



**NORTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

MONDAY, 15 MARCH 2021



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15 MARCH 2021

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 15 MARCH 2021 AT 5.00PM IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COVID-19 DISEASE EMERGENCY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2020, SECTION 18 (AUTHORISATION FOR MEETINGS NOT TO BE HELD IN PERSON)

073/21 ATTENDANCE

1 PRESENT

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Deputy Mayor Richard Goss, Cr Dick Adams OAM, Cr Matthew Brooks, Cr Jan Davis, Cr Ian Goninon, Cr Janet Lambert, Cr Michael Polley AM

In Attendance:

Mr Des Jennings – General Manager, Miss Maree Bricknell – Corporate Services Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh – Works Manager, Mrs Erin Miles – Development Supervisor, Mrs Gail Eacher – Executive Assistant

2 APOLOGIES

Cr Andrew Calvert

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075/21 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.



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076/21 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mayor Knowles welcomed all present and provided the following opening address:

While the second half of 2019 was relatively calm and relaxed, the first half of 2020 presented our Council and our communities with some interesting challenges. COVID-19 disrupted and unsettled our lives for many months, challenging us as a workplace and as individuals. In April we made the decision to close our offices to the public to reduce the further spread of COVID-19, while still providing our essential services. I would like to acknowledge and thank our staff for their dedication and the challenges they overcame in order to continue to provide our services to the community in the midst of a global pandemic. I would also like to thank the community for your cooperation and understanding. It has been very much appreciated by myself, my fellow Councillors, management and staff.

During the next few months there will be more challenges and tasks that we must observe. The next stage of the pandemic will be economic and community recovery and we have been proactive in identifying the main issues and challenges that will concern businesses within the Northern Midlands.

Financial Performance highlights for 2019/2020:

- This year Council replaced/constructed/purchased \$7.5 million of fixed assets for the municipal area, representing 35% of the total annual cashflow during the year.*
- Council now has recorded non-current infrastructure assets at a written down value of \$342 million (Gross Value of \$466 million).*

Major construction works included during 2019/20:

- Completion of the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval Complex;*
- Completion of the Longford Recreation Ground Complex;*
- Continued work on the Northern Midlands Sports Centre;*
- Upgrade of the Council Chambers and car park, Longford*
- Timber Bridge replacements \$0.67 million*
- Road works \$1.1 million,*
- Stormwater infrastructure \$0.22 million;*
- Plant and Fleet items of \$0.7 million.*

Operating Revenue amounted to \$19 million, plus Capital income of \$1.84 million. Included in Operating Revenue was Rate revenue totalling \$11.4 million, fees & charges of \$2.1 million and Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants of \$3.61million.

Operating Expenditure was \$20.483 million, resulting in an Operating Surplus of \$0.409 million for 2019/20.

Council's underlying operating result was a \$1.177 million deficit. A negative result cannot be sustained in the long term, however, last year's result is due to some one-off operating costs, and Council believes it is sustainable in the long term.

Council at its 29 June 2020 meeting endorsed the 2020/2021 Municipal Budget which, in an effort to invigorate the local economy, includes a proactive \$20 million capital works program. We have attempted to bring forward as many of our larger projects as feasible and these will commence in the very near future.

We were delighted to see the first stage of the Northern Midlands Health, Fitness and Sports Centre completed and look forward to the second stage commencing in the coming year. The new facility will feature a 1,765m² gym space,



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separate aerobics and child care spaces and new toilets and changeroom amenities. The car park at the Longford Recreation Ground Development was completed as well.

One of the biggest challenges for any Council is identifying and recognising community assets that require review. The Ross Swimming Pool is one of many Council owned assets that needs high-level restoration and repair. The Ross community was incredibly disappointed to hear this and worked tirelessly to lobby Council in reconsidering this review. We look forward to working with the Ross community over the next few months to determine a position that suits their needs.

Over the last twelve months I attended a diverse range of community events. In September I attended the Inspiring Futures Charters Signing at Cressy District High School and Ross held the inaugural National Retrieving Championship Trials. The official opening of the new Woolmers Lane Bridge and the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval Facility were well attended along with the Seniors Expo held in Longford in October. Our newly established girls group Free2B Girls held their first art exhibition and I also attended the Ross Quarry opening and the Ross Arts Festival Opening after months of hard work put into both events from the broader Ross community. I attended the last school assembly at the Avoca Primary School and reminisced with students, parents, and teacher's past and present. A welcome party was held for the seasonal berry workers attracting 250 people, the organisers won our annual Australia Day Event of the Year Award for this event. We again hosted the Festival of Small Halls early in the new year, which attracted a large crowd and filled the Longford Town Hall with the voices of Siobhan Miller (Scotland) and Jack Carty (Australia). War Animal Remembrance Day was honoured with an event at the new Campbell Town War Memorial Oval facility and garnered a large media presence in the weeks before and after the event.

I have continued to work closely on the issue of family and domestic violence, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The re-emergence of White Ribbon Australia has enabled further work in this field, which I am incredibly passionate about.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my fellow Councillors, Management and Staff for their commitment and ongoing support throughout the past year to enable and allow the Northern Midlands to further grow and develop.

077/21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

DECISION

Cr Adams/Cr Goss

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 9 December 2019 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried unanimously

078/21 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

The Annual Report for the 2019/2020 financial year was circulated by the General Manager.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting together with the Annual Report was advertised in the Examiner Newspaper on Saturday, 27 February 2021. The community were invited to submit comments on the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.



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079/21 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions on notice were received.

080/21 QUESTIONS NOT ON NOTICE

Questions not on notice welcomed by Mayor Knowles, to be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A person seeking to ask a question must firstly identify himself or herself by stating their name and the town they reside in.
- If more than one person wishes to ask a question, the Mayor is to determine the order in which those questions are asked
- Questions must be directed to the Mayor (Chair) who shall answer or direct the question to the appropriate Councillor or Council Officer. A question will be answered if the information is known otherwise taken on notice and responded to in writing as soon as possible.
- A person is entitled to ask no more than 2 questions on any specific subject. If a person has up to two questions on several subjects, the Mayor may defer those questions until other questions have been asked and refer back to that person only if time permits.
- Each speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

No questions without notice were forthcoming.

081/21 CLOSURE

Mayor Knowles closed the meeting at 5.08pm.

MAYOR _____

DATE _____