

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

19th April 2011

Present: Karen Duncan
Matt Prouse
Trish McIntyre
Rocky Magnoli
Darryl Withnall
Geoff Handicott (CEO)

1. **MEETING OPENING** - Vice President, Karen Duncan, opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1.1 APOLOGIES

Peter Clee
Vera Lamont

Resolution No. 2011/17

That the apology of Councillors Clee and Lamont be accepted.

Moved: Cr Trish McIntyre

Seconded: Cr Matt Prouse

Vote: 5-0

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - Nil

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Resolution No. 2011/18

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 15 March 2011 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Matt Prouse

Seconded: Cr Trish McIntyre

Vote: 5-0

3.1 Matters Arising from the March Minutes:

Estate Drains (Item 8.1) – Work on drains will be carried out during this dry season. Council will attempt to reset the shallow drains and have the major drains machine cleared.

3.1.1 Alice Springs support for Statehood – Councillors have been supplied with further information to consider.

4. **INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE**

Refer to Attached List (Inward Correspondence March 2011.)

4.1 David Barry - Refer to Agenda Item 8.5

- 4.2 Cox Country Club** – seeking sponsorship of \$5,000 towards purchase of playground equipment – Council Declined.
- 4.3 Jack Ellis** – re Weeds and Feral Pigs – Jack expressed concern about the number of feral pigs. Council discussed the problem and it was decided that the CEO should contact Jerry Marley, Dept. Resources, regarding a solution to this ongoing problem.
- 4.4 Jane Carrigan** – Refusal to pay outstanding rates. Council directed CEO to place this matter in the hands of the Debt Collection agency. This is on the recommendation of Council’s accountants.

Councillors requested that copies of all correspondence, including emails, be made available to Councillors prior to the Council meeting.

5. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Outwards Correspondence March 2011.)

More detailed information on inwards and outwards correspondence will be provided at the Council meeting.

Resolution No. 2011/19

That the incoming and outgoing correspondence be accepted as information.

Moved: Cr Rocky Magnoli

Seconded: Cr Darryl Withnall

Vote: 5-0

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT (Incorporating Work Supervisors Report)

1. CAL Accreditation

Council has received the CAL Certificate of Accreditation. The framed certificate is on display in the Council office.

2. Memorial Garden

Currently investigating other options for the Memorial Garden, given the high cost involved in quotes/designs received to date.

3. Library

Have spoken to David Barry re his request to move the large map and Honour Roll in the Board room to make space for more shelving. David will be writing to Council to express his disappointment about the decision.

5. Ron Hucheson visit, 17 March 2011

Ron is the Compliance Officer for Office of Local Government.

Ron was concerned that the Annual report had not gone in, but he has since contacted Council to report that all is well, and it has been received.

6. HR Update

As no Council staff currently have a signed contract of employment, Staff Contracts of Employment have been drawn up and will be addressed with each staff member at an individual employment performance review meeting soon.

Russell Thurston has been appointed to the Workshop, replacing Gary Carrington.

Bec Forrest resigned, and Shelley was offered, and accepted, a full time role in Administration.

Council is currently seeking a Sport and Recreation Officer, as the funding for this position has now been received.

CEO probation review is due on 27th April. Who will be doing this?

7. Emergency Lighting / Insurance

Due to the Council building and Community Centre being classed as public buildings, and dedicated Cyclone Shelter areas, our insurance policy required that Emergency lighting be installed. This has now been completed.

All fire extinguishers have been checked, replaced and installed as required.

8. Tip Site

The wet weather continues to play havoc with the waste disposal areas. The hard waste area has been temporarily closed off, due to a number of incidents where cars have become bogged.

9. Council Internet & Email

Once again Council suffered network problems. The hard drives in the server failed and had to be replaced.

The CEO email account has been disabled. Peter Clee has provided a temporary fix, but now email sent from the CEO are reflecting prior CEO's names.

There appears to be no documented information available on the network and Internet setup in the Council Office. This documentation should be kept in the Council Office.

Area 9 Computing Solutions have rebuilt the network server, but were unable to assist with the Internet/Email connection problems, having no access to this information.

Meetings Attended

Public Meeting 22/3/2011 - 30 year plan for Greater Darwin
TOPROC, 11/4/2011



Matters arising from CEO's Report:

1. Memorial Garden – Council directed CEO to engage Fred Gilles to oversee the Memorial Garden project, and to provide regular progress reports to monthly Council meetings.

Resolution No. 2011/20

That Council engage Fred Gilles to oversee the Memorial Garden project, and provide regular progress reports to monthly Council meetings.

Proposed: Cr Karen Duncan

Moved: Cr Darryl Withnall

Seconded: Cr Trish McIntyre

Vote: 5-0

2. Council Internet and Email – Council to engage an external Internet advisor, given the frequency of problems encountered.

3. CEO Probation review – Crs Clee and Duncan to organise this.

Resolution No. 2011/21

That the Officers' reports be received and accepted.

Moved: Cr Rocky Magnoli

Seconded: Cr Darryl Withnall

Vote: 5-0

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Financial Reports

CEO advised Council that the reports currently being extracted from the reporting system do not accurately reflect Council's financial situation.

Merrit Partners, Accountants, have been engaged to rectify problems with information contained the current system. On completion of their findings, the March financials will be made available to all Councillors.

Resolution No 2011/22

That the March Financial Reports be made available to all Councillors once Merrit Partners has sorted out the discrepancies

Moved: Cr Trish McIntyre

Seconded: Cr Rocky Magnoli

Vote: 5-0

8. AGENDA ITEMS

8.1 Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

Resolution No. 2011/23
That Council supports LGANT's proposal for Constitutional Change
Proposed: Cr Karen Duncan
Moved: Cr Rocky Magnoli
Seconded: Cr Darryl Withnall
Vote: 5-0

8.2 Local Government Elections 24-3-2012. Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) has been appointed as returning Officer.

8.3 Ken Pittman – Complaint re Roadworks passed to Ombudsman. Council stands firm on their initial decision.

8.4 Proposed Subdivision Application

8.5 David Barry re library -

Council revisited it's earlier decision to retain the current maps, photographs and Honour Roll, mounted on the walls of the Council Chamber in favour of allowing more library shelving to be installed along these walls. After lengthy discussion, Council decided to stand by their earlier decision.

This decision was made for the following reasons:

1. The area currently utilised by the library is a Council Chamber in the first instance. This Chamber is used for Council meetings, and meetings with visiting dignitaries. As such, it is the appropriate location to display the Honour Roll etc.
2. The Council Office complex, including the Chamber, is a designated Cyclone Shelter. Existing library shelving currently covers one exit door from the Council Chamber.

Council is prepared to explore options for funding to assist in the procurement of a alternative, suitable accommodation to satisfy the requirements of the community library.

CEO to follow up with President, Peter Clee, regarding the current status of the Regional Grants Scheme application for a \$20,000 grant. Councillors present are unable to provide any information regarding this application.

CEO to meet with David Barry to explain the outcomes of Council's discussions, and to outline where we go from here.

8.6 Sportsground Toilets – Council decided to open the toilets between the hours of 9am to 3.30pm.

8.7 Darwin Harbour Clean-up 5th July 2011. Council is to supply a BBQ for use of the Darwin Harbour Clean-up committee, and use of the tip on the day.

8.8 G.A. Hughes re: Permission to improve access. Council is happy for these works to proceed, providing there is no change or restriction to current water flow. There is to be no cost to Council for this work.

8.9 GHD Update – CEO reports there is still a lot of data collection happening, but no statistics available at this time.

9. LATE ITEMS and GENERAL BUSINESS.

9.1 Jill Mumme – Memorial Garden. Jill has provided a document giving the present CEO an overview of the project to date.

Council and interested people are invited to contact Fred Gilles to inspect his local garden and discuss options for a similar type of garden to be constructed as the memorial garden.

9.1 Water Tank at Sportsground. CEO has been directed by Council to investigate the status of a Grant Application that was supposed to have been lodged by the previous CEO, seeking funds for a larger water storage tank for the sports ground.

10 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

NIL.

11. MEETING CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Cr Karen Duncan closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

The next monthly Council Meeting is to be held on 17 May 2011 at 7.00pm.

Signed by.....date.....
President of Wagait Shire Council

.....**date**.....
Chief Executive Officer