

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE
COUNCIL

ABN 55 631 460 952



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council held on 21st January 2015

Present Cr. Wayne Butcher – Mayor
Cr. Norman Bally
Cr. Rebecca Elu
Cr. Paul Piva
Cr. Veronica Piva

Mr. David Clarke; Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Dora Accoom; Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Opening The meeting was declared open by Cr Wayne Butcher at 10:55 am

1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

3. ISSUES

3.1 Minutes of meeting held 17 December 2014

Resolution 1: That subject to the amendment noting the apologies of the Deputy CEO Dora Accoom, the minutes of that meeting is accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Cr. P Piva

Seconded: Cr W Butcher

All in favour: Motion passed

3.2 Air Service

Council was briefed on tomorrow's presentation in Cairns by Hinterland Aviation, Rex Aviation (Regional Express), and West Wing. The information provided is proposed to place the Councils of Cape York in an informed position to make a decision on the air services the Cape receives. Lockhart council has requested Stanley Mugwiria to attend as its representative who will report.

3.3 Visits

Visits by David Kempton MP (Electioneering), Member for Cook and Hon Nigel Scullion, Cwth Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs tomorrow. Council agreed to flag the following items for discussion with Minister Scullion; Mail Service, Airline Service, Airfares, Peninsula Development Road investment and business potential, Education data access, Aerodrome drainage works funding, Commonwealth Empowerment proposal, and funding for the township ILUA.

3.4 Community Bus

It is noted that the Community Bus is running around often with few or no passengers. The CEO advised he will implement a 7:30 to 1:00pm roster for the bus.

3.5 Legal matter Claudia Sauerland

The CEO briefed Council on developments on this action taken by the former employee.

3.6 Housing issues

Council discussed the emergence of home ownership in its various forms including via the Aboriginal Land Holding Act, leasehold purchase and freehold purchase. Particular attention was paid to the capacity of the *Nyiimuchin Village* sub-division to support home ownership. The impacts on Council's cash flow and risk profile were discussed in broad terms with a commitment to continued monitoring. Cr Bally spoke of the need to communicate better with the community on housing and proposed a housing specific newsletter be drafted for distribution to help explain this complex subject to the broader community. The CEO and Cr Bally committed to present a draft Newsletter to Council at the next meeting. The recent reactivation of the community radio system provides another communications option to help with community understanding. Additional equipment to allow community interviews to be broadcast will further assist all communications.

3.7 Council reflection on performance and agenda setting for the last twelve months of the Local Government term

Cr Bally requested Council undertake a review of its activities during the term with a view to reaffirming priorities for the final year of the term. The concept was supported with possible dates to be discussed at the next meeting.

3.8 Church working bee

Cr Veronica Piva reported significant damage to the church through natural deterioration, termites, and kids with rocks. She proposed a working bee be called to target necessary repairs. She also informed Council of \$20 000 originally allocated to repairs of which \$8000 should still remain.

Resolution 2: That a building inspection be conducted by the Building Services Division to assess necessary repairs required to bring the church back to reasonable repair.

Moved: Cr. N Bally

Seconded: Cr W Butcher

All in favour: Motion passed

3.9 Engineering Services Division compliance and productivity

The CEO relayed the risk the underperforming Engineering Services division was exposing Council to. Significant “out of scope” works and subsequent unapproved expenditure well in excess of financial delegation by the Director have put Council at financial risk of at least \$150 000.00 should the Queensland Reconstruction Authority deem these unapproved works ineligible and therefore not claimable. The CEO and Finance Director, Stanley Mugwiria, were required to both dedicate significant time and resources to progress claims which should have been completed by the Director Engineering Services over the Christmas period. On multiple occasions the Director Engineering Services has failed to meet critical deadlines or comply with lawful instructions to perform reasonable tasks. The CEO was requested to continue to investigate and monitor the matter and take whatever action was required to restore functionality to the division.

3.10 Financial Report for the month of December 2014

The Financial Reports for December were tabled and discussed.

Resolution 3: That the Financial Report for the month of December 2014 be accepted as tabled noting the cash flow risk caused by poor management of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority interface by the Engineering Services Division.

Moved: Cr. W Butcher

Seconded: Cr R Elu

All in favour: Motion passed

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Donations

Resolution 4: That Council donates \$1000.00 as a contribution to funeral expense of the late H. Rocky in accordance with council donations policy.

Moved: Cr. R Elu

Seconded: Cr V Piva

All in favour: Motion passed

5. MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by Mayor Cr. Wayne Butcher at 4:50 pm