

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

18th October 2011

Present: President Peter Clee
Cr. Vera Lamont
Cr. Rocky Magnoli
Cr. Trish McIntyre
CEO Geoff Handicott

Visitor: Kate Wheen, Local Government Liaison Officer

1. MEETING OPENING – Meeting opened by President Clee at 7.05pm

1.1 APOLOGIES - V.P. Karen Duncan
Cr. Daryl Withnall
Cr. Matt Prouse

Resolution No. 211/53

That the apology of Crs Duncan, Withnall and Prouse be accepted.

Moved: Cr Peter Clee
Seconded: Cr Vera Lamont
Vote: All in Favour

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

NIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – refer Item 3.1.1

Resolution No. 211/54

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 20 September 2011 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Rocky Magnoli
Seconded: Cr Trish McIntyre
Vote: All in Favour

3.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

3.1.1 Maureen Newman – Expressed concern over the way her presence at the September meeting was represented in the Minutes, and requested they be changed. All Councillors present agreed the Minutes were accurate as they stood. President Clee pointed out that only changes raised by Councillors will be accepted.

3.1.2 Cox Country Club Request for donation

Resolution No. 211/55

After review of the Budget it has been determined that there is no surplus funds for a donation to the Club at this time.

Moved: Pres. Peter Clee

Seconded: Cr Rocky Magnoli

Vote: All in Favour

3.1.3 Council IT Issues Update – CEO expressed thanks to Cr. Daryl Withnall for the voluntary work in resetting Council’s network and Internet services. All is working well, although there is still further work to be done.

3.1.4 Water Standpipe Costs – Cr. Vera reported that Power Water have changed the wording on her water account to read ‘Standpipe’ rather than ‘Commercial’ as previously recorded. CEO has contacted PAWA regarding the 62c per kilolitre difference between Wagait Beach and Darwin consumers, and is awaiting a response from them. Letter to be written to Minister Knight, asking him to examine why there is such a difference in water charges.

4. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Inward Correspondence September 2011)

5. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Outwards Correspondence September 2011.)

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

Resolution No. 211/56

That the Correspondence for the Month of September 2011 be confirmed.

Moved: Pres. Peter Clee

Seconded: Cr. Trish McIntyre

Vote: All in favour

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

1. Report of public danger on RUA land. Concerned resident called Council to report an ex-military water tank sunk into the sand. This tank is 2mtr deep and has layers of barbed wire on the bottom. Have notified the Department. They will investigate and take appropriate action.

2. Plant Registrations. 3 units coming up for renewal. MVR won’t come out to Wagait Beach, and it is not possible to take the tractor in, so I have

arranged for a licensed inspector to come out and do the 3 units. –
Inspections being carried out 19/11/2011

3. Visit from Compliance Officers, DHLG, regarding the Shire Plan. Amendments have been made and Plan is to be tabled and accepted by Council. – *Copies to be sent out to Councilors for comment by Friday 21/10/2011, then opened for public comment, prior to be submitted by October 31st.*

4. LGANT HR Conference – 11 & 12 October. Major changes to the OH&S regulations are being implemented, which we will have to comply with. Changes are also in line regarding Superannuation. This was a very informative workshop, and well worth attending.

5. MYOB training has been conducted at the Council Office, and Shelley is now able to take on more of the financial reporting. She is proving to be a quick learner, and has proven herself invaluable at this very busy time of year.

6. Road Guide Makers at street corners are being damaged by motorists. The Works staff have dug out the affected areas, and are awaiting the pouring of concrete and re-blocking. This will happen in the near future.

7. Seniors Ball – Funding received for this event has been acquitted.

Upcoming events/meetings

LGANT 3-day Conference 23rd – 25th November, Darwin

WORKS REPORT

- 1. Wildlife** – All efforts to capture our problem dingo have failed. He is a wily sort and reports of his/her presence have lately been few and far between.
- 2. Dump** – continues to be maintained, be it more than what should be necessary. Once more, wet concrete has been dumped. This time slightly impeding traffic heading toward the rear of the dump.
- 3. Estate and Surrounds** – Drain and verge clearing continues, notably along Council verges, where trees and shrubs are encroaching from peoples blocks onto the verge, and in some locations, to and/or over the bitumen.

The immediate area around the under-road drain of Uhr and Wagait Tower Rd has been dug out and formed up in readiness for concrete to enable the placement of roadside barriers at this site.

After a request, we repainted the Bus Parking Lines at the Jetty carpark. Whilst in the area, much rubbish was picked up along Charles Point Rd at 'campsites' along the Pushbike track

- 4. Plant and Equipment** – Council's Tip Truck has been recalled by the manufacturer due to a problem with that model's front end. Parts have been ordered by the manufacturers Darwin agent, and we are awaiting their arrival.

The quad bike is waiting in readiness for the weed season; spray equipment has been cleaned and tested, maps compiled earlier in the

year, showing areas of Mission and Gamba grass have been looked over.

Mower blades have been sharpened, the ride-on mower has been checked in respect to adjustments tc. The finishing deck and slasher have also been checked. Generally, we are preparing for the expected arrival of the Wet season, and all that comes with it. The Community Centre gen-set continues to be run on a regular basis.

The CEO's expertise was called upon when it became necessary to remove the tractor's loader hydraulic ram to clean and refinish the holding pin as it became impossible to insert grease in this vital area.

Resolution No. 211/57

That the Officers' reports be received and accepted.

Moved: Pres. Peter Clee

Seconded: Cr Rocky Magnoli

Vote: All in Favour

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Financial Reports

Resolution No 211/58

That the September 2011 Financial Reports be accepted.

Moved: Pres. Peter Clee

Seconded: Cr Vera Lamont

Vote: All in Favour

Pres. Clee requested a breakdown of all unexpended Grants monies.

AGENDA ITEMS

8.1 Pre-Cyclone Cleanup – will be held over two days, on 14th & 15th November. Notices are going out this week, and advertised in the Wagaitear. There are limitations to the types of articles to be picked up. All rubbish is to be placed at the front of the property for collection. No car bodies etc.

8.2 Memorial Garden – Cr. Vera gave a brief verbal history of the Memorial Garden project to date. CEO has compiled all relevant information into one folder now, so Council now has a clearer view on the Community's expectations. He also expressed his concern about the potential noise on the garden, if constructed in it's present location. He was also concerned that the only quote received for the project far exceeded the \$45,000 funds available. Council suggested starting the project, and utilising the available funds. The Plan is to be given to Paul Boyle for a quote. His will give us some idea on how far we can go with the current funding.

8.3 Shire Plan – Update – covered in CEO report

8.4 Amalgamation – Update – The Amalgamation consultation document is to be tabled at Darwin City Council.

8.5 Council Leadership – CEO expressed concern that Council is floundering through lack of leadership. Councillors are wearing thin, and tired of discussing the same issues month after month with no suitable outcomes. Concern was also expressed by those Councillors present that the President's extended absences affect not only Council's decision-making abilities, but that they feel he is not providing suitable support to the CEO. Pres. Peter Clee suggested that maybe the 4-year term is too long. Discussion followed, with no outcome.

8.6 Council Rates – Update & Issues – Approx. 80% of rates have been collected. Some ratepayers have neglected to update their address information and notices have been returned. Council received an enquiry from a rate payer residing in Queensland, who believed that owners of multiple blocks should only have to pay one rated amount. Council reaffirmed that each block of land is separately rateable. There was also discussion about the early payment discount, and how it impacted on the budget, which is calculated on the full rateable amount.

8.7 Bike Path – Mick has been given the go-ahead to install the culverts.

9. LATE ITEMS and GENERAL BUSINESS.

9.1 Christmas Lights Competition – Councillors and CEO to source prizes. Event to be advertised. Judges and closing date still to be decided.

9.2 Australia Day Awards – Australia Day is less than 4 months away, and Councils should start planning their Australia Day events, including the Citizen of the Year Awards.

9.3 Waste Strategy workshop to be held on 8th November. CEO to attend.

9.4 Letter from Mr Hughes, with an Application to improve his land. Council is concerned over the use of 2 x 6" pipes, instead of using the standard 12" pipes. Council to write to Mr Hughes, asking him to justify the use of 6" piping. This type of improvement can only receive approval providing the improvement does not impede the natural flow of water.

9.5 Resignation of Cr. Vera Lamont. – President Clee accepted, with regret, the resignation of Cr. Lamont. He also mentioned Cr. Lamont's valuable contribution to Wagait Shire Council during her term of office.

9.6 Council's **December meeting will be bought forward one week**, 13th December, due to the busy Christmas period. The December meeting will commence at 6pm.

10 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

Nil

11. MEETING CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

President Clee closed the meeting at 8.05pm .
The next monthly Council Meeting is to be held on **15 November 2011 at 7.00pm.**