

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 55 631 460 952



MINUTES

Wednesday 10th April 2019

Ordinary Council Meeting

Note this is the March meeting postponed due to preparing for and cleaning up post TC Trevor

Location: Council Chambers, 14 Maathuy St, Lockhart River, QLD 4892

MINUTES

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

APOLOGIES: Cr Darren Macumboy

OPEN: Mayor Butcher opened the meeting at 10:10 am

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: No new conflicts to report

VISITORS: Housing Tenancy Management Team Penny Jones; Joe Kingdon, and Simon from Building Asset Services.

Vacancies discussed with Anne Pittard to go to a vacant 4 bedroom property at 401A due to overcrowding at her current address. ALHA activity discussed and noted. Clean-up post TC Trevor discussed with BAS advising the 800 outstanding job cards had to be completed by the end of April. This was revealed to be an unrealistic target given assessments were incomplete on some properties while others needing windows replaced would take weeks for construction and shipping. The Mayor requested the CEO contact BAS seeking a common sense approach to delivery be the guiding principle. All safety issues have been completed and all business units were performing at their peak but the current time target has been developed in isolation from Lockhart and reality.

Mayor Butcher thanked the housing guests for their input.

ISSUE: **Apology Cr Darren Macumboy**

Mayor Butcher advised Cr Macumboy was in Mossman on family business. Mayor Butcher committed to speak with Cr Macumboy on his priorities.

Resolution 1: That the apology of Cr Darren Macumboy be accepted.

Moved: Cr W. Butcher **Seconded:** Cr N. Bally
All in favour Motion carried

ISSUE: Minutes of the meeting of 21st February 2019.

The minutes of the above meetings were tabled and discussed.

Resolution 2: That the minutes of the meeting of the 21st of February be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr. W. Butcher **Seconded:** Cr D. Hobson
All in favour Motion carried

ISSUE: New Airport bridge – naming and opening ceremony

New airport bridge to be named the “**Morrison ‘Crazy’ Claudie Bridge**” in memory of one of our past Traditional Owners.

Opening ceremony when Ministerial Champion Mark Bailey is next in Lockhart.

ISSUE: Public Meetings

The demand for public meetings was acknowledged by all Councilors. Events beyond the control of Council have hampered past efforts to hold a meeting. The Mayor has said he wants to commit to hold quarterly meetings beginning in March but Tropical Cyclone Trevor put this on the back burner. All councilors to re-check their calendars and advise a common date after Easter.

ISSUE: Finance Report February 2019

The Finance Report for February 2019 was tabled and discussed in detail noting external audit commences 20th of May. Internal audit is Cairns based and will report findings to Council soon in preparation for the external audit.

Resolution 3: That the Finance Report for February 2019 be accepted as tabled.

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

ISSUE: Councilor Belcarra Training

Mayor Butcher requested each Councilor to make sure they have attended mandatory training under the revised Act as soon as practical. Cr Koko has completed hers and the 15th of July was identified as a good target for the remaining Councilors to finalise this commitment. The Mayor asked the CEO to arrange this training with the Department of Local Government in Cairns.

ISSUE: Support for University students Joe martin Pascoe and Leighanna Pascoe.

Request for support by way of a laptop computer have been received from both students via their parents. These items are beyond the financial capacity of the family but are essential for their success in tertiary studies.

Resolution 4: That a laptop computer be purchased by Council for both students to support their professional development.

Moved: Cr K. Koko **Seconded:** Cr D. Hobson
All in favour Motion passed

Issue: Tropical Cyclone Trevor update

A full update on the clean-up and Department of Communities Disaster Recovery initiatives was provided by the CEO including the new disaster relief programs available under QRA. The mayor noted the intention to develop submissions across the board to try and re-establish the road network and associated infrastructure in short and medium term and via the new betterment program in the long term.

Council also noted the excellent and consistent hard work put in by the Road Gang, Parks and Gardens, the road clearing team to Portland Roads, and the EHO team during the clean-up. Outstanding dedicated work over an extended period and a credit to all involved. It was also noted the quality of the preparation, combined with good luck, keep everyone safe with no reported injuries in Lockhart Shire. Credit was also given to the District Disaster Management Group lead by Owen Kennedy and Bill Stanley, the SES response team, and the Ergon rapid response team. Letters of thanks to be prepared for contributing agencies. Although the weather event exposed several inadequacies, over all the reaction was well co-ordinated and well delivered by all parties. A formal de-brief will happen early in May.

ISSUE: Cemetery Clean-up

Council noted the damage done by TC Trevor to the cemetery and proposed a clean-up day be nominated with each family to look after the resting places of their loved ones. Council to provide a BBQ once finished. Notices to confirm date once finalized.

ISSUE: Health Action Group

Health portfolio Councilor Cr Koko spoke of the need to re-invigorate the health action group with a membership drive. The general public needed to become more involved in getting messages out on health initiatives and impending threats. She advised RFDS and Apunipima both had initiatives running but needed help with involvement and messaging.

ISSUE: Budget Review Report

The budget mid-year review was conducted by the Mayor, CEO, and Director of Corporate Services. The review findings were tabled through a report which recommended some adjustment to current projections particularly on self-funded capital items. These were discussed in detail with the Director of Corporate Services tele-linking.

Resolution 5: That the Budget Review Report be adopted as tabled.

Moved: Cr D. Hobson
All in favour

Seconded: Cr. K. Koko
Motion passed

ISSUE: Audit Committee re-formation

Council previously abandoned the option of having an Audit Committee as an additional safety net over its operations. The previous model placed an additional burden on Councilors and the Executive team which was unsustainable and poor value for money. It was not mandatory for a small Council such as Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council. External Audit and the Queensland Audit Office hold a different view and recommend strongly that this additional level of oversight is re-instated. They do not cite legal obligation rather best practice in this opinion. After consideration and discussion, Council agreed to re-start the Audit Committee from the 1st of July 2019 as a trial to be evaluated in twelve months.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 4:50 pm