MINUTES

Annual General Meeting No. 17

Monday, 6th December 2010
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MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Kingborough Council held at the Kingborough Civic Centre Monday, 6th December 2010 at 7.30pm.

Mayor Councillor Dr Bury
Deputy Mayor Councillor S Wass
Councillors F Buchan
J Bush
P Chatterton
F Fox
M Higgins
P Lindsay
R McGinniss
S Nolan
D Sommerville

IN ATTENDANCE:
General Manager Mr P West
Deputy General Manager Mr T Ferrier
Manager Engineering Services Mr B Deeks
Manager Finance Mr W Thorpe
Manager Community & Recreation Services Mr D Smee
Auditor-General Mr M Blake

WELCOME
The Mayor of Kingborough, Cr Dr Bury welcomed everyone present at the meeting.

APOLOGIES
There were no apologies.

MEETING PROCEDURES
The Mayor referred to Page 2 of the Agenda and the meeting procedures as outlined.

2009 / 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The following Committee reports were presented:
PLANNING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Cr Bush presented the following Chairperson’s report:

As Chairman of the Planning Authority Committee, I am pleased to present the annual report of that Committee for the year ended 30 June 2010.

The Planning Authority Committee is comprised of all 12 Councillors and the Committee met 12 times during the year.

The Committee, in its role as the Planning Authority for the Kingborough Municipality, was provided with regular Agendas prepared by the Council’s Planning Department. These included detailed reports on all planning applications that required decisions to be made by the Committee. Regular reports were also provided in regard to all planning application determinations that were made under delegation by Council staff. The Planning Authority Committee is responsible for the initiation of zoning applications and Planning Scheme amendments and also receives regular briefings and reports on the conduct of appeals to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal.

During the year, the Planning Committee directly determined 71 development applications. There were 735 planning decisions that were determined under delegated authority. All in all, there was a total of 806 development applications approved compared with 751 last year.

The number of Building Applications was 801 compared with 711 the previous year. The total number of Development and Building Applications rose significantly in the second half of the year. This period includes the Commonwealth Government Stimulus Package and reflects the impact of that program on development activity.

A more detailed comparison with last year is that there were 48 subdivision applications, with 42 the previous year; 44 multi-unit housing applications, compared with 28; and 683 other applications, with 681 last year.

Based on these figures it is clear that there was a continued growth in development activity within the municipality of around 5% and Council received more development applications than in any previous year. The rate of applications during the second half of 2009 was the highest half yearly result ever recorded at Kingborough. The first half of 2010 showed a decline in development and building activity, which may be expected following the accelerated project activity experienced during the Stimulus Package period.

The Planning Authority Committee sits as a Planning Authority under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993. This means that Councillors have special legal obligations and responsibilities and the conduct of these meetings is different to other Council and Committee meetings. Much of the Committee’s work related to the consideration of individual development applications and oversight of the implementation of delegated authorities.

Council also presided over the hearings of petitions to amend Sealed Plans and early investigations have taken place to lay the groundwork in preparation for a start on our new Planning Scheme. This Scheme will be in accordance with an approved regional strategy and an approved planning scheme template.
2009/10 was another busy year for the Committee. Planning issues are inevitably very complex and at times controversial. Kingborough continues to experience development growth and the Planning Authority Committee will continue to explore opportunities to improve the quality, surety and timeliness of development planning and control. The Committee has greatly appreciated the support provided to it by the staff of the Council’s Planning Department.

I would particularly like to thank my fellow Councillors, who are all members of the Planning Authority Committee for their support and assistance during the year and for their considered and dedicated approach to the business of the Committee.

CR. JULIAN BUSH
CHAIRPERSON
PLANNING AUTHORITY COMMITTEE
Cr Buchan presented the following Chairperson’s report:

As Chairperson of the Infrastructure and Resource Management Committee, it gives me much pleasure to present this report of the Committee’s activities for the year ending 30th June 2010.

The Infrastructure and Resource Management Committee normally meets on a monthly basis on the second Thursday of the month. During the year the Committee met on twelve occasions.

During the twelve month period, over 143 reports were considered and debated covering a range of matters. Of particular note were the major contracts awarded for the development of the Barretta Waste Transfer Station.

Other projects considered by the Committee included:
- Progression of the rehabilitation program at the former Barretta landfill site;
- Coningham traffic management;
- Middleton Land stability rehabilitation;
- Pavement reconstruction in Hutchins St;
- Annual servicing contracts for road construction materials.

There are a number of Special Committees of Council that report to the Infrastructure and Recreational Services Committee. These include the:
- Kingborough Road Safety Committee
- Solid Waste Strategy Committee
- Kingborough Bicycle Users Group
- Kingborough Access Advisory Committee
- Kingborough Emergency Management Committee

Council appreciates the time, dedication and effort that all members of these committees devote to these meetings, particularly the volunteer members from the community.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to my fellow members of the Committee, Deputy Chair Councillor Grace, and Councillors Wass, Bush, Fox, McGinniss and Sommerville. I would also like to thank staff for their continued dedication and cooperation afforded to all members of the Infrastructure and Recreational Services Committee. In particular, Mr Brad Deeks and Mr Brett Direen have worked outstandingly. In a season of extraordinary growth and high rainfall, Mr Direen ensured that work teams attended to as many emergencies as possible. Mr Deeks has carefully addressed capital works to a greater extent than I have known during my time on Council. Both have treated the Chair with courtesy and patience even when faced with the most mundane and tedious of questions. I greatly appreciate the time and effort which they have extended.

CR. FIONA BUCHAN
CHAIRPERSON
INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Cr Chatterton presented the following Chairperson’s report:

As Chairperson of the Governance and Finance Committee I am pleased to present this report summarising the activities of the Committee during the 2009-2010 financial year.

The Committee comprises of six Councillors, including myself, and we have met on six occasions during the year. The Committee has varied responsibilities including:

- Strategic & Operational Plans
- Corporate Communications
- Budget Maintenance and Financial Strategies
- Economic Development
- Human Resources
- Partnerships
- Information Technology
- Risk Management & Insurances
- Tourism & Marketing

Reports and matters considered by the Committee to name just a few have included:

- reviewing and updating more than 20 policies;
- rating arrangements for private schools and child care facilities following Council’s previous decision to phase out remissions for the aged care facilities located in Kingborough;
- responding to State Government discussion papers including the introduction of compulsory voting;
- consideration of issues relating to the shareholders letter of expectation for Southern Water;
- introduction of the Kingborough Business Excellence Awards in partnership with the Rotary Club and the Kingborough Community Enterprise Centre;
- funding arrangements for the progression of works associated with the rehabilitation of the former Barretta Landfill Site;
- review of the Council’s Code of Conduct Policy and the Customer Service Charter;
- periodic reports from the Kingston Beach Community Liaison Group.

The Committee is tasked with reviewing the Financial Statements. These Statements not only deal with the financial transactions of Council, but also have information on the investment of funds; the status of the various financial reserves; a summary of the financial progress of the capital works program; and insurance matters.

I am pleased to report upon Kingborough's financial position and to confirm that we continue to be generally well-placed to face the challenges that lay ahead, particularly following the transfer of water and sewerage operations to Southern Water, which occurred on 1 July 2009. Our Annual Financial Report is included as an appendix to the Annual Report, and provides full details of our financial position. As in previous year, those accounts have been subject to audit by the Auditor General, who has given his unqualified approval of their content.
This is not to say that there are significant challenges ahead of us particularly in relation to the funding of future asset replacements and rehabilitations. A report issued by the Auditor-General during the year indicated that Kingborough has not in recent times been allocating sufficient funding to replacement/rehabilitation of existing assets. This is an issue the Council is going to have to address in coming years.

I would like to thank those Councillors who were members of the Governance and Financial Committee and also staff members who include the General Manager, the Deputy General Manager, the Manager Finance, and the Director of Corporate Governance who regularly attend the meetings. I thank them all for their efforts and support, and also to those Councillors who, whilst they were not members, also attended and participated at some Committee meetings.

CR. PAUL CHATTERTON
CHAIRPERSON
GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Cr Fox presented the following Chairperson’s report:

As Chair of the Environment and Development Committee, I am pleased to present this report for the year ending 30 June 2010.

The Environment and Development Committee commenced in November 2009, meets bi-monthly, and met 4 times during the reporting period.

The Committee is comprised of 6 Councillors.

The Environment and Development Committee was created to facilitate greater Councillor consideration of natural resource management (NRM), environmental health and strategic planning issues. Reports on these issues had previously appeared in several different Committees and may have tended to not have the degree of prominence they deserved.

The Committee received an activities report at each meeting from the Environmental Services Section. These provided a comprehensive overview of the range of programs and tasks that staff had been involved in during the preceding two months.

Key matters that were considered by the Committee during the year included:

- An Unauthorised Vegetation Damage Signage Policy,
- The adoption of a new Dog Management Policy,
- Changes to Council’s weed management methods and staffing,
- A number of issues relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- Potential changes to open air burning by-law provisions,
- A Biodiversity Offset Policy,
- Amendments to State Noise Regulations,
- An Integrated Transport Strategy,
- The setting of State of Environment actions for 2010 / 2011,
- Presentations on the Derwent Estuary Program and the COP 15 Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen.

As this list demonstrates, this Committee considers a broad range of issues and programs, but I believe this is of critical importance to our community, given the commitment of Council to natural resource management and environmental management in our Strategic Plan.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Committee as well as staff involved.

The instigation of an Environment and Development Committee has already proven to be an important acknowledgement of environmental issues to our community and this is expected to continue to be the case in the upcoming year with key Regional Planning and climate change issues increasing in prominence.

CR. FLORA FOX
CHAIRPERSON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ARTS COMMITTEE

Cr Higgins presented the following Chairperson’s report:

As Chair of the Community Development and Arts Committee, I am pleased to present the annual report of that Committee for the year ended 30 June 2010.

The Community Development and Arts Committee is comprised of six Councillors and met five times during the year.

The Committee has been provided with regular reports from the Bruny Island Advisory Committee, the Kingborough Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, the Manor Gardens Respite Centre and Council’s Family Day Care Scheme. These comprehensive reports have played an important role in keeping Councillors informed on issues and needs within the community.

There have been many important matters considered by the Committee during the year relating to the provision of services to the Community. The formation of an Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee to provide advice to Council on the development and implementation of an Arts and Cultural Development Strategy was a significant step forward in determining Council’s role in supporting this sector.

One of the highlights of the year was the news that the “Conversations in Kingborough” youth transport project had been awarded both a State and National Local Government Award for Excellence. This project was devised and implemented by Youth Development Officer, Melissa Staples and the award is deserved recognition for her efforts.

Other important initiatives that were overseen by the Committee during the year included:

- The “More than Memory” project that brought students from Kingston High School and clients from the Manor Gardens Day Respite Centre together to participate in a series of workshops facilitated by a community artist to produce an educational DVD on the topic of dementia;
- The Kingston LINC Landscaping project that involved students from the “young men’s group” working to enhance the library forecourt as an inviting public space;
- The provision of the annual Community Grants Program and introduction of a Presentation Evening;
- The production of the annual Kingborough Information Directory and the development of a new Community Events Calendar.
- The introduction of an Offsite Program and the opening of the Manor Gardens Respite Centre on Sundays;
- The provision of a joint Australia Day Awards and Citizenship ceremony held at Kingston Beach;
- The hosting of a Place Making Workshop to identify low cost options to make the main street of Kingston a more vibrant and people-friendly space;
- The establishment of a working group to investigate options for the provision of a local supported accommodation service in Kingston; and
- An update of the Kingborough Youth Strategy to provide direction on Council’s activities in relation to young people.
This Committee primarily deals with matters that emanate from Council’s Community and Recreational Services Department. The Committee has greatly appreciated the professional and committed support that has been provided to it by Daniel Smee and his staff. It has been fantastic.

There is an increasing demand upon Council to meet service needs within the Kingborough community. The Committee recognises the need to continually improve the delivery and quality of the services that Council can provide. The work achieved in the 2009/10 financial year reflects a high level of innovation and the receipt of a National Local Government Award for Excellence is evidence of quality service provision.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members, Deputy Chair Councillor Susan Nolan and Councillors Dr Graham Bury, David Grace, Peter Lindsay and Donna Sommerville, for their enthusiastic support and assistance during the year and for the professional way that they have attended to the business of the Committee.

CR. MICHÈLE HIGGINS
CHAIRPERSON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ARTS COMMITTEE
Moved Cr Higgins /Seconded Cr Chatterton

That the Kingborough Council Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2010 be received.

Carried Unanimously
GENERAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSIONS AND MOTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

No written Questions on Notice or Submissions had been lodged with Council and there were no comments from the Floor.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.54p.m.