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**BULLOO SHIRE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

Of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at the Council Chambers, Thargomindah on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 commencing at 9:10am.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: J.C. Ferguson (Mayor)  
D.P. Clifford  
R.J. Ferguson  
A.D. Crawford  
J.P. Cobb  
Officers: Michael Hayward (Chief Executive Officer)  
Peggy Ferguson (Secretary)

**1.0 APOLOGIES**

NIL

**2.0 OBITUARIES**

NIL

**3.0 RECEIVING OF MINUTES**

Resolution No. 19-03-09

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009, as supplied to all Councillors, be received.

Carried

**4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Resolution No. 20-03-09

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Clifford

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009, as supplied to all Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried

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## 5.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **Material Personal Interest**

*Cr Crawford declared an interest in the following matter and left the meeting at 9:15am.*

## 5.1 **New Council Depot – Progress on Electrical Works**

### **Resolution No. 21-03-09**

Moved Mayor Cr JC Ferguson seconded Cr Clifford

THAT, in accordance with discussions held and outcomes agreed to at the meeting held between Council and General Trade Industries on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009, the following work to be undertaken to upgrade electrical supply at the new Council Depot:-

1. General Trade Industries install new mains to the switchboard
  - The new mains are to be 1 x 4 core 120mm<sup>2</sup> cable installed in parallel with the existing main cable (as agreed with Council's electrical consultant, Mr Terry Merritt)
  - that the main switchboard be upgraded to minimum 400amp capacity
2. Council agree
  - to dig necessary trenching from power pole to the main switchboard and backfill on completion of cable installation
  - to excavate concrete to allow access to main switchboard and reinstate concrete after switchboard work is complete.

Carried

### **Attendance**

*Cr Crawford returned to the meeting at 9:49am.*

### **Adjournment**

*Council adjourned for morning tea at 9:57am and resumed at 10:11am.*

### **Attendance**

*Consulting Engineer, Georges Inocentes, Ryan Hicks and Dave Gibson - Brandon & Associates - and James Gauvin, Consulting Accountant, attended the meeting at this time to discuss a review of Council's road register.*

*Council was provided with a map highlighting the various types of roads throughout the Shire.*

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*The Chief Executive Officer advised that the current road register was being reviewed as part of the roads and assets strategy.*

**Attendance**

*Works Manager attended the meeting at 10:47am to provide information on the maintenance requirements on roads throughout the Shire.*

*Council identified which roads needed to be logged as part of the review, and determined that all property access roads should be included in the road register review.*

**Attendance**

*Consulting Engineer, Georges Inocentes, Ryan Hicks and Dave Gibson- Brandon & Associates - and James Gauvin, Consulting Accountant, and Works Manager, Bill Carr left the meeting at 11:20am.*

**6.0 TENDERS AND QUOTATIONS**

NIL

**7.0 RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF OFFICER'S REPORT**

Resolution No. 22-03-09

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr Clifford

THAT the Officer's Reports be received.

Carried

**7.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**7.1.1 Change of Meeting Date**

The Chief Executive Officer reported that the Local Government Association (LGAQ) will be conducting Elected Member Update workshops across the state in late March, April and May 2009. The purpose of the workshops is to update Councillors skills, knowledge and acquire the latest information on emerging and current local government issues.

The LGAQ will be conducting a workshop in Thargomindah on Monday 11 May 2009. It is understood that senior members or the LGAQ Executive will be presenting the workshop.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that this workshop will be held on the Monday prior to the scheduled ordinary meeting for May and enquired if Council wished to give consideration to holding the May meeting on the day following the workshop as this would give Councillors the opportunity to network with the LGAQ presenters following the workshop.

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Resolution No. 23-03-09

Moved Cr Cobb seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT the May Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

Carried

**7.1.2 Keep Australia Beautiful Council**

Correspondence has been received from Keep Australia Beautiful Council Queensland inviting Council to become a member of Keep Australia Beautiful Council Queensland and to encourage Council to enter the Ergon Energy Tidy Towns competition.

Resolution No. 24-03-09

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT Council participate in the 2009 Keep Australia Beautiful competition and that Council nominate Hungerford, Noccundra and Thargomindah communities for the Tidy Towns category.

Carried

**7.1.3 Matters Raised by Elected Members**

NIL

**Adjournment**

*Council adjourned for lunch at 12:17pm and resumed at 1:07pm.*

**7.1.4 Accommodation Arrangements**

**Attendance**

*Shirley Girdler attended the meeting at this time to request that Council share the accommodation requirements for visiting personnel more equitably amongst all businesses that supply accommodation.*

*The Chief Executive Officer advised that it is Council's practice to inform visiting consultants and service providers of all accommodation premises in Thargomindah and that it is left to the consultants and service providers to make their own accommodation arrangements.*

**Attendance**

*Shirley Girdler left the meeting at 1:20pm.*

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Resolution No. 25-03-09

Moved Cr Cobb seconded Cr Clifford

THAT, as a matter of policy, Council endeavour to rotate all regular consultants and service providers to Council at accommodation places in Thargomindah.

Carried

Attendance

*Cr Clifford declared an interest in the following matter and left the meeting at 1:35pm.*

**7.1.5 Request for Assistance from Hungerford Progress Association**

The Mayor, Cr John Ferguson tabled correspondence received from Hungerford Progress Association requesting financial assistance towards operational costs of staging the bi-annual Hungerford Field Day.

Resolution No. 26-03-09

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT Council make an ex-gratia payment in the amount of \$2,500 to the Hungerford Progress Association for assistance in covering the costs in running the Hungerford Field Day.

Carried

Attendance

*Cr Clifford returned to the meeting at 1:39am.*

*Consulting Engineer, George Inocentes, and Manager of Works, Bill Carr, attended the meeting at this time.*

**7.2 WORKS MANAGER'S REPORT**

**7.2.1 Noccundra Airstrip Upgrade**

Attendance

*Donna Gentle, Manager of Community Services, attended the meeting at 2:30pm to discuss the funding arrangements for the Noccundra Airstrip project.*

The Manager Community Services advised Council that discussions had been held with both the State Government and Federal Government departments to ascertain if funding for the Noccundra Airstrip Upgrade could be deferred until the 2009/2010 financial year.

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The outcome of these discussions are:-

- Qld Transport advised that Council is likely to lose the funding if the project is not completed this financial year; and
- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government indicated that the funds will not be available if the project is not commenced before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Council reviewed the prioritised capital works program developed at the February 2009 meeting of Council and considered the community benefit of undertaking upgrade works to the Noccundra airstrip at this point in time; taking into consideration the downturn in exploration activity in the area as a result of the current world economic climate.

Resolution No. 27-03-09

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Cobb

1. THAT the Noccundra Airstrip project not proceed at this point in time and work be rescheduled for 2010 / 2011; and further
2. THAT the Queensland Transport and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government be advised that Council does not wish to proceed with this project at this time and that applications for funding will be submitted in 2010 / 2011.

Carried

Attendance

*Donna Gentle, Manager of Community Services, left the meeting at 2:42pm.*

**7.2.2 Request from Hungerford Progress Association for Hungerford Field Day**

The Mayor, Cr John Ferguson tabled correspondence received from Hungerford Progress Association requesting that Council provide various machinery to assist with the running of the bi-annual Hungerford Field Day.

Resolution No. 28-03-09

Moved Cr Cobb seconded Cr Clifford

THAT Council make available a loader to assist with lifting equipment and a water truck for the Hungerford Field Day with a Council operator to drive the equipment.

Carried

### 7.2.3 Matters Raised by Elected Members

Raised by	Issues Raised
Cr Clifford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hungerford Road requires attention prior to Field Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009</li> </ul>
Cr RJ Ferguson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gates around bar area at Rodeo Grounds are not being closed</li> </ul>
Cr RJ Ferguson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water is required at Rodeo Grounds for farrier's course on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009</li> </ul>

### 7.2.4 Grid 24

Council discussed the condition of Grid 24 on the Thargomindah / Cunnamulla Road and the ongoing problems with the grid breaking up. The Manager of Works advised that representatives of the Department of Main Roads had inspected the grid and recommend that the grid be replaced. The Department of Main Roads further advised that the cost of grid replacement was not a responsibility of that department.

#### Resolution No. 29-03-09

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr Clifford

1. THAT Grid 24 on the Thargomindah / Cunnamulla Road be replaced with a 10m wide grid;
2. the cost of the grid is to be funded from Councils grid replacement program; and
3. the replacement of the grid has no effect on the existing agreement between Bulloo Shire Council and Thargomindah Station (refer Council meeting 20 August 2003 - resolution No: 240-08-03).

Carried

#### Attendance

*Consulting Engineer, George Inocentes, and Manager of Works, Bill Carr, left the meeting at 3:16pm.*

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### **7.3 MANAGER OF FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT**

#### **7.3.1 Accounts**

Resolution No. 30-03-09

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT direct debits and vouchers for the month of February 2009 numbered 30564 - 30588 totalling \$3,026,805.12 be received.

Carried

#### **7.3.2 Matters Raised by Elected Members**

##### **Attendance**

*Manager of Corporate Services, Karen Dare, and Jim Herbert, Department of Natural Resources, attended the meeting at 3:26pm.*

##### **Adjournment**

*Council adjourned for afternoon tea at this time. The meeting resumed at 3:39pm.*

### **7.4 MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT**

#### **7.4.1 Stock Route Water Facility Agreements**

The Department of Natural Resources and Water performed a review of the Stock Route Water Agreements and developed a more equitable method for calculating Water Agreement fees. All previous agreements were terminated on 30 June 2007, under the Land Protection Act 2002. Council needs to negotiate replacement agreements with the landowners. These agreements are required in order that property owners can legally access the facilities.

Resolution No. 31-03-09

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Clifford

THAT Council contact all landowners adjoining stock route watering facilities requesting that they advise their interest, if any, in the watering facilities and that this matter be further considered at the April Meeting of Council.

Carried

##### **Attendance**

*Jim Herbert, Department of Natural Resources, left the meeting at 4:25pm.*

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#### **7.4.2 Legal Proceedings**

A confidential report to further consider legal proceedings regarding arrears of rent against an ex-tenant was forwarded to Councillors under separate cover.

##### **Closure of Meeting**

###### **Resolution No. 32-03-09**

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Crawford

THAT the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with Section 463(1)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993 to discuss a matter concerning the starting of legal proceedings.

Carried

***The meeting was declared closed to the public at 4:26pm.***

###### **Resolution No. 33-03-09**

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr Crawford

THAT the meeting be reopened to the public.

Carried

***The meeting was reopened to the public at 4:31pm.***

Whilst in closed session, Council discussed the matter relating to the offer by the ex-tenant to make regular payments against the outstanding debt.

###### **Resolution No. 34-03-09**

Moved Cr RJ Ferguson seconded Cr Crawford

THAT this matter lay on the table and be further considered at the August 2009 Meeting of Council.

Carried

#### **7.4.3 Matters Raised by Elected Members**

NIL

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**Attendance**

*Manager of Corporate Services, Karen Dare, left the meeting at 4:32pm.*

*Manager of Community Services, Donna Gentle, and Consulting Environmental Health Officer, Peter Driemel, attended the meeting at this time.*

**7.5 MANAGER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**

**7.5.1 Environmental Health Officer's Inspection of Council Facilities**

Peter Driemel updated Council of the outcome of his inspections of Council's facilities. He advised that both the Naccowlah and Nappamerrie camps were included in the inspection program.

The Chief Executive Officer requested that a formal report of the inspections be provided for budgeting purposes.

**7.5.2 Boat Race / Regatta on Easter Saturday**

Resolution No. 35-03-09

Moved Cr Crawford seconded Cr Clifford

THAT Mayor Cr JC Ferguson, Cr Crawford and the Chief Executive to meet with Council's Sport and Recreation Officer to discuss the Easter Saturday Boat Race / Regatta and be authorised to approve the function.

Carried

**7.5.3 Regional Arts Development Fund Training**

Arts Queensland is holding a training session in Charleville on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The training will be on the overall management of the RADF Program. RADF Liaison Officers and Councillors are invited to attend this training.

Cr Crawford is the Council representative on the RADF Committee and has indicated that he is available to attend this training.

Noted

**7.5.4 Bus Link Service to Cunnamulla**

The Department of Communities consulted with all communities across the State to ascertain each community's requirements to improve services in rural areas. As a result of this consultation Bulloo Shire Council was granted \$150,000, under the Blueprint for the Bush program, over a 3 year period to provide a bus link from Thargomindah to Cunnamulla.

Noted

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**7.5.5 Matters Raised by Elected Members**

<b>Raised by</b>	<b>Issues Raised</b>
Mayor Cr JC Ferguson	Lack of staff with bobcat tickets

**7.5.6 Update on Changes to Legislation**

The Consulting Environmental Health Officer updated Council on the recent changes to the Environmental Protection Act.

The officer advised that as a result of the changes, Council is now required deal with many of activities that were previously handled by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Attendance**

*Manager of Community Services, Donna Gentle, and Consulting Environmental Health Officer, Peter Driemel, left the meeting at 5:35pm.*

**ADOPTION OF OFFICER'S REPORT**

Resolution No. 36-03-09

Moved Cr Clifford seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT the Officer's Reports be adopted and those matters contained therein not covered by resolution be noted.

Carried

**8.0 RECEPTION AND CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

NIL

**9.0 PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS OR MEMORIALS**

NIL

**10.0 CONSIDERATION AND RECEPTION OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

NIL

**11.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

NIL

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**12.0 NEXT MEETING**

Resolution No. 37-03-09

Moved Mayor Cr JC Ferguson seconded Cr RJ Ferguson

THAT the next meeting of Council be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Carried

**12.1 Closure of Meeting**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 5:42pm.

**Confirmed / /2009**

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**Mayor**

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