

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

21st June 2011

Present: Karen Duncan (Vice President)
Vera Lamont
Rocky Magnoli
Trish McIntyre
Geoff Handicott (CEO)

1. MEETING OPENING – 7.05pm

1.1 APOLOGIES

Peter Clee – later available by phone hook-up

Resolution No. 2011/29
That the apology of Cr Peter Clee be accepted.
Moved: Cr Vera Lamont
Seconded: Cr Karen Duncan
Vote: 4-0

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 2011/30
That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 17 May 2011 be confirmed.
Moved: Cr Vera Lamont
Seconded: Cr Rocky Magnoli
Vote: 4-0

3.1 Matters Arising from the May Minutes:

3.1.1 Local Government Assett & Financial Planning Workshop –

Cancelled. New date to be advised. (Item 4.1)

Train the Trainer Program – No Councillors available to attend all of the sessions. Trish is able to attend the last 3 only. The CEO to check with Tony Tapsell as to whether attendance at 3 out of 4 of the sessions is acceptable.

3.1.2 Budget (Item 8.1) – In order to complete the Budget, it is necessary to have a decision about the rates, and Government payments.

3.1.3 Rates 2011 – 2012 (Item 8.9) – Debate regarding increasing rates for the 2011-2012 year. Peter Clee participated via phone link up. A decision to increase the Rates by the percentage of CPI was voted on. The result was 4 Councillors in favour, and 1 against (Cr. Rocky Magnoli). The \$50 rebate for early payment of rates will be retained.

Resolution No. 2011/31
That the Rates for 2011-2012 be increased by the CPI, and the \$50 rebate for early payment be retained.
Moved: Cr Karen Duncan
Seconded: Cr Peter Clee
Vote: 4-1

- 3.1.4 Water Tanks Update** (Item 9.5)
An 18,000 ltr tank, produced locally (Darwin) will cost \$2,660, plus freight and installation. Council approved the purchase of the new tank for the Council Office.

Resolution No. 2011/32
That Council purchase the new water tank for the Council Office.
Moved: Cr Karen Duncan
Seconded: Cr Vera Lamont
Vote: All in favour

4. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE
Refer to Attached List (Inward Correspondence May 2011.)

- 4.1 J. Carrigan letter tabled and noted

5. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE
Refer to Attached List (Outwards Correspondence May 2011.)
More detailed information on inwards and outwards correspondence will be provided at the Council meeting.

Resolution No. 2011/33
That the incoming and outgoing correspondence be accepted as information.
Moved: Cr Trish McIntyre
Seconded: Cr Rocky Magnoli
Vote: All in favour

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

May-June has been a busy time, preparing for end-of-year, along with recovery from the extreme wet season.

6.1. Walk to School event

A good turnout of school children, who seemed to enjoy the early morning. Plenty of cereal, toast and fruit was consumed on the day. All Council staff helped out on the morning to ensure the event went off well.
Thanks to Rocky for his assistance on the day.

6.2. Cash for Containers (Recycling)

Still no information from the Government as to how this will work for places like Wagait Beach. It seems not enough thought has gone into this idea.

6.3. Amalgamation Update

The Study carried out by G.H.D. was of poor quality, and was basically thrown out of the last meeting held between Wagait Beach, Belyuen and Darwin City Council. This meeting was attended by Cr. Vera Lamont and myself.

6.5. Waste Management

In the near future, a trip to Perth is being organized by Dept. Housing, Local Gov't and Regional Services, to view successful working models. Darwin, Litchfield, and Coomalie are attending, and Kathy from Belyuen has offered to send one of her people if we go halves in the cost.

As waste disposal is a major issue here in Wagait Beach, I feel that we should attend, ourselves, so that we are up to date with the other Councils.

Council response – Cr. Peter Clee advised us not to attend if not paid for by Government. Cr. Duncan expressed her disappointment that we did not send a representative.

6.6. Road Repairs

Works have now been completed on the section of water damaged road at the end of Erickson Crt. The repairs were carried out using stabilized fill which will hold up until the next Wet Season.

6.7. HR Update

The ***Sport and Recreation*** position is to be re-advertised, as the prior applicant rejected the position based on the wage offered.

Current staff wages to be discussed 'in camera'.

Administration – MYOB is now in place on the computer system and the Admin Officer has attended the Introductory training. The next major task to be undertaken is to get the new system up to date with current data, to enable a smooth transition from Synergy to MYOB on 1st July.

Works Dept. – Both Works personnel are working well, making an impression on verges around the Estate. Both have now gained truck licenses, and Russell has also attended the Fire Arms training required for Council Employees.

6.8. Foreshore – RUA

A concerned ratepayer has brought to the attention of Council the discovery of what appears to be 44 gallon drums, from perhaps an old Army dump, buried in the sand hills.

On investigation I found some of the drums on top of the dunes. One drum looked like those drums used to store Mustard Gas during WWII.

I alerted the relevant Gov't Depts., including the Army, who attended a site inspection. After conducting various tests, the Army deemed the drum not to contain Mustard Gas, and left it in situ. The Departments responsible for RUA land have suggested fencing off the large area of dunes which contains buried drums, as some of these drums are very rusty, and are a safety hazard if someone should walk over them.

Council Response – Peter Clee and Council are not happy about fencing off this area. CEO to contact the authorities to discuss other options.

6.9. Milady Plane Wreck Site

It was brought to my attention that someone has been tampering with the site. On investigation it was discovered that some person had used bolt cutters to remove approx. 100mtrs of chain from the perimeter fence.

Police have been notified, and attended the scene. As a result of this incident, it will require 2-3 days work to repair the damage. Councillors are asked to remain vigilant.

6.10. Contracts

Several small contracts have been completed, producing around \$15,000 income in the past month.

- Goodline – Power & water : Additional works
- Foreshore : Fire breaks and access gates

6.11. Upcoming Community Events

Seniors Ball – Still trying to get input for this event. The 'Tuesday Ladies' say they are not the 'Seniors Group', and will go along with whatever is decided.

*Council Response – The theme for the evening will be 'Gangsters and Molls' (or Roaring Twenties). The Event will be open to **adults** of all ages.*

NT Day (Fireworks Night) – As usual, NT Gov't will supply the Fireworks. The venue and BBQ supplies will be provided by Council, and the cooking will be done by Wagait Beach Fire Brigade.

WORKS REPORT MAY 2011

ESTATE AND SURROUNDS

Mowing and snipping of Estate Verges continues. We are now at the stage of Verge Maintenance where the Mower can put it's feet up for the year. Only minimal use of the Mower is required between the end of July and the arrival of the first rains.

The attempted theft of the chain surrounding the Plane Wreck has created the need to plan for replacement of said chain. 1.5 days is the estimated time it will take to repair.

Preparations of the Sportsground are currently underway for the upcoming Fireworks Display on July 1st.

POWERWATER

Problems have arisen with the Chlorine pump being left to its automated normal state. Air continues to be found in the delivery line and Powerwater have been notified of this ongoing drama. People have been sent to rectify this problem and permanent solutions have been bandied about, however the problem persists. We continue to Hand Chlorinate the Top Tanks. Regular monitoring of the chlorine levels is undertaken.

RUA

The Firebreak throughout the RUA has been slashed as per our contractual obligations. One section behind Lot 32 Cox Drive has been cleared for the first time. A local contractor was sub-contracted to undertake this job. Council's Works Dept. has been requested to erect posts and a gate at this location. Other work in regard to our Weed Control contract has also been conducted. This has mostly involved the control of Mission Grass, Caltrop and Neem Tree.

We were also requested to quote for the removal of an number of fallen trees within the boundaries of the RUA. This job has been completed.

After receiving news of old 44 gal. drums protruding from the Sand dune in front of Lot 16 Delissa Dr, a site inspection occurred, the relevant Department notified and then the Army was inform who apparently visited the site and declared 'all's well'. The Department is considering whether or not to have the site cleaned up.

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The workshop's Work Station ie. Compressor/ Genset/ Welder is showing signs of it's age. The electric motor's mounts have broken {only two out of four remain}, Oil continues to weep from the Compressor Motor and the Welder seems to be acting somewhat erratically. In short, this apparatus needs action of some degree. The Z-trak Ride on Mower's New Deck has been fitted and is operating as per it's design.

The tractor has suffered a puncture which has been repaired.

The Tip Truck now has two licensed drivers.

The Community Centre Genset is due for it's first service.

DUMP

For an update on the Dump site, it is possible to read last month's report as irresponsible dumping practices continue, lengthening the time works staff spend cleaning up this area. Recycling also takes up a fair amount of time.

25 44 Gallon Drums plus 10 bales of Plastics have been taken to the Recyclers. Extra drums were purchased when, upon arrival at the Recyclers, they failed, as promised, to have empty replacement drums for us to swap.

Resolution No. 2011/34
That the Officers' reports be received and accepted.
Moved: Cr Vera Lamont
Seconded: Cr Karen Duncan
Vote: All in favour

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS
7.1 Financial Reports

Resolution No 2011/35
That the May Financial Reports be accepted.
Moved: Cr Rocky Magnoli
Seconded: Cr Trish McIntyre
Vote: All in favour

8. AGENDA ITEMS

- 8.1** Rates Arrears Update – Referred to 'In Camera Items'
- 8.2** Amalgamation Update – Nothing more to report at this time
- 8.3** Memorial Gardens Update – Little progress has been made. No Councillors took up the offer to view Fred's garden. CEO is to take photos and put together some ideas for discussion.
- 8.4** Seniors Ball Update – discussed in CEO's Report.

9. LATE ITEMS and GENERAL BUSINESS.

9.1 Emergency Business Plan – Tabled and discussed. Council commented on a job well done by Chris Tyzack.

10 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

- 10.1** Staff Wages review
- 10.2** Rates Arrears Update

11. MEETING CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Cr Duncan closed the meeting at 8.45pm.
The next monthly Council Meeting is to be held on 19 July 2011 at 7.00pm.