

HISTORY OF MURRUMBIDGEE SHIRE COUNCIL HALL

11 June, 1920

Inward Correspondence

Correspondence from J E Kook asking if the Council would receive a deputation consisting of himself, Messrs D Ross, and A J McAlister for the purposes of presenting a petition from the ratepayers requesting the Council to build a Hall or School of Arts in Darlington Point.

Cr. Chant moved that the Council meet the deputation at 2 pm today.

Seconded by Cr. Campbell

Carried.

The Council received the deputation, in reference to a Hall or School of Arts on Darlington Point, at this stage. Messrs J E Kook, D Ross and A J McAlister presented a petition signed by 71 ratepayers praying that the Council erect a Hall or School of Arts in Darlington Point. Each member of the deputation addressed the Council in support of the petition and it was generally agreed that a Hall could be built for a cost of about £1,200. The deputation then retired.

The Council informally discussed the matter for a time and then President Chant moved that if a suitable Hall or School of Arts can be erected for a sum of £1,200, that same be built in Darlington Point, and that the Clerk submit to the next meeting of the Council a report giving an estimate of the cost of a building to seat from 300 to 400 persons and also in what way the Council could raise money to finance the matter.

Seconded by Cr. Lander

Carried

9 July 1920

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had interviewed Mr Robertson, Architect, of Narrandera in connection with the proposed Hall or School of Arts for Darlington Point and he had supplied a rough plan and estimate of the cost and these were now submitted for the consideration of Council.

Mr Robertson's estimate was £2,000. Ways and means for the financing of the work were also submitted. That a Finance Statement of the General fund was being submitted to the Finance Committee that day. As authorised at last meeting £3,000 has been placed at fixed deposit with the Australian Bank of Commerce, Whitton, for six months at 3 ½% per annum.

Cr White moved that the reports be received and adopted and that the three deputationists who waited on the Council at the last meeting in connection with the proposed Hall for Darlington Point be asked to meet the Council at the next meeting to again discuss the matter.

Seconded by Cr Campbell

Carried

13 August 1920

At this stage the Council received the deputation consisting of Messrs D Ross and J E Kook in connection with the proposed School of Arts for Darlington Point. The Clerk stated that he had been asked to apologise for the absence of Mr A J McAlister who was in ill health.

In respect to the plan submitted at the last meeting by Mr Robertson, Architect of Narrandera, which was considered too costly, a further letter was received from him stating that the plan could be so altered, so as to provide for a smaller building at an estimated cost of £1,650. Cr White moved that as a matter of urgency the resolution moved and carried at the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 11th June 1920 "That a Hall be built at a cost of £1,200 if suitable" be rescinded.

Seconded by Cr Lander.

Carried

Cr McBratney moved that the Council vote a sum of £1,650 for the erection of a School of Arts and Hall for Darlington Point and that the Architect, Mr Robertson, be requested to submit an amended plan and also a specification to the Council and that the Clerk report on suitable sites to the next meeting.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

15 October 1920

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had, in company with Messrs A J McAlister, D Ross and Mr J H Robertson, inspected sites suitable for a School of Arts, Darlington Point. The Executors of the Estate had offered one of three blocks in the town close to the post office and Hotel but it had been decided that the most suitable block was one owned by Mrs E J Beaumont, being Portion No. 201 Parish of Waddi containing an area of 1 acre. Mrs Beaumont had been communicated with asking her to fix a price on the block but no reply had yet come to hand.

Asking for some assistance from Council in connection with the valuation of freehold land in the Shire.

Pointing out that there is a balance of £1,302 available for expenditure in the General Fund and that some arrangements would have to be made to meet the expenditure in connection with the Carrathool Bridge and the School of Arts, Darlington Point.

Cr McBratney moved that the reports be received and that a sum of £40 be voted for the purchase of the block recommended for a School of Arts building and that the matter be left in the Clerk's hands.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

10 December 1920

Clerk's Report

(DARLINGTON POINT SCHOOL OF ARTS) That no reply can be obtained from Mrs E J Beaumont in connecting with placing a price on the land selected for the site. That Mr. Pridmore of Narrandera had offered to burn the necessary bricks for the building of £3/5/- per thousand, providing the Council supply iron for the roof of the drying shed. That suitable clay may be obtained on the enclosed portion of the Common but it will be necessary to obtain a licence from the Lands Department.

Cr McBratney moved that Mr John Lander of Homebush be written to, requesting him to interview Mrs E J Beaumont and try and persuade her to fix a price for the block selected for the site being Portion 201 Parish of Waddi, County Boyd and that Mr Lander be empowered to offer up to £40 for the land and if successful in the negotiations, the matter of completing the sale be placed in the hands of Messrs Matthews and Dangar, Solicitors.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried.

Cr McBratney moved that an agreement be entered into with Mr Pridmore for the making of 75,000 bricks and that the necessary licence for permission to make the bricks on the Common be obtained, also that the iron required be purchased.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

14 January 1921

Inward Correspondence

From Mr John Lander stating that he had been successful in persuading Mrs E J Beaumont to sell Portion 201 Parish of Waddi to the Council for £40.

Cr White moved that the warm thanks of the Council be conveyed to Mr Lander for his trouble.

Seconded by Cr Ross.

Carried

From Messrs Matthews and Dangar of Narrandera enclosing Contract of Sale from Mrs E J Beaumont to the Council of Portion 201, Parish of Waddi, County Boyd and requesting that a cheque for £40 be forwarded to Mrs Beaumont and the Contract be signed and sealed.

Cr White moved that the sum of £40 be voted for the purchase of the land mentioned and that the President and Clerk be empowered to sign and seal the Contract of Sale.

Seconded by Cr Campbell

Carried

From Messrs Matthews and Dangar stating that in their opinion, the Council should apply for a Special Lease for security brick clay and a brick kiln.

Cr White moved that a Special Lease be applied for and that the fee of £7/6/8 be forwarded with the application.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

11 February 1921

Inward Correspondence

From the Solicitor to the Shires Association stating that in his opinion the Council has power under Section 524 of the Local Government Act 1919 to enter Commons and remove brick clay but if the Council desires to burn the bricks on the Common he was of the opinion that the Council should obtain permission to do so.

From J S Robertson, Architect, Narrandera enclosing his account of £50/10/- as a first charge for preparing plans and specifications for proposed School of Arts and Hall at Darlington Point.
(Held over until the plan and specification had been gone into and approved of).

Shire Hall and School of Arts for Darlington Point

The Architect Mr Robertson of Narrandera attended the meeting and submitted his plans and specification which were gone into and discussed.

President Lander moved that the water supply tank be increased to 2,000 gallons and the plans and specifications with this alteration be adopted.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried.

Cr White moved that tenders be called for the building, returnable on the 4th March 1921, and that Mr Robertson attend the next meeting of the Council with the tenders on the 11th March next.

Seconded by Cr Mackley.

Carried

Cr White moved that Mr Robertson's Account for preparing the plans and specification amount to £50/10/- be paid.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

11 March 1921

Inward Correspondence

From Messrs Matthews and Dangar, Solicitors, Narrandera stating that the sale of land from Mrs Beaumont to the Council had been completed and asking what was to be done with the title deed.

President Lander moved that the deed be lodged with the Australian Bank of Commerce at Whitton for safekeeping.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried.

From F W DeMamiel offering to cart bricks from the Kiln to the site for the Hall for 10/- per 1,000. Held over until the matter of the dealing of tenders for the erection of the Hall were being discussed.

From A Pridmore asking for another progress payment (2nd) on his Contract No. 2/21 for making of bricks.

President Lander moved that a progress payment be made in accordance with his Contract.

Seconded by Cr Campbell

Carried

Tenders for Hall and School of Arts for Darlington Point

Two tenders were received:-

Haynes and Dixon£2,229/0/0

Tiltman and Taylor£2,233/0/0

It was pointed out that the Council was supplying the bricks and iron at a cost of £442/11/10, and if the lowest tender was accepted this would bring the cost of the building to £2,671/11/10 and the cost of the cartage of bricks had to be added, probably another £37/10/0.

Mr Robertson the Architect was present and stated that with furnishing he estimated the cost at not more than £2,000. He considered the tenders too high.

After further discussion:-

Cr Ross moved that the tenders be deferred for two months and in the meantime a public meeting be called by the President and the matter be fully placed before that meeting.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried.

8 April 1921

Minute from the President

The President reported that he had not called a public meeting in connection with the proposed School of Arts and Hall at Darlington Point as on thinking the matter over it would appear, owing to the distance some of the ratepayers would have to travel, that the meeting would not be a representative one. He asked that the matter be again dealt with.

Cr White moved that the matter of erecting a School of Arts and Hall at Darlington Point be deferred for the present owing to the stringency of the money market and the high cost of labour and material.

Seconded by President Lander.

Carried

Clerk's Reports

Contract 1/21 (Bricks for Darlington Point Hall)

The Contractor has 50,000 bricks burnt and one of the conditions of his Contract is that the Council has to take delivery of the bricks at the kiln. At the last meeting of the Council a letter was received from F W DeMamiel offering to cart the bricks from the kiln to the building site for 10/- per thousand. I would like instructions in the matter.

Cr White moved that the bricks be carted to the site and the price given by DeMamiel be accepted.

Seconded by Cr Mackley.

Carried.

From the District Surveyor, Hay asking Council as Trustees of Waddi Common if application for portion of the Temporary Common as a Special Lease for brick making would prejudice the interests of commonage.

Cr McBratney moved that the Council could see no objection to the lease being granted.

Seconded by Cr White

Carried

13 May 1921

Inward Correspondence

From Chairman of the Hay Land Board stating that the Council's application for a Special Lease in the Parish of Waddi would be considered by the Board at Narrandera on the 2nd June 1921.

Cr White moved that Mr Dangar, Solicitor, Narrandera be requested to appear for the Council.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried.

From A J McAlister requesting the Council to go on with the construction of the School of Arts and Hall for Darlington Point and suggesting that a working bee be organised to clear the ground.

Cr Ross moved that Mr McAlister be asked to organise the working bee to clear the land and the matter of the erection of the building be considered again at the August Meeting of the Council.
Seconded by Cr White.
Carried.

17 June 1921

Inward Correspondence

From Messrs Matthews and Dangar, Narrandera, stating that the Land Board had recommended the Council's application for a Special Lease for obtaining brick clay and burning bricks in the Parish of Waddi for a period of two years at a rental of £3/-/- per annum.

8 July 1921

Overseer's Report

The balance of the bricks in Contract 2/21 have been burnt and will be delivered on the site of the Hall next week. Authority was asked for the payment of the balance of the money to the Contractor and also for the cartage of bricks when delivered. The Contractor is five weeks over his contract time.

Cr Mackley moved that final payments be made to the Contractor and Carter when the balance of the bricks are delivered and that no fine be imposed for the overtime on the contract.
Seconded by Deputy President Campbell.
Carried.

20 August 1921

Inward Correspondence

From A J McAlister stating that the Hall site had now been cleared by voluntary labour and asking the Council go on with the building.

Cr McBratney moved that the Architect for the Building be requested to attend the next meeting of the Council to further discuss the matter of the construction of the Hall and Mr McAlister be thanked for organising the "busy bee" to clear the site and he be informed of the action now taken.
Seconded by Cr Ross.
Carried

15 September 1921

Inward Correspondence

From the Under Secretary for Lands informing Council that the application for a Special Lease for the purpose of obtaining brick clay and a brick kiln had been granted and the papers in connection with the Lease had been forwarded to the District Surveyor at Hay for any survey action that may be deemed necessary.

From District Surveyor at Hay asking if the Council desired survey of Special Lease for brick kiln and obtaining brick clay.

Cr Campbell moved that the District Surveyor be informed that the Council does not consider it is necessary for a survey to be made of the Lease in question and that a refund of the survey fees paid be asked for.

Seconded by Cr Ross.

Carried.

Darlington Point School of Arts and Hall

The matter of the proposed erection of a School of Arts and Hall was again considered, the Architect Mr J H Robertson being present. After discussion and consultation with Mr Robertson:- Cr White moved that alternate tenders be invited:-

1. For building including Library and Reading Room;
2. For Hall only and that the Clerk again discuss the matter with Mr Robertson with a view of reducing the cost.

Seconded by President Lander.

Carried

14 October 1921

Tenders

The following tenders were received for the erection of a Hall at Darlington Point.

W S Baker & Sons	£1,720
T G Taylor	£1,700
A Hewitt	£1,635 and
Haynes and Dixon	£1,634

President Lander moved that the Council vote the sum of £1,634 for the erection of a Hall in Darlington Point and the tender of Messrs Haynes and Dixon at that price be accepted.

Seconded by Cr Ross.

Carried

9 December 1921

Inward Correspondence

From the Under Secretary for Lands forwarding litho and conditions of Council's Special Lease for Brick Kiln.

President Iander moved that the Department be asked to refund survey fees in connection with the lease as it had been decided that a survey was unnecessary and inform Pridmore that if he wishes to continue burning bricks he must pay £3/-/- rental for the year 1922.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

20 January 1922

General Business

Cr McBratney moved that the Architect for the Hall be asked to alter the plan by doing away with the partition in the vestibule and putting a collapsible iron gate at the entrance to the porch.

Seconded by Cr Ross.

Carried

10 February 1922

Inward Correspondence

Chubbs Australian Company stating that a collapsible gate had been ordered by Mr Robertson, Architect of Narrandera for the Council and same would be forwarded in a week's time.

Questions Without Notice

Cr White asked if the Council could not make some move to finalise the Soldiers' Memorial and with the consent of the Council moved "That a marble slab be placed in the new Hall with the names of all those who enlisted for active service in the Great War from the Murrumbidgee Shire and Darlington Point district, engraved thereon, and that subscribers to the original fund be informed of the action taken and that they be asked if they were agreeable to allow their donations to go towards the cost of the proposed marble slab in the Hall.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

10 March 1922

Inward Correspondence

Letters were received from Messrs James Boyd, H Beaumont, R E McGrath, E Gallagher and Mrs Turner, agreeing to their donations to the Soldiers' Memorial being used towards the proposed tablet in the new Hall at Darlington Point.

From Mr G Leighton stating that he was not in favour of giving his donation towards the proposed tablet to be erected in the new Hall as a Soldiers' Memorial.

Cr White moved that Mr Leighton be informed that the Council did not wish to interfere with any movement the public might take towards the erection of a memorial to our soldiers.

Seconded by President Ross.

Carried

Clerk's Report

The Clerk further reported that it will be necessary for the Council to take into consideration the matter of providing lighting and a piano for the Hall as the building is now nearing completion. Asking if the Council intended to place tablets in the two recesses in front of the Hall, if so the Contractors would like to know at once so that arrangements can be made before the plasterer further completes his work.

Haynes and Dixon, the Contractors, made a suggestion that the names of the last and present Presidents and the Clerk be placed on one side and the Architect and Contractors on the other side. The cost would be £16/-/- or £8/-/- each and if the Council decided to put both tablets in the Contractors would pay half the cost, viz £8/-/-.

In reference to the lighting the President stated that he had bought a new Quirk's Air Gas Plant at the Inglewood sale for £45/-/- subject to the approval of the Council. The plant was a 50 light and was purchased by James Campbell & Sons for £198/-/- and had never been removed from the cases.

Cr White moved that the action of the President be approved and that the sum of £45/-/- be voted for the Plant and a cheque for that amount be forwarded to the auctioneers.

Seconded by Cr Mackley.

Carried.

Cr White moved that the two marble tablets be erected in the recesses in the front wall of the Hall, with the names of President Lander, President Ross and the Shire Clerk Mr Conolly on one and the Architect Mr J S Robertson and the Contractors Messrs Haynes & Dixon on the other.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried.

Cr Lander moved that the matter of purchasing a piano for the hall be held over until next meeting to allow the President to make inquiries as to a suitable piano.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried.

13 April 1922

Inward Correspondence

From A J McAlister asking for the use of the Shire Hall when available.

Held over until rental for the Hall is fixed.

Messrs Hayne & Dixon wrote quoting for a marble slab to be erected in the vestibule of the new Hall with names of soldiers who enlisted the cost being £43/-/- Messrs Watkins Brothers also quoted for the same work at £53/15/-.

Cr White moved that the sum of £43/-/- be voted and the tender of Messrs Haynes & Dixon at that price be accepted.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

Overseer's Report

The Overseer reported that in reference to the new Hall that it was necessary for the Council to take into consideration the matter of lighting, the purchase of a piano and the opening of the Hall. The matter of the rental should also be fixed.

President Ross moved that the plant purchased by the Council being the Quirk's Air Gas be installed and the gas house be placed close to the hall and that the Modern Lighting Company be written to and asked to quote for the necessary piping and they be informed that their offer to install the plant is accepted.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

In reference to the piano the President reported that while in Sydney he and Mrs Ross had inspected several pianos and at Elvey & Cos a Lipp piano had been found which was considered the best value, the price being £130.

The Clerk pointed out that a sale was advertised to take place at Gree Gree near Hay on the 26th instant at which a Carl Eck piano was to be sold.

Cr Campbell moved that enquiries be made as to the condition of the piano to be sold at Gree Gree and if the information was satisfactory the matter be referred to Cr McBratney giving him authority to attend the sale and bid for the instrument and in the event of nothing being heard of the piano in question, that the Lipp piano inspected by the President be secured.

Seconded by Cr McBratney.

Carried

President Ross moved that the hall be opened in the afternoon and that the local baker be asked to quote a price per head for afternoon tea, with a guarantee of 150 persons and that tenders be called for the use of the Hall for the night, tenderers to state what form the entertainment will take.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

Cr White moved that the charges for the use of the Hall be fixed as follows:-

With use of piano all night £3/-/- , until midnight £2/-/-. These charges to apply to travelling shows even if the piano is not used. For meetings in the morning or afternoon 10/- at night until 12.00pm 20/-.

Seconded by Cr Ross.

Carried

President Ross moved that a licence be obtained for the Hall when the Architect gives final certificate that the building has been completed.

Seconded by Cr Campbell

Carried

12 May 1922

Questions Without Notice

Cr Mackley asked if the Parliamentary representatives for the District would be invited to the opening of the new Hall.

The Chairman Cr White suggested that the matter be held over until the matter of the Hall came up later on.

Hall matters were then dealt with

A letter was read from the Modern Lighting Co submitting a quotation for piping and fittings for gas plant.

President Ross stated that the Clerk forwarded him the letter and he found that the piping etc could be purchased at a lower price and he had ordered same from another firm.

Cr White moved a vote of thanks to the President and also that approval be given to the action taken.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

President Ross moved that the matter of arrangement for the fixing of the lighting be left in the Clerk's hands and that he be empowered to obtain the necessary material for a galvanised gas house.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

Two tenders were received for the use of the hall on the opening night. The Committee of the Presbyterian Church £21/-/- and the Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers League £4/-/-.

Cr McBratney moved that the Council accept no tender.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

Cr McBratney moved that the Council control the opening night and that a Concert and Ball be held the prices of admission to be fixed as follows: Concert only 2/6, Concert and Supper 5/-, Ball and Supper per Gentlemen 7/6 and Ladies 5/-, Concert, Ball and Supper Gentlemen 10/-, Ladies 7/6, Children under 14 years of age half price.

Seconded by Cr Ross.

Carried

President Ross moved that the opening of the Hall take place on the 5th June next at 6.30pm to be followed by a concert at 8pm and a ball at 10.30pm.

Seconded by Cr Mackley.

Carried

It was decided to advertise the function in the Local Papers and specially invite ratepayers to the opening ceremony at 6.30pm and to send complimentary tickets to Ex-Presidents Kook, Lander and Chant and all Councillors of the first Council, The Proprietors of the Riverine Grazier and Narrandera Argus, The Architect and Contractors, The Consulting Engineer, The Auditor, The Manager of the Australian Bank of Commerce, Whitton. That an invitation be sent to Mr H Kook the President of the first Council to open the Hall.

Cr White moved that the President and Cr Lander be empowered to arrange a sub-committee to carry out all arrangements in connection with the opening of the Hall.

Seconded Cr McBratney.

Carried

9 June 1922

Inward Correspondence

From Gordon Bros applying for the use of the Hall for a picture show on Saturday the 17th. instant and thereafter every alternate Saturday.

Cr White moved that Gordon Bros be informed that the Council is prepared to rent them the Hall for three months for every alternate Saturday from 17th. instant with the option of taking the Hall for twelve months payment to be made monthly in advance.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

From Miss Milthorpe applying for the use of the Hall from 2pm 'til 4pm on Tuesdays to Fridays each week for the giving of Music lessons.

President Ross moved that Miss Milthorpe be informed that she may have the use of the piano at the fixed price of 5/- per hour.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

From Charles Clarke & Son pointing out an error had been made in the Account submitted for gas fittings in which the discount had been shown as 10% off instead of 10% on.

From the Deputy Federal Taxation Commissioner stating that the concert and ball were to be held at the opening of the new Shire Hall on the 14th. instant had been registered under the Amusement Tax Act and that if exemption from tax was desired an application should be made. (The Clerk stated that he had applied for exemption)

Clerk's Reports

That the Architect had given a final certificate for the erection of the Shire Hall, and a voucher was submitted to the Finance Committee today. Recommending that an insurance cover be taken out on the hall and contents.

President Ross moved that the Clerk's Report be received and adopted and that the Hall and contents be insured with the Royal Insurance Company.

Seconded by Cr White.

Carried

The Architect and Contractor for the Hall attended the meeting at this stage and the extras in the erection were discussed. The total extras amounted to £131/17/0. After the accounts were gone into the extras were reduced by £13/10/-0.

President Ross moved that the extras in connection with the hall amounting to £118/7/0 be voted and added to the contract price.

Seconded by Cr Campbell.

Carried

14 July 1922

Inward Correspondence

Reverend Father Hartigan asking for the use of the Shire Hall for Divine Service once every six weeks. The Clerk stated that as no charge had been fixed for religious services he had communicated with the Present and acting under instructions, had informed Father Hartigan that the Hall would be available at a charge of 10/- for each service.

Cr Campbell moved that the action of the President be endorsed.

Seconded by Cr Lander.

Carried

From the Royal Insurance Company giving a cover against fire for the Shire Hall and contents for £2,600.

From the Chief Secretary, stating that Part 2 of the Theatre and Halls Act had been applied to the Murrumbidgee Shire, and enclosing licence for the Shire Hall at Darlington Point.

From Miss Millthorpe, Darlington Point, enclosing £1 for years rent of library at Shire Hall as arranged with the President, for the purpose of giving music lessons on four afternoons each week from the 1st August next. It was explained that Miss Millthorpe thought the charge for the Hall piano at 5/- per hour was too high and she would find her own piano if the Council would give her a room to keep same and give music lessons.

Cr Campbell moved that the President's action be endorsed.

Seconded by Cr McBratney.

Carried.