

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 55 631 460 952



Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council at the Lockhart River Cairns Office.

November & December meeting

Date: Thursday 14th of December 2023

(N.B.) Council made the conscious decision to push back the November meeting to allow all resources to focus on the preparation and delivery of the inaugural Paytham Malkari Festival held 23rd to 25th November. This was a landmark occasion for Lockhart being the 50th anniversary of the original dance festive held on the same site in 1973. All available resources were needed to complete an exhaustive scope of works in time noting the Premier, the Hon Anastasia Palaszczuk, officially opened the event and it was considered by all a resounding success.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Cr Wayne Butcher – Limited dial in from Lockhart de-mobilising plant
Cr Dorothy Hobson – Deputy Mayor – Acting Mayor – Cairns Office
Cr Karen Koko – Present Cairns Office
Cr Norman Bally – Limited dial in from Cooktown due to TC Jasper
Cr Allister Bowie – Present in Cairns Office

Visitors: nil

Opening and Venue: Deputy Mayor, Cr Dorothy Hobson, opened the meeting at 11:50

Conflict of Interest: No new conflicts to declare.

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

Issue: **Minutes of the meeting of the 5th of October 2023.**

Minutes for the meeting of the meeting of the 5th of October 2023 were tabled and discussed in detail.

Resolution 1: That the minutes for the meetings of the 5th of October 2023 be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr D. Hobson **Seconded:** Cr A. Bowie

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Men's Group activities

The Men's Group has been building momentum under the guidance of new Community Services Director, Jamie Love. They are planning a range of events over the Christmas period and into 2024. We need to continue to build momentum with this service.

Issue: **Paytham Maklari Festival**

Councilors discussed the recent dance festival and deemed it an outstanding success. It brought the community together well and actively encouraged cultural pride and expression. Council congratulated the volunteers on their tireless work preparing and delivering good food across all three nights. The commitment to hold an annual festival

on the second weekend of each September school holidays going forward was supported. Next time Council will encourage stronger with Kawadji Wimpa to lead the process with possible support of a short term event manager and technical support person for sound/lighting etc. The possibility of a Event Committee was discussed. The volunteers could not be faulted but better planning would remove the last minute panic from the delivery of the event. Completing the camping grounds sites will bring them on-line for more event tourists next year noting the site still needs landscaping and actual camping site definition. Council will also seek feedback from the broader community on the event and how we can improve the delivery next year.

Issue: Councilors were reminded that in order to seek office again at the March 24 elections, all candidates must have completed the “So you want to be a Councilor” course. Note also Council goes into Caretaker mode from January 29th 2024.

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

Cr Koko briefed Council on Women’s Group activities including the survey that is currently being conducted among the women of Lockhart. Council noted the renovations at the Shelter have now been completed and it is once again available to operate at full capacity. Focus in recent times has been on preparing for the Paytham Malkari Festival however a Christmas event is planned for the Women of Lockhart.

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

FB Luke (trading as Milik Pty Ltd) certified by Black and More \$1.2 million

Council considered and approved this payment be endorsed.

Resolution 2: That the payments to FB Luke trading as Milik Pty Ltd for \$1.2 million be approved for payment.

Moved: Cr K. Koko
All in favour

Seconded: Cr D. Hobson

Issue: Finance and Audit

The Final Management letters for both Council and the Aerodrome Company were tabled and discussed noting QAO views on our compliance levels. Once again, the Administrative team have delivered an unmodified Audit for both entities and Lockhart is retaining it’s strong record for financial management compliance. The excellent work of the Corporate Services Division is noted and recognized.

Resolution 3: That the Final Management Letter from the Queensland Audit Office for the 2022 – 2023 Financial Year be accepted also noting the Final Management Letter for the Lockhart River Aerodrome Company for the 2022 -2023 financial year was tabled.

Moved: Cr K. koko

Seconded: Cr D. Hobson

All in favour

motion passed

Issue: Financial Reports for October 2023 and Draft November Reports

The Finance Reports for October 2023 and a Draft Report for November 2023 were tabled and discussed with interpretative analysis from Stanley Mugwiria. November report remains in Draft form at this point as priority has been given to the Audit work required to be delivered by our Corporate Services team. The exceptional circumstances were noted by Council.

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

Moved: Cr K. Koko

Seconded: Cr D. Hobson

All in favour

Motion passed

Issue: Water and sewerage infrastructure

Council notes funding received for SCADA upgrade of \$343000 and Water line for the new sub-division of \$450 000. The SCADA upgrade will expand the automatic warning system for the towns' water and sewerage systems.

There being no further matters to discuss the Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 3:30pm.