

# 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 Council Chambers, Maathuuy St Lockhart River.

**Date:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 (May meeting)

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## MINUTES

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

Absent: nil

Mayor Butcher opened the meeting at 10:15 am

Issue: Visitors Australian Olympic Committee, Daniel Egan and Ken Bott

Daniel and Ken gave Council a briefing on the planned festivities celebrating the Olympic Games to be held in Lockhart on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. Big screen and plenty of sporting activities largely through the School but also open to the wider community.

Mayor Butcher thanked them for their briefing.

**Conflict of Interest:** Mayor called for any conflicts of interest to be declared. Mayor Butcher discussed his intent to exercise his option for another five years under current Trustee Permit agreement over the site formally referred to as Putchiwu Fishing. The CEO provided all Councilors with a copy of the agreement for their consideration. The matter was not discussed allowing Councilors to give due care and consideration on the matter until the next meeting.

Mayor Butcher emphasized the need to be constantly reviewing declarations to make sure everything is included and recorded in the relevant registers including related parties.

**Issue:** Minutes of the meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> of May (April meeting) 2021

Minutes for the meeting of the meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> of May (April meeting) 2021 were tabled and discussed in detail.

**Resolution 1:** That the minutes for the meetings of 11<sup>th</sup> of May (April meeting) 2021 be adopted as tabled.

**Moved:** Cr. A. Bowie                      **Seconded:** Cr. N. Bally

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All in favor

motion passed

**Issue: Visitor – Reggie Edmond Director Building Services**

Reggie briefed Council on current projects and our building program going forward. Discussions focused on the apparent reluctance of Q-Build to habitually come to Council first for a price on works noting the recent awarding of the new School ablutions block to Cairns firm HC Builders without reference to Council. The EQ significant fencing project has also featured in discussions. It was noted as important as Council can only commence apprenticeships if continuity of work is a reasonable prospect into the mid-term. Several young people have made recent enquiries about availability of trade training. The CEO committed to raising the matter at the Technical Working Group meeting scheduled for next week. CEO also advised successful submissions that will see:

- a new shed for Council's heavy plant constructed at the rear of the workshop;
- three toilet blocks to support the Cultural Precinct development;
- Stage and stalls for the Cultural Precinct;
- Development of a new sub-division with new house construction scheduled for 2022 dry season.

**Issue: Sports Field redevelopment project**

Council was provided with an update on the Sports Field re-development project noting the need for natural sand to be locally sourced and used. Tenders for supply and install of the lighting to be decided mid July.

**Issue: Budget meeting**

Mayor advised the annual budget meeting will be held in the Cairns office on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July. All Councilors to attend.

**Issue: Cultural Precinct update**

Earthworks for dance grounds cleared and brought up to level. Still some work to do with the final design and location of various facilities on the main area. Camping grounds clearing work not yet commenced as the dozer is needed out west in the pits and roadside work. There may be some issues with Council's Planning Scheme and the necessity to also consider Cook Shire Council's scheme. CEO to investigate and report back to Council as information comes to hand. Program of works was tabled to inform Council.

**Issue: Finance Report April 2021**

The finance report for April 2021 was tabled and discussed in detail with Corporate Services Director, Stanley Mugwiria, who took questions in person on the trading position and annual trends.

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**Resolution 2:** That the Finance Report for April 2021 be accepted as tabled.

**Moved:** Cr D. Hobson  
All in favour

**Seconded:** Cr K. Koko  
Motion carried

**Issue: Speed bumps around town**

Council discussed the deterioration of some of the traffic moderating speed bumps around town and the need to install more at critical points. The CEO advised the Road Gang had some in stock and would install them as part of their future works program.

**Issue: ILUA Update**

CEO briefed Council on recent developments with the ILUA negotiations including the changeover of representatives for the Accoom and Claudie families. The “In Principle” agreement remains on the table with CYLC. The Mayor requested a meeting between TOs Council and their legal representatives take place soon. The CEO committed to contacting the CYLC to arrange a time.

**Issue: Interim Audit Report as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

The Interim Report to the Mayor produced by external auditor, Grant Thornton, was tabled and discussed. Deficiencies in the Post Office were noted but the general findings were sound at this interim point.

The Report is noted and accepted.

**Issue: Audit Committee meeting 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

Minutes of the above meeting were tabled, discussed, and noted.

**Issue: Accumulating debts for Katter lease holders**

It was noted that several Katter lease holders were accruing debts to Council for routine maintenance. While some are pensioners a couple are current Council employees. The CEO advised each lease holder did have home ownership awareness sessions with DATSIP before handover and that they were aware that these costs belonged to them. Separate maintenance bank accounts were set up for them in many cases but this doesn't seem to be working. CEO to follow up with each debtor to try and resolve the matter.

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**Issue:                   Resignation of Community Development Director Dominic Stower**

The CEO advised of the resignation of Dominic Stower, Community Development Director. He observed that it was a case of a poor fit for the task with the incumbent demonstrating a complete inability to understand or manage the investor relationships required to ensure funding continuity and therefore program delivery. He was offered extensive professional development opportunities to manage this weakness and grow into the role but these were rejected. Margie Barnes, who was originally coming to provide intensive training to Dominic, will now provide a compliance assistance service and is progressing well. Council may wish to consider investing in training our coordinators going forward.

**Issue:                   Cooktown and Laura Festivals**

That the bus be prepared in advance to transport dancers and that Council support preparation and limited additional travel to support Lockhart dancers in their performance.

**Issue:                   Mayor's Report Canberra advocacy trip with TCICA**

Mayor detailed his visit to Canberra where he led the TCICA delegation. He met with the following:

- Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack
- Deputy shadow prime minister Tania Plibersek
- Northern Australia Minister Nola Marino
- Communications Minister David Littleproud
- Linda Burnie
- Mark Coulton
- Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt

Over-all a very successful trip which will yield extra focus on Cape York and Lockhart going forward.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor closed the meeting at 4:45pm