

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 55 631 460 952



Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council at the Council Chambers, Maathvuy ST Lockhart River.

Date: Wednesday 28th October 2020

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cr Wayne Butcher (Mayor)
Cr Dorothy Hobson (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Karen Koko
Cr Norman Bally
Cr Allistair Bowie

Mayor Butcher opened the meeting at 10:00 am

Conflict of Interest: Mayor called for any conflicts of interest to be declared. No new declarations were made.

Mayor Butcher emphasized the need to be constantly reviewing declarations to make sure everything is included and recorded in the relevant registers including related parties.

Issue: Minutes of the meeting of 29 September 2020

Minutes for the meeting of the 29th of September were tabled and discussed in detail.

Resolution 1: That the minutes for the meetings of 29th September 2020 be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr. K. Koko **Seconded:** Cr. D. Hobson
All in favor motion passed

Issue:

Mayor thanked all parties for their up-date and work on the respective projects.

Issue: Cr Koko asked for an update on the Basics Card/Cashless Card. Options are available but they are whole of community or nothing. The state government has moved away from the Family Responsibilities Commission option which is good but costly. Justice Group focus must be reinvigorated. It was decided to seek external help to assist community better understand how the card works and the implications for users should they sign up. The possibility of using the Community Safety Planning consultants was discussed.

Issue: Justice matters – protocols from Probation and Parole for early release of inmates back into Lockhart.

Council discussed the recent sad incidents that occurred over the weekend including the unprovoked attack on the School Teacher. It raised two important questions:

- 1. Why is it that of the three bad things that happened over the weekend, only the incident involving the Teacher were raised by the media? and*
- 2. Why had Probation and Parole not had a discussion with the Council or Justice Group prior to sending an early release dangerous parolee who had not lived in Lockhart for most of his life back to Lockhart?*

Council discussed these matters at length and decided to seek clarification from Probation and Parole on their communications protocols and obligations to Community where a parolee, with a known violent history, is being re-introduced to community. Council also noted the coverage of the incident involving the Teacher from the Cairns Post was unfortunately typical of their commitment to bad news Indigenous community stories.

Resolution 2: That Council write to Probation and Parole seeking clarification of their re-entry into community protocols for parolees with a violent history.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher
All in favour

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie
Motion carried

Issue: DOGIT Day celebrations

Council discussed the celebration of the day when traditional lands within the Lockhart Shire were officially returned to local ownership. It was agreed to support the event with a BBQ at the beach coordinated and resourced through the Community Development division. Com Dev Director Dominic Stower to lead preparations.

Issue: Audit Closing Report and Annual Financial Statements.

The Mayor tabled the Audit Closing Report previously discussed with external auditors and the Audit Committee on the 27th of October, 2020. Mayor Butcher noted that, although there were a couple of minor issues raised on risk management systems and significant project review, the Executive and Corporate Services team had performed very well under the pressure of a record level of transactions. He commended the team for their achievement of twelve (12) unmodified audits in succession.

Issue: The Annual Financial Statements for the Council and Aerodrome Company FY 2019/2020 were tabled and discussed in detail. Council continues to perform strongly financially and carries sufficient cash reserves to cushion against most unplanned eventualities.

Resolution 3: That Council accepts the Annual Financial Statements for the financial year 2019 – 2020 for both Council and the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher

Seconded:

Cr K. Koko

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Township ILUA update

Council discussed the issues besetting progress on the ILUA along with ramifications for projects requiring land access. Council re-committed to continue to help the Nyiimuchin Kanthanumpu Aboriginal Corporation and the Cape York Land Council progress the agreement at an accelerated rate to ensure project delivery. Council did note the recent break-through of the formal changing of Directors and preparations for bank account establishment.

Issue: Finance Report for September 2020

After repeated attempts with compromised communications, it was agreed to hold over the discussion and acceptance of the September Finance Report to the next meeting. The Mayor encouraged Councilors to read the report provided by the CEO and bring any queries to the next meeting where the matter will be fully discussed. The CEO committed to look into alternative and improved communication options with the Cairns Office.

Issue: Council workforce Christmas closure

Council considered the closure and confirmed Friday the 18th of December until Monday January the 4th 2021 as the formal closure period. Council web-site and social media will compliment traditional poster displays around town advertising the closure. CEO to discuss skeleton crew arrangements with the workforce to keep basic services open.

Issue: Cr Koko report

Cr Koko noted several intrusions into the area at the rear of the Workshop by people looking for vehicle parts and kids using quad-bikes on the Council stockpiles.

Issue: Deputy Mayor Cr Hobson requested that Council road plant be allocated to fix the road to Nylitji and to out-stations the top side of Chillie Beach. CEO committed to scheduling plant once the road work commitments were complete.

Issue: Cr Bowie asked that the new shed at the beach have a cement slab poured under it and tables and chairs installed. CEO committed to getting pricing for same.

Issue: Cr Bally requested that a whiteboard is made available at all future public meetings to ensure discussions are accurately mapped and commitments documented.

Issue: Mayor Butcher requested all Councilors make themselves available to attend the next Torres and Cape Mayor's Alliance meeting in Cairns on the 2nd and 3rd of December. He also requested the next Council meeting be scheduled while all Councilors are available in Cairns. Date to be confirmed.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 4:35pm