

Council Report to NRDCAA Meeting 15th February 2016.

There were five meetings of Council, November 24th, December 8th and 15th 2015. January 28th and February 2, 2016.

The report covers main issues as determined by the CoM that could affect residents and ratepayers, or is a matter of public interest.

This report should not be relied upon by residents and ratepayers. The Reports, motions and some resolutions are truncated.

Council Business Papers and Minutes of each meeting are available on the Council website.

Council Meeting November 24 2015.

All Councillors were in attendance.

Mayoral Minute: In brief moved by Councillor Ford, correspond with Premier and Minister reiterating HCC should stand alone, and referred to comments in the MM and the report to Hills Shire Council's at its November 10 2015 meeting.

Seek an urgent meeting and delegation to Premier and Minister for Local Government.

A motion was moved by Councillor Rasmussen and seconded by Councillor Lyons-Buckett that standing orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak.

The motion was lost on the casting vote of Councillor Ford, Mayor.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Conolly, seconded by Councillor Rasmussen that the matter be deferred until after the Councillor Briefing session regarding Fit for the Future and that that briefing session be held urgently.

Carried.

Item 194: DA0228/15. The DA seeks consent to use the land for intensive plant agricultural-turf farming. The application also involves the removal of native vegetation, construction of a dam and erection of farm building.

There were two speakers for the recommendation and two against.

After much discussion Councillors resolved to defer the application until a site inspection occurs. Councillor Ford was the lone dissenting voice.

Item 196: This was a Planning Proposal to amend the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 396 BLoR Kurmond.

There were two speakers, one for one against.

The PP has been before Council on a number of occasions. The initial proposal was for 27 lots, then 23 lots, then 32 lots (sewage to be connected to north Richmond treatment works). The approved concept has two lots at 1.5ha min and 1ha min and other lots 2000 m2 minimum and includes a VPA .

Seven Councillors supported the recommendation, Councillors; Conolly, Creed, Ford, Mackay Porter, Reardon and Tree, four Councillors opposed the recommendation Calvert, Paine, Rasmussen and Williams.

Councillors Lyons-Buckett was not in the chamber when the vote was taken.

Item: 197, LEP005/15. This was also a Planning Proposal to amend the LEP. The location was South Windsor.

All Councillors supported the rezoning. This is in contrast to Item 196. The Councillors who opposed item 196 are in our view its location.

Item: 199, Kurmond and Kurrajong investigation area Progress Report.

The staff report to Council provided a progress report regarding planning approach for the Kurmond Kurrajong area and to advise Council of the status of other planning proposals.

The information within the report is of concern especially at p 100 of the Business Papers, **Consultation with Kurmond and Kurrajong landowners and Community about the Interim Policy and local planning approach.**

Reference is made to a **survey to a closed group** under that heading.

In July (28) 2015, Council resolved amongst other things **(2) Council officers initiate discussions with Kurmond and Kurrajong Landowners and**

Community about the interim policy and local planning approach, in September 2015.

The survey is a questionnaire prepared by Council officers for recipients to respond. The Concise Oxford dictionary says **discussion...is Examination by argument; a debate; a conversation.** The same dictionary says **survey....is make or present survey**, amongst other things.

A **discussion** was authorised by Council in July 2015.

The Council at the November meeting resolved; **that the information in this report be received.** Therefore the survey was not endorsed by Council at the November 2015 meeting.

Councillors Conolly, Creed, Ford, Mackay, Porter, Reardon and Tree supported the proposal.

Councillors Calvert, Paine, Rasmussen and Williams were against the proposal.

Councillor Lyons-Buckett was not in the Chamber when the vote was taken (conflicted).

Item: 200, Tourism Strategy-Establishment of Tourism Working Group.

The Council resolved (in brief form); Tourism Working Group be established; Expression of interest for membership and report to Council for consideration on the evaluation, and, an external representative be used to evaluate the nominations and select members to the working group, if unavailable the responsibility fall to the General Manager and the Mayor.

Item: 207, Rates applicable to Commonwealth and State Government Properties.

A notice of motion was discussed at the Council meeting of the 11 of August 2015, with regards to collecting rates for properties owned by State and Federal Governments and to seek support from other Councils for the endeavour at the 2015 Local Government's Conference.

The report is at p149 of the Business Paper. It details the various sections of the Local Government Act that apply to rateable land and exemptions.

Interesting, the reports details that Hawkesbury Local Government area has 370 properties owned by the State and Federal Governments that do not pay rates. The rates that would have applied for 2015/2016 would have been in the vicinity of \$800,000. Another 45 properties meet other criteria that deem them exempt. The rates that otherwise would apply are in the vicinity of \$130,000.

The above identities pay for other services as do ratepayers.

Questions: Councillors, Calvert 2, Paine 2, Williams 2, Lyons-Buckett 3, Porter 1, Reardon 2, Creed 2.

Extraordinary Meeting December 15 2015.

Apologies: Councillors Creed and Tree.

Item: 226 Expression of Council's opposition to any Amalgamations.

The meeting was poorly attended. Nineteen speakers addressed the meeting.

The NRDCAA supported the opposition to amalgamation subject to Councillor Ford, Mayor and Councillor Mackay, Deputy Mayor step down to allow Councillors elect two Councillors on merit to lead Council. That did not happen.

Four Motions were carried.

1 Allow extra speakers from the gallery to address Council (truncated).

2 **1) Express its absolute opposition to any amalgamations.**

2) Seek legal advice regarding action to be commenced by Council in the event of Council being dismissed and an Administrator being appointed, with a commitment to commence immediate legal action should such an event occur.

Moved Councillor Lyons-Buckett, seconded Councillor Paine. Carried.

3 **1)reject the proposed 29.7% rate rise as outlined in Council's Fit for the Future proposal and vigorously pursue alternative sources of revenue.**

2) Review the current rating structure with a view to reverting to the previous rate structure.

3) Receive a report regarding the amendment of Code of Meeting Practice to reverse the changes made to clauses relating to public speakers at Council meetings as made on 27 August 2013 and as outlined in the business papers of 27 August 2013.

Moved : Councillors Lyons-Buckett, seconded Councillor Paine.

4 In brief, that Councillor Lyons-Buckett act as an alternate delegate and be included in the delegation to meet with Premier, Minister for Local Government and member for Hawkesbury.

Extraordinary Meeting January 28 2016.

Apologies: Councillors Creed and Conolly.

Item 1: Submission- Merger Proposal- HCC and Parts of The HSC.

Resolved:

1) In brief, endorse key matters, see attachment two, An Extraordinary meeting of Council be held on the 16 February 2016 to consider Council's formal submission and request the NSW Government to release KPMG report to enable informed debate.

2) In brief, Council implement a merger public information communication plan to the value of \$12,000.

Council Meeting February 2, 2016.

All Councillors were in attendance.

Item: 4 Review of Council's Fit for the Future (FftF) Proposal-Update.

An update and background was provided by the General Manager covering the FFtF, September 2014 till end of January 2016.

Resolved: 1. Council prepare a submission to the public inquiry as its first priority.

2. Following the successful adoption of a submission, Council staffs immediately resume work on the FftF proposal.

Moved Councillor Conolly, seconded Councillor Paine. Carried.

There were another 9 items mainly relating to Council reports, most notably November and December 2015 investment reports.

The Financial Reports are worth a read to see how the funds are allocated.

Rescission Motion:

That Council's resolution from the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 15 December 2015 (Resolution 380) in relation to Council's Fit for the Future Proposal, Council's rating structure and possible amendments to the Code of Meeting Practice be and is hereby rescinded.

The motion was carried on the casting vote of Councillor Ford Mayor of HCC.

Councillor Conolly had advised if the rescission motion was carried he would submit another motion.

A motion was moved by Councillor Conolly seconded Councillor Rasmussen, in short, reaffirm rejection of 29.75% rate rise, vigorously pursue alternate sources of revenue. And receive a report regarding the amendments of Code of Meeting Practice (CoMP) to consider changes to the CoMP outlined in the Business Paper of 27th of August 2013.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Creed and seconded Councillor Mackay deleting the reference to the CoMP considered changes.

The Amendment was lost.

Councillor Conolly and Councillor Rasmussen motion was carried.

Questions: Councillors, Calvert 1, Paine 2, Lyons-Buckett 1, Porter 1, Reardon 1.

Authorised by the NRDCAA CoM. February 2016.