

Fiery Council meeting at Hunters Hill

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

An attempt by two Hunters Hill Liberal councillors to sack an independent election candidate from a local planning panel was shot down in a fiery exchange of words on Monday night.

Deputy Mayor Ben Collins and Liberal colleague Cllr Zac Miles proposed a motion at Monday's council meeting to sack independent candidate and Emeritus Mayor Richard Quinn from the local planning panel because he is an employee of St Joseph's Catholic College in Hunters Hill, which has a current stadium building project.

But the motion was withdrawn when Mr Quinn presented legal advice in his favour from the Hon David Lloyd QC and argued that he has no conflict of interest because the College project is "state significant" and is being determined by the state government, not the panel.

Mr Quinn then turned on the two Liberals.

Vicious attack on former mayor & Independent State candidate

"Either councillors Collins and Miles are totally ignorant of how the planning system works or their motive is a deliberate attempt to smear my reputation and the good standing of my workplace since the announcement that I intend to contest the seat of Lane Cove as an independent candidate and I believe it is the latter," he said.

"For years I and other councillors fought to keep petty party politics out of this council and what we are seeing now is petty party politics at its worst."

And it only got worse for the two Liberals when Mayor Mark Bennett lectured them on ethics.

"If you question a man's integrity you must be 100 per cent right," Mayor Bennett told them.

"And you are not right. You have made a mistake and people will remember this."

Emeritus Mayor Quinn last week quit the Liberal Party to run against Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts (Lib) but the two Liberal councillors claimed

their motion was motivated by a recent and allegedly "inappropriate" speech Mr Quinn made to the council in support of the College proposal.

"If you can't see that then I can't see what we're doing here!" Cllr Miles said.

Councillor Elizabeth Krassoi hit back at Cllr Miles and said she felt "ashamed and embarrassed" by the motion which Cllr Ross Williams described as an attempt to drag the reputation of one of Hunters Hill's leading citizens through the mud.

Councillor Justine McLaughlin later lashed out at the two Liberals for other "degrading" political motions.

"You're asking us to support a motion to condemn a Labor policy we haven't seen, you attack an independent candidate and you praise a Liberal MP for splashing the cash before an election," she said.

"These types of motions are beneath us!"

Historic 'Addington' Open Day This Sunday 2pm

