



Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
of
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
at
Lockhart River Council Chambers

Date:
Thursday 20th of February 2025

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher
Deputy Mayor Cr Alister Bowie
Cr Krystal Dean
Cr Steven Bally
Cr Dorothy Hobson

Apologies: Nil

Visitors: Nil

Opening and Venue: Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher opened the meeting at 10:50am.

Conflict of Interest: No new conflicts were reported at this point however Councilors were encouraged to review their circumstances and make amendments to their disclosures, as necessary.

Issue: **Minutes of the meeting of the 22nd Of January 2025 were tabled and discussed.**

Resolution 1: That the minutes of the meeting of the 22nd of January 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Cr S. Bally
All in favour

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie
Motion passed.

Issue: **Art Centre problems**

The CEO briefed Council on matters of concern from the Art Centre where he has been playing a guiding and interpretive role with current Directors. A visit by Forensic Auditors and Arts Queensland is still in progress. There appears to be a continued cloud over operations over the last couple of years under the leadership of the former Art Centre Coordinator. Many documents remain unaccounted for, and unsupported demands are being made. Debits of over \$500 000.00 have been revealed to date. The council will be kept informed as matters develop. The Office of the Regulator of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) has commenced formal charges on the Corporation for non-compliance focused on the failure of financial returns. Details to be provided in time.

Issue: **Financial Report for January 2025**

The Finance Report for January 2025 tabled and discussed with guidance from Stanley Mugwiria, Corporate Services Director. -

Resolution 2: That the Financial Report for January 2025 be accepted as tabled.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher
All in favour

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie
Motion passed.

Issue: **Civil Works update**

The council considered the coming dry season program as drafted by Black and More noting the program is again ambitious with Wachee to the Old Site turn off, Chuulangun Road and Pascoe south and north to be delivered. In addition is a significant road shoulder restoration project west of Garroway Crossing which requires a complexity currently beyond the Council's current workforce. The CEO recommended that the Council look seriously at combining this work with the reseal of the town streets and take the combined project to market under a single tender. The council noted that additional work may come available pending on successful funding submissions and the Cape York Regional Package announcement.

Issue: **Community Safety Plan**

Council was briefed by Rick Dutton on progress with the Community Safety Plan which now includes AMP amendment survey results. Good discussion took place as Council provided their opinion on approach and the need to not allow alcohol management to be the sole focus of the plan. It should encompass all community risks and solutions to manage them. Mayor Butcher thanked Mr Dutton for the update.

Issue: **Church maintenance and retail proposal**

Council was addressed by Fr Mathias in relation to repairs necessary to the church and the proposal to re-establish Jamie's Shop as a retail and food outlet. Council asked Building Services Director, Regis Edmond, to work with Fr Mathias on a scope of works from which costings could be derived. On the re-establishment of Jamie's Shop, Council requested Bishop Kieth be involved to ensure there was local, Parish based, part ownership in any new commercial model going forward. CEO to write to Bishop Kieth on the matter to progress the project. The council noted minimal community benefit financially from past, Diocese based ownership models. Mayor Butcher thanked Fr Mathias for his work with community and the discussion.

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- Issue:** **Social Club activities**
- The council continues to support the Social Club Board and Management but raise the matter of their supply chain management and over reliance on Sea Swift freight for packaged products, and the CEQ store for basic food and soft drink supply. Investigation on alternative freight routes and high volume purchasing prior to the wet season needs to be considered. CEO to continue to work with the Manager and Board on efficiencies.
- Issue:** **Housing 10-year Capital Works Plan update and associated Housing matters**
- The council was updated on the Capital Works Program and other housing matters by Reggie Edmond and the CEO. The ambitious program highlighted the need for the recruitment of more tradesmen to drive delivery and train our apprenticeship intake. The CEO advised the Department of Housing was currently hold weekly Teams Meetings with Council staff on the funding agreement and capital program to support the first three houses being delivered on the new sub-division this dry season.
- Issue:** **Proposed housing tenancies**
- Proposed housing tenancies and nominations to go on the Lockhart housing list as provided by the Tenancy Management Team were discussed and endorsed.
- Issue:** **Women’s issues**
- Cr Krystal Dean gave a short snapshot of what was happening around Lockhart for the ladies with the focus on events planned for International Women’s Day on the 7th of March, and collaborative efforts to continue with the successful NAIDOC Ball event of last year. Cr Dean and others will advise Council on support required to make this year’s event a success.
- Issue:** **Visitor Centre and Ranger Base proposal**
- Council was approached by the Member for Cook, David Kempton MP, to put forward a project of between \$3m and \$5m for consideration for funding from saving made from the collapse of the Pathway to Treaty funds. The council proposed a Visitor Centre and Ranger Base be constructed at the entrance to town and forwarded to him a concept brief for consideration. A building of this nature would provide a focal point for all visitors and a home for Council’s new Ranger service.
- Issue:** **School Hours**
- The principal of the Lockhart River State School made submission to the Council to have school finish at 1:30pm on Fridays to better dovetail with the working hours of most Lockhart River institutions. The proposal calls for the hours lost on

Friday would be used to expand the hours during the week. Council considered the proposal and requested Principal Kathy come to the next Council meeting to talk to the change firsthand. The CEO to extend her an invitation to attend the next meeting.

Issue:

Town Plan review

CEO advised Council the review of our Town Plan was due noting this must happen every 10 years. A grant of \$100K has been secured to underwrite the costs of formal review. RPS has been awarded the review project and will seek Council's views on future housing and infrastructure needs and aspirations going forward. This process should capture new sub-divisions, rural residential housing options, aged care provisions, industrial and recreation areas to be developed into the future.

Issue:

Cemetery

The cemetery is becoming unkept. The council proposes a clean-up be held on the last Friday of every month led by the Parks and Gardens team supported by Cape York Employment. All volunteers welcome.

A broader issue is the cemetery will unfortunately need to expand soon. Any expansion should consider installing a lockable shed to accommodate chairs/marquees, wheelbarrows, and shovels etc, the installation of toilets, and a generic water supply for greening purposes. This project may lend itself to being driven by the Technical Working Group as it will require independent funding to deliver. The CEO to put the project on the TWG agenda noting a meeting is scheduled for mid-May.

Issue:

Light vehicle replacement

The council has constantly struggled to effectively and efficiently manage the light vehicle fleet currently dominated by Hi-Lux 4WDs. Council considered the matter and recommended that, on changeover, Council move away from light vehicles and move to four door light trucks. Parks and Gardens, Road Gang, and Workshop will now look to 4WD light Trucks going forward.

Issue:

Paytham Malkari Festival 2025

The council discussed the matter considering Laura festival not proceeding and decided this year's festival will be held on the 3rd and 4th of October. Steering Committee to be convened as soon as possible to allocate tasks and responsibilities.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 1:40pm.