

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

20th September 2011

Present: Vice President Cr. Karen Duncan
Cr. Trish McIntyre
Cr. Vera Lamont
Cr. Darryl Withnall
Cr. Rocky Magnoli
Cr. Matt Prouse
CEO Geoff Handicott

Visitors: Chris Tyzack (Emergency Management Plan) and Robert & Maureen Newman (Cox Country Club)

1. MEETING OPENED 7.00pm

1.1 APOLOGIES - Nil

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 211/47
That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 16th August 2011 be confirmed.
Moved: Cr McIntyre
Seconded: Cr Lamont
Vote: AIF

3.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Cr. Duncan suspended Standing Orders at 7.10pm to allow 2 visitors to address meeting.

Chris Tyzack – The Wagait Shire Emergency Management Plan has been sent to the Chief Minister's Office, and to Emergency Services, who have provided minor editing. At the next meeting in October, Chris will run some recovery exercises. Once the Plan is endorsed by Council, it will be forwarded to the Chief Minister for final acceptance, and recognised as a Public Document.

Cr Duncan expressed Council's thanks and appreciation To Chris and her committee for the hard work in develop such an important document.

Proposed endorsement referred to General Business.

Robert Newman – The CEO offered an apology to the Club for failing to respond to the Club’s letter dated 10th March.

Robert addressed Council re a letter from the Club dated 22nd August, seeking funding from Council to assist with their Playground project. Cr. Duncan reminded Robert that Council had previously purchased a \$25,000 Cool Room for the Club in 2008. As the Club requires a membership to be paid, Council believes it does not fall into the category of ‘Public facility’. It was generally felt that some input should be gauged from the general community before Council commits to a decision. Cr McIntyre also suggested that Council needs time to re-visit it’s Budget before making a decision.

The matter was listed for further discussion in General Business.

Cr Duncan resumed Standing Orders at 7.25pm.

4. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Inward Correspondence August 2011)

4.1 Further information on Grants received (as listed on Correspondence In listing to be sent to all Councillors.

5. OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Refer to Attached List (Outwards Correspondence August 2011.)

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

Resolution No. 211/48

That the incoming and outgoing correspondence be accepted as information.

Moved: Cr Withnall

Seconded: Cr. McIntyre

Vote: AIF

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

Another busy time this side of the Office.

1. Community Events – Seniors Ball. All who attended appeared to have a great night. How do we get attendances up? How do we confirm numbers? – *Trish mentioned that these dates clash with the Darwin Festival.*

2. Rates – Again, a busy time in the Office. Shelley has done a great job keeping on top of it, and putting up with the community flack. – *Late rates were received with cheques enclosed, dated 18 August. One mailbag was ‘lost’ for three weeks. Council will honour the rebates based on this.*

3. Works – Refer to Works report below. Works are now preparing for the upcoming ‘Weed Control’ around the estate. Gary is due for an upgrade of his ‘Built-up Area’ gun

licence. This requires a two day refresher course. The course will be run towards the end of September.

4. Administration – Shelley is on Annual Leave for two weeks from 25th October. We may put a temp in place during this period.

5. Shire Plan – Work on this plan continues. It is also on the Agenda for discussion.

6. Dogs on the Estate – Still experiencing problems obtaining information on Dog By-Laws, with no quick fix coming to light. LGANT has 'Dog Issues' listed on the agenda for the two-day meeting in October. – *CEO to write a letter to owners of problem dogs.*

7. Meetings: TOPROC – 22nd September at Darwin City Council
DCC Function, all day – 28 September
LGANT 2-day Conference – 11 & 12 October – *Cr. Withnall to attend with CEO*

WORKS REPORT AUGUST 2011

WILDLIFE

One Dingo in particular has been acting aggressively towards members of the community whilst walking their dogs. This Dog has also been seen attacking and taking away chooks and ducks. It's Killing Fields are amongst the vacant 5 acre blocks between Delissa Drive and Mungalo Road. A Dog Trap has been set and patrols have been conducted each morning. If possible this dog will be trapped and relocated. This dog and another has been blamed for the savage murder of one persons pet dog. It has also attacked dogs whilst on leads and walking. A Dingo fitting this dogs description has, on Fri. Sep. 9th, been reported carrying then eating it's victim, a small animal of some sort in the area of Erickson Cres. and Sasche St.

POWERWATER

All is operating as normal.

We have completed a small contract which involved replacing old, rotting corrugated iron on the Transfer Pump Shed within the Water Tank Compound.

DUMP

Dumped cars are continually being set alight.

Generally, users of the dump, lately, have been doing the right thing ,except in regard to the Green Waste section where dumping is carried out away from the fringes of this area. This creates a void at the rear of this area, thus more regular pushing up of this area is conducted more often than should be necessary.

The continuing dumping of unused concrete by Cement Mixers at the rear of the Dump creates a headache for all concerned.

ESTATE AND SURROUNDS

Drain Clearing, notably along Wagait tower Rd. is coming along.

Dubious driving practices have seen us replacing concrete roadside barriers at numerous sites within the Estate.

DOGS

Need it be mentioned that roaming Dogs remain a constant and increasing cause of concern among many people who live here? A few people have requested that these dogs be shot, however this is an extremely delicate subject. Shooting dogs who are merely walking down the street is probably going a bit overboard. Waiting for a child to be mauled may bring about the thought that maybe something should have been done beforehand.

Resolution No. 211/49

That the Officers' reports be received and accepted.

Moved: Cr Magnoli

Seconded: Cr Lamont

Vote: AIF

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 Financial Reports

Financial Reports will be mailed to Councillors as soon as they are received from Meritt Partners

8. AGENDA ITEMS

8.1 Bike Path. – Work commenced, based on the word of Peter Clee. It was stopped when Chris Chaplin complained about where the track was going. No plans for this stage of the track have been found, and Peter Clee is uncontactable. Council discussed some alternative options for the placement of the culvert, and measures to stop cars and other vehicles using the track. CEO has ordered the contractor to go ahead with the culvert, and Council will review the next step on completion of the culvert.

8.1 Computer Systems. – Council office is experiencing a drain on it's Internet Resources, through the wireless access being unsecured. Telstra has generously allowed extra download capacity, and is working with Council to overcome the problems we are experiencing. Council computer network has been bombarded with Computer Viruses, and the Internet had slowed to a point where the Internet banking transactions, including processing of staff wages, could not be carried out. CEO phoned Telstra, but was told that Peter Clee was the only Authorised Person on the Council's Telstra Account, and as such, they could only discuss these issues with him. As Peter is currently touring Europe, and is not returning emails etc, Telstra offered Council an extra download amount to help us out until we could come up with an alternative solution. During the next three days, the system was hacked again, and the extra Internet allocation had been drained, bringing the Office to a standstill once more. It appears that members of the Wagait community have been freely availing themselves of Council's Internet service. The CEO's wife, who has an IT background, was able to contact Telstra on behalf of Council, and negotiate better Telstra support given our situation, and allow us to access the information we needed in order to secure the network. Cr. Withnall expressed his concern over the current state of the network, and offered to reset the

network, with new passwords and access codes to tighten up the security aspect.

Resolution No. 211/50

Council resolved that Darryl Withnall look into the Council IT system, and get it to a point where it is secure and can be managed by an IT Consultant.

Moved: Cr. Lamont
Seconded: Cr. Magnoli
Vote: AIF

8.3 Amalgamation – CEO provided an update report on the proposed Amalgamation

8.4 Update on dog laws.- Covered earlier, in CEO's report.

8.5 Shire Plan Update – Representatives of DHLGRS Compliance Office have visited, and are assisting in preparation of the Plan. Once it is completed, it will be available for input from the Community, prior to be endorsed by Council, and then the Minister.

8.6 Proposed Regional Waste Facility.- Cr. Lamont provided a verbal report on her attendance at the last meeting.

8.7 PowerWater – Water cost at standpipe. – Cr. Lamont raised her concern about the increase in cost of accessing water via the standpipe, when compared to price of water in town. She requested that Council write to Rob Knight, Minister for Essential Services, regarding these unfair rates, and request the matter be investigated.

Resolution No. 211/51

Council resolved that a letter of concern be sent to Rob Knight, Minister for Essential Services, seeking an investigation into why we are paying considerably higher rates than domestic or commercial users when we don't have options.

Moved: Cr. Lamont
Seconded: Cr. Withnall
Vote: AIF

8.8 Rates Update – There are still 20% of rates outstanding for the current year. Reminders have been sent out. Letter from Jane Carrigan was tabled and discussed.

8.9 Christmas Functions – Workshop & Council: It was decided that Council hold two Christmas functions this year. Council members and their partners would have a Christmas function following the December Council meeting, which would commence at an earlier hour than normal. Council staff, along with partners, will enjoy a Christmas function at a date to be advised. Local contractors, who have assisted Council this year, will also be invited to the Staff function.

8.10 Christmas Closure Period – The Council Office will close on the afternoon of 23rd December, and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January, 2012.

9. LATE ITEMS and GENERAL BUSINESS.

9.1 Cox Country Club Discussion – After further discussion it was decided to refer this item to the next meeting. A letter to be written to the Club advising them of this decision.

9.2 Emergency Management Plan.- endorsement.

Resolution No. 211/52

Council resolved to endorse the Wagait Shire Emergency Management Plan.

Moved: Cr. Duncan

Seconded: Cr. Withnall

Vote: AIF

9.3 Late Correspondence: Letter from Chris and Sue Chaplin: Cr. Duncan read the letter to the meeting. After discussion, a letter of response was read out to the meeting, and was unanimously approved.

9.4 Cr Duncan suggested re-introducing the Action Plan, used by Council in the past.

9.5 Cr Duncan presented a letter to Council, dated 15 November 2010, From Department of Natural resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport expressing support for the Cox Peninsular Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, who are seeking land, and a shed with power & water to house their vehicles, perform maintenance etc.

A letter is to be written, acknowledging receipt of the letter, and informing them that Council will investigate options.

9.6 Cr Duncan tabled a document prepared by Jill Mumme, containing excerpts from Council minutes dated between July 2008 and March 2011, dealing with the proposed Memorial Garden. With \$25,000 funding received, and a further \$20,000 committed by Council, there is a total budget of \$45,000. It was suggested that CEO contact Building contractor, Paul Boyle re overseeing the project. Letter of acknowledgement to be written to Jill.

9.7 Denise Arratta has raised concern that the Memorial seat & plaque has not been replaced, after it was removed due to damage. It was decided to produce another concrete setting, attach the plaque and locate it at Baluria Rd Beach Access point. Letter to be written to Denise outlining Council's decision.

10 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

10.1 One Item

**11. MEETING CLOSED AT 10pm. by Vice President Duncan.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18th October 2011**