2020 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference being held from 19 May to 22 May 2020 at Toowoomba.

Council Resolution

That Council, due to COVID-19, defers a decision on this conference.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nichols

CARRIED

9.4 SUNRAYSLIA SAFARI RALLY 2020 REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP

File Number: RPT/20/123

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

CSP Goal: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest
Delivery Program Objective: 2.1 Grow visitation to the Shire by developing a quality visitor experience and promoting our destination
Delivery Program Strategy: 2.1.1 Provide Visitor Information Services

The Mayor declared that she has a significant non-pecuniary interest in this item as her family competes in the rally.

At 10:46 am Councillor Melisa Hederics left the Council Chambers and Councillor Elstone took the Chair.

Summary

Council is in receipt of a request to provide financial and in-kind sponsorship of the 2020 Sunraysia Safari Cross Country Rally. It is proposed to hold the Rally within the Wentworth Shire region from Wednesday 9 September 2020 to Saturday 12 September 2020 inclusive, subject to venue availability.

Recommendation

That Council considers the application for sponsorship from Rally Management Australia for the 2020 Sunraysia Safari Cross Country Rally from the 2019-2020 Wentworth Shire Tourism and Promotions Budget and determines the level of sponsorship.

Motion

Option B – same as last year on the basis that it proceeds

Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Evans

Council Resolution

That Council provides financial support of \$15,000 plus in-kind support on the proviso that the rally proceeds as planned within the Shire this year.

Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

At 10:48 am Councillor Melisa Hederics returned to Council Chambers and resumed the Chair.

9.5 2020 NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

File Number: RPT/20/158

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Paula Mastrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The 2020 NSW Local Government Elections will be held on Saturday 12 September 2020.

The first NSW Electoral Commission Bulletin has been published and provides information about accessing important election information and the key election dates.

The Office of Local Government website also has valuable information including a guide for candidates in NSW Local Government Elections.

Recommendation

That Council notes the information regarding the 2020 NSW Local Government Elections.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information regarding the 2020 NSW Local Government Elections.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

Council Resolution

That Council writes to the electoral commission and the Minister for Local Government and the NSW Local Government Association requesting that consideration be given to amending the Local Government Act to enable postal voting in Local Government Elections in light of the Pandemic declaration and the cost of conducting the elections.

Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

9.6 WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

File Number: RPT/20/152

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Michele Bos - Strategic Development Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction

At 10:54 am Councillor Bill Wheeldon left the Council Chambers as he declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in this item as his son has made a submission to the plan.

Summary

Wentworth Shire Council endorsed the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement at its Ordinary Meeting held 20 November 2019, to allow for public exhibition to be conducted from 23 November 2019 to 10 January 2020.

Twenty-five (25) submissions were received during the exhibition period and these have been considered as part of finalising the document.

This report seeks Council's adoption of the final, revised, Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Wentworth Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement to allow for the document to be published on the NSW planning portal in accordance with Section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the submission tabled at the meeting and adopts the Wentworth Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement to allow for the document to be published on the NSW planning portal in accordance with Section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

At 11:08 am Councillor Bill Wheeldon returned to Council Chambers.

9.7 ACOHOL FREE ZONE - APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY EXEMPTION

File Number: RPT/20/129

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest
Strategy: 2.1 Grow visitation to the Shire by developing a quality visitor experience and promoting our destination

Summary

The Wentworth District Rowing club have applied for a temporary exemption to the Alcohol Free Zone. The application relates to the upcoming annual Easter Wentworth/Mildura joint regatta on 11 and 12 April 2020.

Recommendation

That Council approve a temporary exemption to the Alcohol Free Zone limited to the areas of the Rowing Club and immediate lawn areas on 11 and 12 April 2020.

Council Resolution

That the report be withdrawn as the regatta has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

9.8 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF FEBRUARY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/160

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Nicky Meredith - Coordinator Health and Planning

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

For the month of February 2020, a total of seven Development Applications and five S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$2,137,453.00. This brings the year to date total to 12 Development Applications approved and six S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$2,338,192.00.

Recommendation

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of February 2020.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Council Resolution

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of February 2020.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Elstone, Evans, Hederics, Heywood, MacAllister, Nichols and Wheeldon.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

9.9 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/139

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of February 2020 were \$1,148,525.15. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 67.32%. For comparison purposes 72.34% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2019. Council currently has \$27,639,230.02 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

9.10 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/156

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

As at 29 February 2020 Council had \$26,000,000.00 invested in term deposits. Council received \$52,347.68 from its investments for the month of February 2020.

In February 2020 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 1.63% and it currently has \$8,466,832.09 of internal restrictions and \$16,220,553.78 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the monthly investment report, noting that council has \$16,220,553.78 of externally restricted funds.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

9.11 WORKS REPORT UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2020

File Number: RPT/20/121

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report provides a summary of the major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Division which have been completed during the month of February 2020 and the planned works for March 2020.

Recommendation

That Council notes the major works undertaken for February 2020 and the proposed works for March 2020.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the major works undertaken for February 2020 and the proposed works for March 2020.

Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

9.12 POLICY REVIEW - FENCING AND GRIDS POLICY

File Number: RPT/20/144

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Paula Matrippolito - Manager Organisational Support

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.6 Collaborate with others to achieve desired outcomes for the local community

Summary

The Fencing and Grids Policy was last adopted by council on 28 June 2017. It is proposed to amend the policy to enable the increasing of the co-contribution paid by council under section 6.4 of the policy.

Cr Wheeldon declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in this item as his son may benefit from the policy.

At 11:31 am Councillor Bill Wheeldon left the Council Chambers.

Recommendation

- 1) That Council endorses the revised Fencing and Grids Policy.
- 2) That Council amends the Roads and Engineering Support section of the 2019/20 Annual Fees and Charges to reflect a co-contribution towards fencing of up to \$2,500.00 per km of fencing for a maximum of 5km per grid.

Council Resolution

- 1) That Council endorses the revised Fencing and Grids Policy.
- 2) That Council amends the Roads and Engineering Support section of the 2019/20 Annual Fees and Charges to reflect a co-contribution towards fencing of up to \$2,500.00 per km of fencing for a maximum of 5km per grid.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

At 11:35 am Councillor Bill Wheeldon returned to Council Chambers.

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WHEELDON

File Number: RPT/20/140

Motion

That we take legal action against the Audit Office of NSW and the Audit firms that have audited Wentworth Shire Council's financial statements over the past three years, having failed to mention the costs awarded to the Wentworth Shire Council by the Court which could amount up to \$500,000 – having failed to correctly report the assets of our Council – the work these firms have been paid to do.

Moved Cr. Wheeldon

Motion

That the item be opened for debate.

Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. Nichols

Councillor Nichols advised that she had seconded a motion to open the item for debate, but did not wish to second the motion put by Councillor Wheeldon.

In the absence of a seconder for the motion, the motion lapsed.

10.2 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

10.2.1 JINDALEE ROAD

Cr Susan Nichols asked about the significant road works being undertaken on Jindalee Road.

The Mayor advised that these works were a condition to the development consent that council granted to Jindalee Wines.

10.2.2 COUNCIL EMPLOYED RESOURCES

Cr Susan Nichols asked how many people were employed by council to undertake handyman type jobs.

The Director Roads and Engineering advised that there are no direct resources employed by council as such but staff undertake minor maintenance works and council equipment is used where staff and resources are not deployed elsewhere.

10.2.3 CURLWAA BACK PACKERS

Cr Steve Heywood requested that a report be provided to the next council meeting on the Curlwaa Back Packers.

10.2.4 DARLING RIVER INFLOWS AND WATER QUALITY

Cr Jane MacAllister asked whether front-line staff would be in a position to monitor concerns from the public about the release of water into the Darling River, and whether council has the resources to undertake increase water quality monitoring and

testing, as Water NSW have identified that they do not have sufficient resources to undertake increased testing.

The General Manager and Director Roads and Engineering took the question on notice.

10.2.5 LIFTING OF WATER RESTRICTIONS

Cr MacAllister asked whether Council can lift water restrictions in Pooncarie sooner, rather than later.

Council Resolution

That Council approves the lifting of water restrictions at Pooncarie as soon as possible subject to the parameters in the Drought Management Plan, the availability and quality of water.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

10.2.6 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Cr Steve Heywood requested that council have an extraordinary meeting in view of the events that are occurring in the Shire.

The General Manager advised that in order to call an extraordinary meeting there needs to be specific items of business raised. A meeting can be called by giving the required notice if there are specific items to be raised.

10.2.7 MEDICAL SERVICES IN WENTWORTH

Cr Bill Wheeldon asked if council would be prepared to lease the current medical practice for 12 months if we were able to get a doctor?

It was decided that Council should discuss this item in a closed session at the end of the meeting.

10.2.8 SAND FILTRATION AT THE WENTWORTH WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Cr Bill Wheeldon asked whether the sand in the water filtration plant in Wentworth has been replaced?

The Director Roads and Engineering took the question on notice, but also advised that a recent joint inspection with Department Industry and Environment (DPIE) across all water treatment plants did not raise any concerns.

The Mayor invited Glenys Beaumont to provide council with an update on the situation with medical services in Wentworth.

10.2.9 CATCH UP BRIEFING

Cr Greg Evans requested that if there was not going to be an extraordinary meeting that there at least be a catch-up briefing in two weeks' time.

The General Manager advised that he would endeavour to provide councillors with additional written information and phone calls if required, noting that at this stage face to face meetings are being limited.

That Council moves into closed session to discuss matters classified as confidential because information would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the matter outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal sensitive information regarding the provision of medical services in Wentworth which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

10.3 ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Council Resolution

That Council adjourns into a closed session, that the recording of the meeting be paused, that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the closed session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the item considered during the course of the closed session be with-held unless declassified by separate resolution.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

Council moved into closed session at 12.38pm

Council reconvened into open session at 1.25pm

10.4 OPEN COUNCIL – REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

The Mayor requested that the General Manager provide a report to the Open Council on the proceedings of the closed session.

The General Manager advised that during the closed session he updated council on the situation with medical practitioners in Wentworth and that there would be a further report to council if a medical service provider puts forward a proposal to Council.

The Mayor advised that if necessary an extraordinary meeting could be called.

11 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting was declared closed at 1.27pm

NEXT MEETING

22 April 2020

.....
CHAIR