

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL



ABN 55 631 460 952

Minutes of Council Meeting

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Lockhart River Shire Council held at the offices of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

Date: Thursday 20th April 2017 and Friday 21st April 2017

Venue: The Cairns Offices of Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
7 Anderson Street, Cairns

Attendance:

Cr Wayne Butcher – Mayor
Cr Norman Bally – Deputy Mayor
Cr Marshall Symonds
Cr Dorothy Hobson

David Clarke – CEO

Apology:

Nil

Meeting opened:

Meeting declared open by the Mayor at 2:30pm

Call for declaration of conflict of interest:

The Mayor advised all Councilors to be aware of potential conflict of interest and the guidelines for reporting on these matters.

Mayor reconfirmed his commitment to reinforcing Councilor discipline with no apology being accepted.

Issue: Current social unrest and approach to resolve matters.

Council tele-linked with the Officer in Charge Lockhart River Police to discuss recent events. Council was aware of unconfirmed reports of Council workers being involved in the unrest. Consensus identified the need to develop a “shop front” for conflict resolution to identify and resolve personal and family issues before they got out of control. Mayor Butcher acknowledged the efforts of Deputy Mayor Bally and Cr Piva during the recent troubles. Sgt Everest advised two of his officers will be leaving in the near future noting he committed to keep Council informed as replacements became known.

RESOLUTION 1

That any Council employee participating in fighting will be stood down without pay for two weeks during which time their future will be considered.

Moved: Cr Norman Bally
All in favour: Motion passed

Seconded: Cr Wayne Butcher

Issue: Minutes of the meeting of the 21st February 2017.

RESOLUTION 2

That the minutes of the meeting of the 30th March 2017 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Cr Wayne Butcher

Seconded: Cr Norman Bally

All in favour: Motion passed

General Business

Issue: Township ILUA update

Township ILUA – CEO advised he held recent discussions with Allen Cunneen, Deputy Director-General DATSIP and secured commitment Council infrastructure will be included in the ILUA scope. He committed to instruct his staff to secure this commitment.

Issue: Community workers meeting

Dates to be assessed for a Council workforce meeting and BBQ lunch.

Issue: Licensed Premises update

Council still waiting on engineered certified plans and quantified schematics from HC builders as per their quote. Only concept plans received to date.

Issue: Housing matters

CEO advised on progress across the building services spectrum including apprenticeship progress, and Council tender for the 2017/8 new build program.

Issue: Cultural Heritage Preservation Project

Mayor and CEO advised Council funding had now been secured from DATSIP for this important project \$200 000.00 over two years. *Great news!*

Issue: Language Project

Continuation of the work of Fr Thompson and Julie – seeking Council support for funding application. Fully supported.

Issue: Water Tank mural project

Enoch advised co-contribution of \$8 000.00 from Arts Qld. Project to commence September.

Issue: Draft new By-Laws discussion

Draft new Bi-Laws designed to give authority to designated Council Officers. Require consideration and adoption.

Issue: CCC Complaints process

CEO walked Council through the complaints process. Discussion on Council's complaints process is managed occurred which helped gain a common understanding of Councils legislative obligations.

Issue: Council communications

Council discussed its frustration with getting its message to the public clearly and in a format that gets maximum recognition and take up. Many good things are happening but the story is not getting through. A multi-media approach complimented with workers meetings will be trialed.

Issue: Support letters for people attending court – Policy position.

Council policy on providing references for people appearing in court – Discussion took place on the matter with the Mayor recommending a cautious approach to Councilors and senior staff providing personal references for individuals appearing before the court.

Issue: School holiday paid work program for year's 10 – 12 students.

Discussion occurred on the success of the program with 18 students opting in over the Easter break. Mayor Butcher noted DATSIP were interested in funding similar programs in other communities. Does this imply they will reward our ground-breaking initiative with funding?

Issue: Creation of position for an Electrician on staff

(N.B) Cr Piva declared his conflict having advocated for a staff electrician in the past and his association with the obvious candidate Stephen Powell. Having declared his interest Cr Piva left the room during discussions.

Council discussed the merits of at least trialling a staff electrician noting the FIFO service from PJ Electrical was a good but expensive solution to the communities' needs.

RESOLUTION 3

That Stephen Powell is offered a three month trial as staff electrician with the position reviewed for efficiency and effectiveness.

Moved: Cr Norman Bally

Seconded: Cr Dorothy Hobson

All in favour: Motion passed

The Mayor called a halt to the meeting at 6:30pm requesting Council re-convene at 8:00am tomorrow Friday 21st April 2017.

Visitor: **Commissioner Bronwyn Fredricks – Chair of the Productivity**
Commission’s Review into Remote Service Delivery to Indigenous Communities.

- Submissions close June 2nd;
- Report to be delivered by August;
- Researching service delivery, governance, funding, stores, roads, health, education, funding levels.
- Live examples welcome.

Mayor Butcher thanked the delegation for taking the time to inform Council on their Review.

Visitors: **Empowering Communities – Renee Williams and Melissa Sinclair**

The delegation briefed Council in detail on the Empowering Communities processes, approach, targets, and aims. The Empowering Communities model operates on an “Opt In” basis.

Mayor thanked them for their presentation.

Issue: Finance Report for March 2017

The Finance Report for the month of March 2107 was tabled with explanatory discussion.

RESOLUTION 4

That the Finance Report for the period March 2017 be accepted as tabled.

Moved: Cr Marshall Symonds

Seconded: Cr Paul Piva

All in favour: Motion passed

Issue: Related Party Disclosure Policy

A draft Related Party Disclosure Council Policy was tabled. Detailed discussion took place in relation to the obligations of Councillors and senior executives of Council.

RESOLUTION 5

That Council adopts the Related Party Disclosure Policy as tabled.

Moved: Cr Wayne Butcher

Seconded: Cr Norman Bally

All in favour: Motion passed

Issue: Progress assessment – Council Operational Plan

Council reviewed its operational plan against projected benchmarks.
A Progress Assessment was tabled to document this progress.

RESOLUTION 6

That Council's Operational Plan Progress Report be accepted as tabled.

Moved: Cr Norman Bally

Seconded: Cr Dorothy Hobson

All in favour: Motion passed

Councillor's Reports

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Cr Piva submitted their written reports. Cr Hobson and Symonds provided verbal reports on their portfolio activities.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place in the Lockhart River Office on Wednesday 24th May 2017.

Meeting Closed

There being no further business the meeting was closed by the Mayor at 3:15pm.