

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

15th March 2011

Present: Peter Clee,
Karen Duncan
Matt Prouse
Vera Lamont
Trish McIntyre
Rocky Magnoli
Geoff Handicott (CEO)

Visitors: Margaret Marr
Jack Ellis

1. MEETING OPENING – President, Peter Clee opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1.1 APOLOGIES

Darryl Withnall

Resolution No. 2011/11
That the apology of Cr Withnall be accepted.
Moved: Cr Peter Clee
Seconded: Cr Vera Lamont
Vote: 6-0

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 2011/12
That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 22 February 2011 be confirmed.
Moved: Cr Karen Duncan
Seconded: Cr Trish McIntyre
Vote: 6-0

3.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

CAL Accreditation – CEO will address this further in his report, however he did state that all paperwork was now correctly signed and submitted, and upon payment of \$412.50 fee, the Accreditation certificate will be issued.

Z-Trak Mower - New deck has been ordered, as this was more cost efficient than replacing the mower at this stage. Replacement mower to be reviewed in 12 – 18 months.

Grants Commission Visit – The Grants Commission visited involved a 2 hour visit, where they asked many questions about the services that Council provides for the Community, and took a tour around the Estate.

4. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Inward Correspondence February 2011.)

4.1 Alice Springs Town Council – Statehood - Council members decided to watch the enclosed video directly following this meeting, and make a decision regarding the support to Alice Springs Council at the next Council meeting.

5. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Outwards Correspondence February 2011.)

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

Resolution No. 2011/13

That the incoming and outgoing correspondence be accepted as information.

Moved: Cr Rocky Magnoli

Seconded: Cr Vera Lamont

Vote: 6-0

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

1. Wagait Tower Rd Upgrade Project

- No. 3 Payment has been paid

2. Cyclone Carlos

The cleanup around the estate is continuing. Some residents have expressed concern about the type of trees we have growing in the area between Council and the Community Centre. During the cyclone, this type of tree was the most common one to fall, or lose large branches. As the Community Centre is the designated Shelter during emergencies, do these trees pose a threat?

Thanks go to Mark, Belyuen Workshop, for assistance in the cleanup following cyclone. Mark bought two of his workers across from Belyuen, to assist in some of the major cleanup immediately following the cyclone.

3. Phones

The internal phone system in the Council Office was repaired on Wednesday 2/3/2011.

4. Dump

The dump has been closed for the past few weeks for safety reasons. The current entry road to the tip apparently crossed an old fill hole, and with the heavy rains experienced during the cyclone, part of this road collapsed under the weight of a vehicle. This vehicle was entering the tip via the entry road, when the left side of the vehicle started to rapidly sink into mud, up to window level. Therefore I had no choice but to close the tip and deem it unsafe.

The large amount of water laying on the ground has prevented repair works being carried out. However, the ground is drying out, and repairs have to be undertaken soon.

In the interim, we were offered the use of Belyuen's waste disposal site. This meant placing the Council truck outside the Community Centre for residents to leave their domestic waste. Twice weekly, the truck has then taken the rubbish to the Belyuen site.

This has raised a number of issues.

- a. At the time, Council had no-one licenced to drive the truck, except for myself. Our one licenced driver has been on annual leave.
- b. The Council truck has been tied up with the rubbish collection and has been unavailable for estate cleanup etc.

A letter of thanks should be written to Cathy Winsley for use of Belyuen Tip.

5. Gary Carrington – resignation.

An advertisement will go in to the NT News, and on the Community Notice Boards this week, seeking a replacement worker.

Russel Thursdon will be temporarily employed until new person recruited.

6. Grants Commission Mtg 8/3/2011

This meeting is open to all Councilors.

7. Rural Fire Protection visit 9/3/2011

All fire extinguishers at Council, the Community Centre and Council Workshop will be checked and replaced if necessary. A lot of the extinguishers are well out of date.

8. Vet in town 12/3/2011 at Community Centre

Meetings attended

21/2 Recovery Mtg

23/2 Ferry Mtg

Meetings To attend

10/3 TOPROC Mtg - Darwin

29/3 – 1/4 Alice Springs Local Gov't

Works Dept Report.

Limited mowing of estate due to ground condition.

Removal of cyclone debris around estate.

Pressure wash repaired & back in service.

Continuation of P.A.W. sub contract

Carry out maintenance of council plant.

Service of tractor & quad bike.

Tip maintenance including recycling section.

6.1 Matters from CEO Report

Re: Item 2 – CEO to write a letter of thanks to Mark and fellow workers at Belyuen, for their assistance in cleaning up the estate following Cyclone Carlos.

Re: Item 4 – CEO to write a letter to Cathy Whinsley, Belyuen, thanking the Belyuen Council for allowing us to use their rubbish tip during our tip crisis.

Re: Item 7 – Fire extinguishers were well out of date, and Council premises were not to code until these were replaced and additional extinguishers purchased to bring Council up to Standard.

Re Works Dept Report – Councillors felt that this report was not detailed enough. CEO reported that the computer which is available to the Works Supervisor is not working, therefore the Works Supervisor has been unable to provide a more detailed report. Council approved the purchase of a new computer for this purpose.

Resolution No. 2011/14
That the Officers' reports be received and accepted.
Moved: Cr Trish McIntyre
Seconded: Cr Rocky Magnoli
Vote: 6 - 0

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS
7.1 Financial Reports

Financial reports were tabled.

Resolution No 2011/15
That the February Financial Reports be accepted.
Moved: Cr Trish McIntyre
Seconded: Cr Matt Prouse
Vote: 6 - 0

8. AGENDA ITEMS

8.1 Margaret Marr – Estate drains

Margaret Marr addressed Council regarding the present state of the Estate drains on the corner of Wagait Tower Rd and Forsyth Rd, in front of Lots 62 & 63.

Council referred the matter to the CEO, for his investigation into a possible solution. Cr. Clee also asked Councillors to have a look at the problem and see if they had ideas for solutions.

8.2 Wagait Tip

Open discussion regard the future provision of waste/rubbish disposal for Wagait Shire. Some options were put forward, including the possibility of a transfer station. The option to develop a new tip site is not viable, as there is no available land.

Resolution No 2011/16
That Council write to NT Government seeking guidance.
Moved: Peter Clee
Seconded: Rocky Magnoli
Vote: 6-0

8.3 Clean Up Australia - report

CEO reported that the event was well supported.

9. LATE ITEMS and GENERAL BUSINESS.

9.1 Council representation & or proxies at amalgamation consultation meetings & other meetings involving the future of the Cox Pen Region

Council decided that there is to be additional representation at all meetings regarding the future of Cox Peninsular.

Councillors also requested that all information received, regarding the proposed amalgamations and any other information regarding the future of the Cox Peninsular, be made available to all Councillors as it is received.

9.2 Council Administration

9.2.1 Grants & acquittals – CEO informed Council that numerous Grant submissions and acquittals had not been completed/lodged as they had previously been led to believe eg. The Sports and Recreation grant, to cover wages for a part-time Sport and recreation officer had not been lodged.

CEO is currently taking steps to rectify this. The Sport & Recreation grant has now been lodged, and the grant monies received. Other grants acquittals and submissions are being dealt with as they come to light.

9.2.2 CAL Accreditation – This application for accreditation had not been completed properly, and was missing required signatures. CEO has rectified this, and the Certificate of Accreditation will be issued upon payment of the required fee.

9.2.3 Accounting - Outsourcing, MYOB change over & training – CEO informed Council that the reporting provided by the Synergy software does not give a true reflection of Council's current financial situation. BAS Statements are outstanding.

CEO suggested that Council seek professional assistance to bring the financials up to date, and in a form that can be more easily maintained. To this end, the CEO suggested we engage the services of Merit Partners (Council's accountants) to assist in this manner. Council agreed.

9.3 Council Rulings - responsibility on Estate

CEO requested direction regarding Council's ruling on issues such as wild animals, cross-overs, etc. Council stated that there were no by-laws in place, however Cr. Lamont pointed out that the issue of cross-overs was covered in Wagait Shire Council's Policy No. PO6.

9.4 Overdue Projects

Cr. Duncan pointed out that there are a number of projects for which Council has received funding, but they have not been started yet. She suggested that perhaps interested community members could be called on to assist in the erection of the Memorial Garden as a start.

9.5 Alcohol issues at the Jetty

A number of Councillors reported that unacceptable behaviours due to excessive alcohol consumption are becoming more prevalent. This appears to be worse on Thursdays and Fridays.

10 IN-CAMERA ITEMS – NIL

11. MEETING CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Peter Clee closed the meeting at **8.45pm**.

The next monthly Council Meeting is to be held on **19 April 2011 at 7.00pm**.

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

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