

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: Thursday 27th January 2022

MINUTES

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

Visitors: Director of Nursing Josh Stafford
Com Dev A/Director Margie Barnes
Justice Group Coordinator Ross Norman

Opening and Venue: Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher opened the meeting at 10:40 am at Lockhart Council Chambers

Issue: **Apologies. Council noted no apologies received or necessary**

Conflict of Interest:

Mayor called for any conflicts of interest to be declared.

The Mayor reminded the elected members the need to update their registers of interests and related party disclosures regularly as and when their circumstances change.

Issue: **Minutes of the meeting of the 7th of December 2021**

Minutes for the meeting of the meeting of the 7th of December 2021 were tabled and discussed in detail.

Resolution 2: That the minutes for the meetings of the 7th of December 2021 be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr. A. Bowie Seconded: Cr. D. Hobson
All in favor motion passed

Issue: **Visitor – Director of Nursing Josh Stafford – Covid update**

Director of nursing, Josh Stafford, combined with Council Health portfolio lead, Cr Karen Koko, to brief Council on the latest Covid activity in Lockhart as below:

- 54 cases have been diagnosed over all in Lockhart at the time of this meeting;
- There are currently 11 active cases;

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- Two have been hospitalized in Cairns with one in intensive care;
 - Houses continue to be locked down to help prevent the virus spreading to our sick and old people;
 - Our high community vaccination rates are helping prevent people becoming proper sick with the virus;
 - The Clinic will keep working closely with Council to get the right messages out encouraging everyone to get their booster shots;
 - Council may have to provide emergency food support to those in lockdown who cannot go shopping.

Mayor Butcher reinforced the need to encourage the booster shots and the need to keep our old and sick away from the treat of Covid. He thanked Josh for the briefing and congratulated Cr Koko on her recent recognition by the RFDS as a “Local Hero”.

Issue: Visitor – Com Dev A/Director – Margie Barnes

Margie briefed Council on Com Dev matters including the recent performance Audit of the Women’s Shelter, Youth at Risk Program, and Men’s Group as below:

- ❖ The Audit of the above services delivered its findings. As a result Council has developed 18 new policies to address matters raised with these services for Council to consider and adopt;
- ❖ A new operational framework has been developed for the Women’s Shelter with forms customized for Lockhart use;
- ❖ A maintenance Audit will be done on the service in March 2023 to assess how good these new measures are;
- ❖ A new lease agreement over the shelter needs to be negotiated by the 23rd of May 2022 noting the CEO, Margie and Ethel will work on this together;
- ❖ Council may need the Government Champion, Warwick Agnew, to assist with lobbying for a major renovation of tis building owned by the Department of Housing;
- ❖ Council needs to think about succession planning of the management of both the Women’s Shelter and HACCC to keep the services operating well.

Mayor Butcher asked to be kept in the loop on the renovation bid and thanked Margie for her briefing.

Issue: Visitor – Ross Norman – Social Club update

Ross provided an update on progress towards getting the Social Club open and operating as below:

- Liquor License for the Social Club is expected in the next week or so. This is needed before any alcohol can be ordered;
- Proposed trading hours for alcohol are Wednesday and Thursday 5:00pm to 9:30pm. Friday and Saturday 5:00pm to 10:00pm. This will be reviewed once the Club is up and running and will be adjusted where needed;

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- Initial discussions on price point puts beer at \$8.50/\$9.00 per unit and wine at \$10.00 unit;
 - Security officers have received their training but need to then apply for their licenses to be employed in that role. This normally takes two months;
 - People have also been trained in Responsible Service of Alcohol and Safe Food Handling;
 - 200 membership cards have been issued noting members can credit their cards and use them like a debit card to purchase products at the club.

Mayor asked for an approximate opening date and a loose target of the 25th of February was advised. Mayor thanked Ross for his briefing.

Issue: Cultural Precinct, football oval refurbishment and next year's CYRP schedule of works

The Cultural Precinct needs heavy focus to meet the June 30 delivery deadline for phase 1. The need to redo the drainage levels is particularly frustrating and speaks to a lack of leadership and technical capacity by the job Manager. This failure should not be seen as a failure of our Lockhart operators who were only working to instructions. Council notes the Football field also had to be redone to the required design and the CYRP delivery this year fell well short of expectations. This year's dry season CYRP works will need to carefully consider how they will be delivered and need to take into account any personnel changes this may require. Consultant Engineers, Black and More, are assembling a draft works program for presentation to Council prior to the construction season commencing.

Issue: Finance report for the period ended 31st December 2021 – Stanley Mugwiria

The Director of Corporate Services presented finance report for the 6 months period ended 31st December 2021 that was tabled and discussed.

Resolution 3: That the finance report for December 2021 is noted.

Moved: Cr D. Hobson
All in favour

Seconded: Cr N. Bally
Motion carried

Issue: Cook Shire Council Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The CEO tabled a draft MOU with Cook Shire that would govern cooperative arrangements for QRA road works between the two shires on the main access road to Portland Roads and Lockhart River. It is underpinned by the need to harmonize the approach to the road ensuring maximum overland freight and efficient and timely repairs are carried out. It also acknowledges Lockhart Shire is best placed to manage the remedial repairs under DRFA arrangements given our proximity and plant availability. Black and More and QRA have both had input into the draft.

Issue: Visitor Regis Edmond – Building Services Director

Reggie provided Council with a briefing on his challenges focusing on the difficult recruitment environment for carpenters at the moment. He noted our ability to deliver our construction program “in house” is ruled by our ability to recruit and retain carpenters. It is disappointing our locally trained tradesmen don’t seem that interested in staying in the trade.

Reggie’s concerns were noted by Council who committed to continue to grow Lockhart talent where ever possible. Mayor thanked him for his attendance.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 3.00pm.