



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2008

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on 22nd October 2008 at 9.05am – 5.55pm at the lama RTC Centre, lama Island.

**Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC)
Ordinary Meeting
Held at the Iama Island Community,
Iama Island
Wednesday 22nd October 2008**

Present: Cr. Fred Gela, Mayor
Cr. Kenny Bedford, Deputy Mayor, Division 14 - Erub
Cr. Donald Banu, Division 1 - Boigu
Cr. Raymond Soki, Division 2 - Dauan
Cr. Ron Enosa, Division 3 - Saibal Island
Cr. Keith Fell, Division 4 - Mabuiag
Cr. Wayne Guivarra, Division 5 - Badu Island
Cr. Toshie Kris, Division 7 - St. Pauls
Cr. Nancy Pearson, Division 8- Hammond
Cr. Walter Mackie, Division 9 - Iama
Cr. Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber
Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 - Poruma
Cr. John Mosby, Division 12 - Yorke
Cr. Florianna Bero, Division 13 - Ugar
Cr. Ron Day - Division 15 - Mer Island
Mr. John Scarce, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Noel Peters, Manager - Human Resources
Mr. Anthony Bird, Manager - Finance
Ms Margaret McConnell - Finance Team
Ms Dania Ahwang, Manager - Internal Audit
Mrs Tania Sailor, Executive Secretary.

Observers: Members of the Public

9.05am: Meeting opened in prayer by Cr. Mackie.

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

There was a minute silence to pay respect for families who have lost their loved ones recently.

Apologies: Cr. David Bosun, Division 6 - Kubin
Mr. Malcolm Flavel, Executive Manager - Housing & Ports
Mr. Lloyd Sunderland, Executive Manager - Community
Mr. Tim Sheppard, Executive Manager - Engineering

Deputations: Nil

WELCOME

Welcome to Country (*on and behalf of the Elders & Traditional Land Owners*)

- Mrs Salu Sebasio

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners

- Mayor Fred Gela
- Cr. Walter Mackie

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Bedford the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 20th August 2008 be adopted as true and accurate apart from some alterations.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Torres Strait Islander Land Act Review – Letter has been forward to the Department of Natural Resources and water on the issue of doing urban consultations first on the mainland and to use the outcome of the process when consulting with Torres Strait Communities.

Council Meetings:

- Mabuag Council Meeting – Council meeting scheduled for 21st January 2009 will now be held on 28th January 2009.
- *Executive Secretary to provide new Council meeting dates with amendments as above.*

Executive Managers Portfolios – use own local people within TSIRC who have the skills to assist with some of the portfolios that Executive Managers hold.

Cross Cultural Awareness – HR Manager did some investigation and will have a report in the next few days.

Communications Island Managers/Councillors:

- It was noted that the Island Managers are still hiring people without the knowledge of the HR Manager. **It is advised that the Island Manager do not have the authority to hire or fire.**

Island Managers:

- Teleconference Meeting for all Island Managers with Executive Managers and CEO every Friday on the week of the Council Meetings.
- Workshop for all Island Managers will occur as soon as all Island Managers positions have been filled and appointed. *Island Manager's position to be finalised by end of October.*

Community Forum Expenses – Mayor will engage with the Minister on this issue when he meets with the Minister on the 13th November.

Complaints – deferred to General Business.

Resolved that Council break for Morning tea at 10.30am

AGENDA ITEM 6
CAPE YORK HELICOPTERS

Resolution

Moved Cr. Bedford, Seconded Cr. P. Mosby that Council authorises Cape York Helicopters to have fuel containers on Dauan, Saibai, Poruma and Ugar Islands. Risks and Legislative Compliance of storing fuel cells on identified Islands is borne by Cape York Helicopters, further Council authorises Cape York Helicopters approval to land on all of the 15 Communities that form the Regional Council, provided where possible that Cape York Helicopters attempts to provide prior advice of specific landings.

Motion carried.

Against – Cr. Gulvarra
- Cr. Kris
- Cr. Banu

- ***Reason Against*** – *that the PBC has not been consulted.*
- ***Hammond Helicopter Landings*** – *Need to advise Cape York Helicopters and Australian Helicopters to land on the proper designated area (oval) and not on the beach.*

AGENDA ITEM 7
HOUSING REGIONAL COUNCIL

Lay on Table

- CEO received two (2) proposals presented to this meeting. Some proposals were received verbally.
- 1st step is to move core functions out to community including CEO.
- It was agreed by members to open tendering process again to all Councillors to give more time and thought and to have the best value in mind on setting up or housing Regional Council.
- Majority (9) of the Councillors voted to open up the tendering process again to all Councillors and to have all proposals floored out at the next Council Meeting at Warraber Island. The process is as follows:
 - Councillors present proposals and ratify discussions at next meeting.
 - Select a Committee made up of two (2) Councillors (of communities not submitting proposals), the Mayor and CEO.

- CEO reports on the outcome of discussions and present report to the following Council Meeting.
- Decisions made at Council Meeting in January
- It was noted that Dauan Island Community withdraws their proposals on housing Regional Council.

Resolved that Council break for Lunch at 1.00pm

ACTION ITEMS

- *Infrastructure Assessments* – CEO to include in action item sheet.
- *Divestment of Enterprise (item no.18)* – refer to action item no. 76 updated report provided by Finance Manager at this meeting.
- *Housing Status (item no. 4)*
 - Ms Mary Newie is the contact person in this project, assisting Executive Manager Finance in getting information from communities to work forward on this project.
 - At this time Executive Manager Finance cannot provide timeframe or deadline on this project as still awaiting information from Island Managers.
 - CEO will engage discussions with all Island Managers at Teleconferences to be held on Fridays after every Council Meetings in compiling necessary report required by TSIRC when ever requested. Need to also keep Councillors in the loop as well as to what information is requested from Island Managers at any time. Need to also check and update all Councillors email addresses.
- *Subsidies for RPT Service in the Torres Strait (Items no. 48, 49 & 50)*
 - no response from Ministers as yet since TSIRC wrote to them.
 - Aero Tropics now in voluntary administration.
 - TSIRC has offered help to people moving in and out of communities on TSIRC Charters subject to availability of seats.
 - Passengers provide tickets that have been issued by Aero Tropics prior to the grounding of the airline to TSIRC and TSIRC will arrange to have them on available charters going to and from Islands.
 - *TSIRC write to all Departments/agencies to assist communities of Torres Strait moving to and from Communities in whatever available Charters they have, subject of course to availability of seats on these Charters.*
- *Kidson Consultants (item no.79)* – TSRA Chair to assist Executive Manager Finance in obtaining the report.

LATE REPORTS

SHUT DOWN OF OFFICE DURING FESTIVE SEASON

Resolution

Moved Cr. Kris, Seconded Cr. Soki that the Thursday Island Office will close for the Christmas – New Year period from 12 pm Monday 22nd December 2008, reopen on Monday 5th January 2009

Thursday 25th December 2008, Friday 26th December 2008 and Thursday 1st January 20-08 will be observed as Public Holidays. Annual Leave, TOIL, LWOP or a combination of these shall be granted for the remaining 6 days. Further:

- where Division have in the past granted leave to employees in the first and second half of the year this shall continue.*
- Where divisions in the past have granted leave to CDEP participants for longer period of annual leave this shall continue.*
- Where the Division has the requirement to have commenced CDEP prior to October to be entitled to Annual Leave this will still apply.*

Motion Carried.

- TSIRC acknowledges the practices previous Councils used prior to amalgamation with regards to office closure for the festive seasons but will now work towards setting dates for the whole TSIRC in 2009.*
- HR Manager will continue to liaise with Island Managers seeking information on their dates for closure of office for this year's festive season and will copy Councillors the information requested from Island Managers.*
- Leave Application process*
 - Island Managers not to approve leave applications.*
 - Island Managers are to recommend to appropriate Executive Manager the employee's leave application.*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM INFORMATION REPORT

Issues raised by Cr. Lui – Cover for Water Lagoon

- Operations Manager for Engineering to provide update to Cr. Lui.*
- Cr. Lui to provide letter to CEO*
- CEO to liaise with Operations Manager in fast tracking to solving this issue.*

Community & Engineering Minutes - Cr. Mackie advised an amendment in the minutes for Community & Engineering that it was Cr. Mackie who attended the meeting and not Cr. Lui (pg 9) with regards to the 2nd Submission of TSRA for Climate Changes.

Managers Positions

- It was advised that there are opportunities for local people to apply for these positions. Applications will be assessed based on skills, qualifications of applicant and capacity of the community to provide support.
- Look at issuing each islands with a portfolio – 1 for Sports & Rec, 1 for Finance etc., each island will have one portfolio sitting within their community eg asset managements (all information will be sitting on one island).

By-Laws

- Community Police needs to identify laws, what is required in their communities.
- 5 communities have generic By-laws
- Workshop with communities on By-laws is different consultation altogether – full blown workshop

Sports & Rec. (pg 26)

- no response from Sports & Rec. Queensland
- no response from Cindy Morseu on Healthy Lifestyle Program
- *TSIRC to write to TSYRSA, TSC, Queensland Health to meet and engage in discussions and initiate a draft model for Sports & Rec for Torres Strait.*

Resolved that Council break for Afternoon tea at 3.30pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Send all Divisional Letterheads to all Councillors as a priority.
- TSIRC main office phone lines – complaint of phones just ringing out. CEO noted there are now 2 extra workers manning the reception area at all time.
- At the request of Councillors, a list of the main office telephone numbers was distributed to them during the meeting.
- Queensland Police:
 - with the recent incident on Boigu, Councillors discussed the ongoing issue of the need for State Police presence in the communities.
 - Starting points in this issue was to employ a fully funded police for the 14 Island Communities (Badu has QATSIP) that have those powers to provide those services and give authority attached to that position.
 - Need that input of information from Community Police in identifying what is need or required in communities to enable TSIRC to put up a submission to Government.
 - Ministers are in receipt of correspondences from the Mayor regarding TSIRC issues – since then have received no response. TSIRC can now look at going to Media outlets to voice our concerns.
 - It was recommended that in the first instance, the CEO and Executive Manager Finance look into firms in Cairns that can work on the contents of media releases to successfully get the message across to the wider public.

- Budget - It was noted that Cr. Mackie revoked his decision on paying \$1200 for commercial rates. Executive Manager Finance to liaise with Cr. Mackie.
- Amalgamation Allowance – CEO to check with Payroll Officer if the amalgamation allowance is included in their allowance paid to Councillors every fortnight through payroll.
- *Rent Arrears* – Need to find out what the arrears are in each community. It was noted that rent arrears will not be a written off. All rent arrears are to be recovered by TSIRC. Executive Manager Finance working on obtaining all information on rent arrears from communities.

CLOSED BUSINESS

Resolution

Moved Cr. Bedford, Seconded Cr. Fell that in accordance with Section 463 of the *Local government Act 1993* it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss section 463 (1) (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees, 463 (1) (f) starting or defending legal proceedings involving it, 463 (1) (h) other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local Government further the public in attendance are asked to leave

Motion Carried.

ISSUES RATIFIED FROM CLOSED BUSINESS

Nil

MEETING CLOSED

With no further discussions, the Mayor thanked Cr. Walter Mackie and the Community of Iama for their hospitality in hosting the TSIRC Ordinary Meeting.

5.35pm Meeting closed with a prayer by Cr. Mackie.


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Cr. Fred Gela
Mayor


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Mr. John Scarce
Chief Executive Officer