

# LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 55 631 460 952

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## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council at the Lockhart River Council Chambers.

**Date: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2023**

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## MINUTES

**Present:** Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher  
Cr Dorothy Hobson – Deputy Mayor  
Cr Karen Koko  
Cr Norman Bally  
Cr Allister Bowie

**Visitors:**

**Opening and Venue:** Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher opened the meeting at 10:15

**Conflict of Interest:**

Mayor called for any conflicts of interest to be declared. No new conflicts advised

**Issue:** **Minutes of the meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2023**

Minutes for the meeting of the meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 were tabled and discussed in detail.

**Resolution 1:** That the minutes for the meetings of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 be adopted as tabled.

**Moved:** Cr K. Koko **Seconded:** Cr D. Hobson

**All in favour**

**Motion passed**

**Issue:** **Visitor – Erin Mathews – PhD student Melbourne University**

Erin introduced herself to Council and talked about her intended research, which is focused on the archiving of our Communities Cultural Heritage data base in a way that allows best access to people from Lockhart and continues to protect family information. Her studies are not on the information contained on the data-base but in how it is arranged. She was advised to work with Father Thompson, Johanne Omeeny, and Debbie Casari on the matter and to hold information sessions about her intended studies with all our language groups, land trusts, and PBC's. Note, that Father Thompson is the current administrator for the data-base and not Council.

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**Issue: Visitor – Emma Schu, Puuya Foundation CEO, and Kathy Ona, Principal Lockhart River State School.**

Emma briefed Council on the proposed new Day Care Centre to be built on or near the site of the old Feeding Centre. This investment is being underpinned by a generous philanthropic donation from the Cripps Foundation and will be designed for 20 places initially using a modular design. Mayor thanked Emma for her briefing and continued good work.

Kathy briefed Council on the formation of a new Education Board and advised there will be a community education forum scheduled for mid-next term. Council expressed their concern for the number of high school kids not entering the boarding school system and relying on an under resourced high school offer here in Lockhart. Kathy confirmed attendance rates are low. All parties agreed to work together with the Justice Group and community leaders to address the matter.

**Issue: Community Safety Planning and Hot Grog Strategy**

Council has reviewed the Community Safety Plan and has now referred the matter to the Justice Group, Men’s Group, and Women’s Group for their input. A critical date will be the commencement of duties in the Community Development Director, Jamie Love in the second week of September. Council notes the intended recruitment of a Police Liaison Officer and the male Justice Support Officer position to give more structure to the Justice/Mediation space.

**Issue: Cultural Precinct project – 1<sup>st</sup> Festival date change to 23-25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

Council was advised by Cr Dorothy Hobson she has stood down as Chair of Kawadji Wimpa with Simon Butcher taking over. Cr Hobson committed to continue to work with the Mayor, CEO, and the new Kawadji Wimpa board to get the proposed event organized in time. At this point, the intention is to invite three visiting dance teams to join with two from Lockhart for the event. Groote Eyland, Pormpuraaw, and maybe NPA would be targeted. Mayor and Deputy Mayor both noted it will take a concerted effort from all Community interest groups to organize and make the event a success. The preparation and organization for the festival will rely heavily on Kawadji Wimpa being active and functional as they will be guiding the process.

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**Issue: Flying Minute of the 31<sup>st</sup> of July – Annual Financial Statements**

**Discussion and acceptance of the draft Annual Financial Statements for the 2022 – 2023 Financial Year.**

Draft Annual Financial Statements for the 2022 – 2023 Financial Year were circulated electronically to all Councilors for discussion and comment.

**Resolution 2:** That the Flying Minute confirming the draft Annual Financial Statements for the 2022 – 2023 Financial Year is noted and confirmed.

**Moved:** Cr W. Butcher                      **Seconded:** Cr D. Hobson

**All in favour**

**Motion passed**

**Issue: Meetings pending – Mayor advised of the following and called for Councilors to nominate for attendance representing Council;**

- TORCH 31<sup>st</sup> August & 1<sup>st</sup> September in Cairns;
- TCICA 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of September in Cairns;
- LGAQ Annual General Meeting at Gladstone 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Issue: Women’s Group meeting feedback – Cr Karen Koko**

Cr Koko briefed Council on Women’s Group activities with more functions planned including a ladies get together tomorrow night at the KK Centre. She is hoping the group will build more momentum from there and plan events together going forward. Note the Women’s Centre is still being renovated and is off-line.

**Issue: Invoices requiring Council endorsement as per Council’s financial delegation structure**

Requisition number 61361 (Sub-Division) total cost	FB Luke (trading as Milik Pty Ltd) dated 21/08/23	\$6714461.37
Requisition number 61632	Bowyer Group (Quarry) dated 23/08.23	\$1541714.75
FB Luke (trading as Milik Pty Ltd) Claim 1 against req 61361		\$834114.07

Council considered and approved these financial arrangements be endorsed.

**Issue: Isaac Hobson Field – Official opening**

The official opening is now planned for 10 November. Invitations to visiting teams need to be considered along with an events plan for the carnival. There will be a necessity to invite all funding contributors and get as much sponsorship from suppliers as we can get. Ceo to write to suppliers seeking event sponsorship.

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**Issue: Financial Reports for July 2023**

The Finance Reports for July 2023 was tabled and discussed with interpretative analysis from Stanley Mugwiria.

**Resolution 3:** That the Finance Reports for July 2023 be accepted as tabled.

Moved: Cr K. Koko

Seconded: Cr N. Bally

All in favour

Motion passed

**Issue:** Interim Audit Reports for the Council and the Aerodrome Company were tabled and discussed noting the accounts of both have been accepted without modification for the 13<sup>th</sup> time in a row. The treat of cyber security remains along with the difficulties separating decision making from financial approvals at the Aerodrome. Audit remains satisfied Council is doing everything it can to resolve both matters. Mayor thanked the executive team for their work on both delivery and accountability.

**Issue: The Internal Audit Progress Report was tabled and discussed.**

**Issue: The minutes of the Audit Committee were tabled for noting.**

**Issue: The Revenue Statement for Council was tabled and considered by Council.**

**Resolution 4:** That the Revenue Statement be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr K. Koko

Seconded: Cr A. Bowie

All in favour

Motion passed

**Issue: Budget for the 2023 2024 Financial Year – Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council**

The Council draft budget for the 2023 – 2024 Financial Year was tabled and discussed. It was noted there is very little capacity for self-funded capital expenditure during this year which will prove testing at times. This will place a further focus on Council's ability to attract capital funds from funding bodies for critical infrastructure.

**Resolution 5:** That the budget be adopted as tabled noting capital expenditure of \$100 000 notionally allocated to the sewerage ponds will be held over until the next financial year.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher

Seconded: Cr D. Hobson

All in favour

motion passed

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**Issue: Budget 2023 – 2024 financial Year – Lockhart River Aerodrome Company**

The draft budget for the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company was tabled and discussed by a chorum of Board members.

**Resolution 6:** That the budget for the financial year 2023 – 2024 for the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Director Norman Bally                      Seconded: Director Wayne Butcher

Motion passed all in favour

**Issue: Lockhart River Men’s Group – budget and recruitment**

The Council was briefed by the CEO on the successful bid to expand the funding for the Men’s Group. This new funding level would provide an ideal opportunity to expand the scope of the existing role and integrate it better with the Justice Group, and Women’s Group activities. The Men’s Group should get together to help shape the new, expanded position description before recruiting into the Coordinator vacancy. The new Community Development Director will lead this process once he commences duties on ground in Lockhart.

**There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 3:15pm.**