



**NORTHERN  
MIDLANDS  
COUNCIL**

# **MINUTES**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2021**



MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held on 13 December 2021 at 5.01pm in person at the Council Chambers, 13 Smith Street, Longford 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)

## 1 ATTENDANCE

### 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, Mr Trent Atkinson - Project Manager, Mr Paul Godier - Senior Planner, Mr Ryan Robinson - Planner, Mrs Lorraine Wyatt - Executive & Communications Officer, Gail Eacher - Executive Assistant

### APOLOGIES

Cr Andrew Calvert

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### 3 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.

### 4 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

*We are now into our second year dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*Just like last year, it has presented many challenges both professionally and personally. I would like to acknowledge and thank our staff for their ongoing dedication and for overcoming the challenges and disruptions that we have been presented with over the last 12 months in order to continue to provide our services to the community. I would also like to thank the community for your cooperation and understanding. It has been very appreciated by myself, my fellow Councillors, management and staff.*

*We are anticipating that there will be more challenges to come directly relating to the pandemic as Tasmania plans to reopen its border on the 15th of December and while we are very lucky to live here in Tasmania, we are not immune from the virus or its enduring effects. We are continuing with our community recovery and have been proactive in identifying the main issues and worries that will concern businesses and families within the Northern Midlands.*

*Council at its 19 July 2021 meeting endorsed the 2021/2022 Municipal Budget which, in an effort to revitalize and energize the local economy, includes a proactive \$29.4 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.*

*One of our larger projects for the coming year is the Perth Early Learning Centre, adjacent to the existing kindergarten and primary school. The project is estimated to cost \$3.53million and has been funded by a Federal Government grant. The new facility will provide local families with more spaces for childcare in a new and modern childcare facility. The current centre is heavily in demand and due to space restrictions can only cater for half of the amount proposed for the new facility. Once the new facility is complete the Perth community will be able to fully utilise their community centre once again. Council awarded the tender in September and the project is expected to be completed in late 2022.*

*Over the last twelve months I have attended a diverse range of community events, these included the final Rossarden Kids Christmas Club Party after 90 years of holding the event, our Australia Day celebration which was held in Avoca, several bicentenary celebration events for Perth, Ross and Campbell Town throughout the year, the launch of our recycling trailer, and the opening of Devonfield House in Perth to support those with disabilities to live independently. I also participated in the inaugural Tom's Walk with his family, friends and community members which celebrated the life of Tom Talbot who had planned to walk the 5km from his house to Woolmers Estate and back on his 90th birthday but sadly did not make it.*

*Council continues to work on upcoming strategies, including Cohesive Communities & Communities at Risk Plan, Disability Action Plan, Discrimination Strategy and Family Violence Strategy.*

*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 and continuing support from Our Watch 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.*

*I look forward to the next 12 months and continuing to watch as our small Council achieves big things.*



## 5 DECLARATIONS OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST OF A COUNCILLOR OR CLOSE ASSOCIATE

As per the *Local Government Act 1993, Part 5 - Pecuniary Interests, section 48:*

- (1) *A councillor must not participate at any meeting of a council, council committee, special committee, controlling authority, single authority or joint authority in any discussion, nor vote on any matter, in respect of which the councillor–*
  - (a) *has an interest; or*
  - (b) *is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.*
- (2) *A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences.*

## 6 PROCEDURAL

### 6.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### MINUTE NO. 21/473

#### DECISION

Deputy Mayor Goss/Cr Goninon

That the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 15 March 2021 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried Unanimously

### 6.2 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report for the 2020/2021 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 November 2021 and Wednesday, 1 December 2021. The community were invited to submit comments on the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

No submissions were received.

### 6.3 QUESTIONS

#### 6.3.1 Questions On Notice

No questions on notice were received.

#### 6.3.2 Questions Without 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.

The following questions without notice were forthcoming from the gallery:

**Mr Neil Tubb, Longford - Longford Recreation Ground Complex**

*Mr Tubb referred to the statement relating to the successful completion of the Longford Recreation Ground Complex.*

*Mr Tubb queried the reason why a report had not been circulated advising the reasons for the overspend on the project.*

*Mr Tubb referred to the proposal to procure the services of quantity surveyor to undertake an independent assessment and report to Council.*

*Council's General Manager advised that a report would be provided to Council.*

**Mr Stephen Dodd, Longford - Consultation on Projects**

*Mr Dodd suggested that Council had not held sufficient consultation with the community on Council's larger projects; and referred in particular to the upgrade of the Longford Recreation Ground Complex (Footy Club) and more recently the Longford Memorial Hall.*

*Mr Dodd queried whether that was going to continue or is Council going to get better at consulting the community.*

**Mr John Izzard, Longford - Section 13 Historical Precinct**

*Mr Izzard requested confirmation that the Historical Precinct in Section 13 had not been altered in the new planning scheme; and if it has been altered the nature of those amendments.*

*Council's General Manager advised that a response would be provided.*

## 7 CLOSURE

Mayor Knowles closed the meeting at 5.09pm.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_