

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, Maathuuy ST Lockhart River.

Date: Monday 12th of May 2021 (April meeting)

MINUTES

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

Absent: nil

Mayor Butcher opened the meeting at 10:20 am

Issue: Apologies Cr Karen Koko

Conflict of Interest: Mayor called for any conflicts of interest to be declared. Mayor Butcher discussed his intent to exercise his option for another five years under current Trustee Permit agreement over the site formally referred to as Putchiwu Fishing. The CEO provided all Councilors with a copy of the agreement for their consideration. The matter was not discussed allowing Councilors to give due care and consideration on the matter until the next meeting.

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 29th March 2021

Minutes for the meeting of the meeting of the 29th of March 2021 were tabled and discussed in detail.

Resolution 1: That the minutes for the meetings of 29th of March 2021 be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr. A. Bowie **Seconded:** Cr. N. Bally

All in favor motion passed

Issue: Sports Field redevelopment project

Council was provided with an update on the Sports Field re-development project. Costs are starting to mount up and some prioritization has to be done to keep

within budget. Underground irrigation will be replaced by above ground and sources of correct grass bedding material will be identified as a priority noting the Yellow Sand failed the specification test. Course river sand is required. Yarramin Creek and Little Mosquito creek will be investigated to provide supply subject to Traditional owner approval.

Issue: Quarantine support for HR officer Maureen Semei

Council received a request, through the CEO, from Maureen Semei for Council to financially assist her with mandatory hotel quarantine costs on her return from her home on Manus Island. Council noted her mother has been ill in hospital since before Christmas. Council noted the dedicated service she has provided to the Council and community of Lockhart River during her tenure.

Resolution 2: That Council approve a sum of \$2800.00 to support the mandatory quarantine costs of HR Officer Maureen Semei on her return to Australia from PNG.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher
All in favour

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie
Motion carried

Issue: Local Laws

Council discussed the need to ensure local laws adopted allow for the good governance of the shire and meet the needs and expectations of the citizens of Lockhart River. Model law No.1 Administration was tabled as was Model law No.7 Indigenous Community Land Management. Both were discussed in detail.

Resolution 3: That Model Law No.1 – Administration and Model Law No.7 – Indigenous Community Land Management be adopted by Council.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher

Seconded:

Cr A. Bowie

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Community Safety Plan

The community Safety Plan was developed collegiately with the community by consultant Ric Dutton. Council discussed the detail and the relationship between this plan and the Liquor License permit application process. There is ample opportunity to amend the Plan as required to better accommodate new and emerging issues as they occur.

Resolution 4: That the draft Community Safety Plan be adopted by Council as tabled.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher Seconded: Cr K. Koko
All in favour Motion passed

Issue: Finance Report for March 2021

The Finance Report for March 2021 was tabled and discussed in detail with the Corporate Services Director, Stanley Mugwiria, dialing in.

Resolution 5: That the Finance Report for March 2021 be accepted as tabled.

Moved: Cr D. Hobson Seconded: Cr N. Bally
All in favour Motion passed

Issue: Visitors Building Services Director – Regis Edmond

Reggie provided Council with an update of his building Services Team. He noted the delays in new housing as Council seeks to re-direct funding into the construction of a new sub-division. He also advised of a significant fencing project focused on Education Department property at the school and teaching residences. With the unfortunate incident late last year, this contract will need to be delivered extremely professionally as it will attract a lot of third party scrutiny. He is keeping an eye on progress of our younger members with a view to apprenticeships noting Mick Gooda advised a significant maintenance program will be locked in over seven years. Mayor Butcher thanked Reggie for his work and the update.

Issue: Continued safety issues with kids on quad bikes

Councilors discussed the on-going risk associated with unregulated use of quad bikes. Mayor Butcher noted the LR Police were starting to be more proactive on this matter but more needed to be done.

Issue: Local Disaster Management Plan

The CEO tabled the recently revised Local Disaster Management Plan advising the review was mandatory as the plan had not been amended since 2014. The draft updated membership, technology changes, new plant available for deployment, and new policies and procedures now in place.

Resolution 6: That the Local Disaster Management Plan be adopted by Council and referred to the Local Disaster Management Group for their consideration.

Moved: Cr. D. Hobson Seconded: Cr N. Bally
All in favour Motion Passed

Issue: Funeral fund Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

Council continued the discussion on the lack of a uniform approach for funeral support during times of need. This is causing significant financial stress to families, Traditional owners, and Council. Council requested an invitation be sent to a number of providers of funeral insurance to make sure community members had some coverage to assist them in their time of need.

Issue: Public Meetings

Councilors advised the public are requesting more open forum to be used for Public Meetings. Mayor agreed conditional that speakers come to a central microphone position and not yell out from the side.

Issue: Cooktown and Laura Festivals

That the bus be prepared in advance to transport dancers and that Council support preparation and limited additional travel to support Lockhart dancers in their performance.

Issue: Visitors Norma and Lucy Hobson re Katter lease area

Both addressed Council complaining that the area of their Katter lease was inconsistent with their memories of the size of their old house block. Council provided them copies of the current town plan which described the block and committed to request DATSIP for a copy of the original KATTER lease application and associated description of the land.

Issue: Cr Koko's report

Cr Koko advised the Justice Group had been successful in attracting an additional \$150K to combat domestic and family violence. The Justice Group was putting together a proposal on the best way to make use of this important opportunity.

Mayor Butcher thanked Cr Koko for her work with the Justice Group and her report.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 4:45pm