



MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING

OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014

AT

6.00 pm

Council Chambers Civic Centre
Stuart Highway, Katherine

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT
THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014 AT 6.20 PM**

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PRESENT

Mayor Fay Miller
Alderman Lis Clark
Alderman Steven Rose
Alderman Donald Higgins
Alderman Rob Phillips
Alderman Toni Tapp Coutts
Alderman Peter Gazey

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr David Laughler – Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Neroli Dickens – Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Director
Works & Services
Mr James Rowe – Director Corporate and Community Services
Mrs Sophie Henderson – Community Services Executive
Manager
Mrs Alice Anastacio – Corporate Services Executive Manager
Mr David Moore – Operations Manager

11 x members of the Katherine Community
1 x member of the media

Mrs Heather Kirk – Minute Taker

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Members Leave of Absence
and Apologies

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOVED: Clark/Rose

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 25 February 2014 be
confirmed as a true and accurate record.

That the Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 25 February
2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 7/0

5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Member Disclosure of Interest and Declared Interest

Nil

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

7. MAYORAL BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Mayoral Business to be considered

- Her Honour the Administrator The Honourable Sally Thomas will be visiting Katherine this Friday for the last time in her position as the Administrator of the NT. The Mayor has invited the elected members and some members of the community to be at the Civic Centre for a formal afternoon tea to farewell Her Honour.
- The Local Government of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Conference will be held on 3-4 April at GYRACC, for the first time in Katherine. This is a great opportunity for elected members and members of the public to attend to see what LGANT does. Minister Tollner will be one of the presenters.
- Today the Mayor was nominated by the LGANT Executive on to the new Advisory Council for Senior Territorians which Minister Peter Styles has formed. Anyone is welcome to nominate for LGANT, nominations close this Friday.
- Tomorrow at 8.45 am The Mayor will be hosting "Tourism is Everyone's Business" with Chamber of Commerce.
- The Mayor thanked Alderman Phillips for his support as Deputy Mayor which concludes on 31 March 2014 and is looking forward to working with Alderman Clark for the next 12 months as Deputy Mayor.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Correspondence and Documents Tabled

Nil

9. QUESTIONS

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

9.1 With Notice

Nil

9.2 Without Notice

Nil

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

11. REPORT OF OFFICERS

11.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Chief Executive Officer Reports

MOVED: Rose/Clark

That the report of the Chief Executive Officer for the month of February 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- The CEO indicated that the minutes are being recorded as we proceed and asked that alderman note they must ensure they are being accurately recorded.
- The Mayor commented if any aldermen had queries regarding the Agenda they were free to ring and ask before the meeting.

11.2 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works and Services Department Reports

MOVED: Phillips/Higgins

That the report of the Works and Services Department for the month of February 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7/0

- The Mayor queried the reporting system for waste.
- The Director of Works and Services stated the figure captures entire CBD area, and all operators. This is the actual waste as opposed to an estimate.
- Alderman Clark asked about the CCTV project in the Hot Springs. The CEO advised that the CCTV will be in the car park above the flood area. The person who put the CCTV in on high street has now left, so Council need to find someone else to fit the CCTV cameras.
- Alderman Rose asked about Ryan Park exeloo toilets. The inside was dirty and the outside is covered in lime. Is there a need for the exeloo to be open in the wet season when it is quieter? The CEO commented that closing one of the toilets had been considered. The demand for public toilets ebbs and wanes. There can be high spikes when people come in from Communities. There can always be problems with toilets, eg the toilet block in Low Level has been demolished from vandalism. This is a major issue about trying to maintain infrastructure. The exeloo toilets have the potential to lock one down so only one is in use. The lime is an issue which vandalism contributes to. The toilets are well used and cleaned on a regular basis.
- The Mayor asked if the trees in front of the exeloo have been poisoned. The CEO suspects so, due to the rate they are dying.
- Alderman Clark commented that the toilet at the Visitor Information Centre also requires cleaning on the outside.
- Alderman Phillips commented that the cleaning contractors have brought up the same suggestion as Alderman Rose, ie closing one toilet down.

11.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Phillips/Clark

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of February 2014.

CARRIED: 7/0

- The Mayor commented that the description of 'gravedigging and trenching at the showgrounds' caused some amusement when she read the Agenda.

11.4 PROPOSAL TO RESCHEDULE APRIL 2014 COUNCIL MEETINGS

File: Local Governance / Media Relations / Administration

MOVED: Phillips/Higgins

That the Council Meeting in April be rescheduled to Tuesday 29 April 2014.

CARRIED: 7/0

11.5 POTENTIAL MODIFICATION OR RELOCATION OF THE CENOTAPH

File: Property Management / Maintenance / O'Shea Park

MOVED: Higgins/Phillips

That Council:

1. Determines not to support current (or immediate future) plans to relocate the Katherine Cenotaph; and
2. Directs the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a design brief and costing estimate for remediation works to enhance the existing structure to meet current and future demand requirements.

CARRIED: 0/0

- Alderman Coutts supports the moving of the Cenotaph as she believes the numbers will continue increasing, and the current location is noisy and busy with traffic.
- Alderman Phillips commented that he would not like to see it go to a different location. By moving it around 180 degrees to face the hospital there would be more room and the traffic would not interfere as much with sound.
- Alderman Rose commented that traffic problems are the main concerns and thinks they can be met without relocating the Cenotaph but by reorientating it in its current location and with the introduction of a better loud speaker system. When the second bridge is built, the heavy traffic should not be coming through town.
- Alderman Clark commented that she agreed with previous comments. Council needs to look at the noise from traffic and the pedestrian safety aspect. This needs to be looked at carefully before major decisions are made.
- Alderman Gazey commented that consideration of the noise of the trucks can be combatted with mobile sound screens. Technology could be used – portable big screens – so that more people can see what is happening may be other options.
- Alderman Higgins commented that when he arrived with the RAAF he was involved voluntarily in a lot of official functions starting in 1989 and commented that this is long enough to establish tradition. Personally he feels the Cenotaph needs rotating, which would help the sound flow. O'Shea Terrace can be blocked off if necessary. Statistically, he feels there was not enough response to the RSL survey to make a valued decision. He feels that more recommendations and costings need to be sought.
- The Mayor commented that everyone raised good points and this is an emotive issue. There are concerns for people hearing the service, mainly because we do not have a great sound system. The road can be closed off when there are services. She is concerned that if the Cenotaph is relocated, it would be more secluded, and not as easy to keep an eye on it. She likes the idea of rotating it to face the Katherine Club, and staying in the same location.
- Alderman Coutts suggested taking these suggestions back to the RSL about rotating the Cenotaph and asking if they could contribute financially.
- The Mayor advised that this issue has been ongoing for many years.
- Alderman Coutts asked if the wording of the motion can be changed to "further demand requirements in consultation with the RSL Sub Branch

MOVED: Coutts/Higgins

Directs the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the RSL Sub Branch to prepare a design brief and costing estimate for remediation works to enhance the existing structure to meet current and future demand requirements

CARRIED: 7/0

11.6 FACILITY HIRE CHARGES – KATHERINE TENNIS CLUB

File: Property Management / Hire / Sportsgrounds – Property Hire - Tennis

MOVED: Coutts/Clark

That Council:

1. Decline the request from the Katherine Tennis Club Inc for fees relief beyond the proposed \$2,000 per annum hire agreement; and
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to advise the Tennis Club that in the absence of agreement in the terms so expressed, that alternative arrangements for this facility will be explored.

CARRIED: /0

- The CEO advised for a number of years the Tennis Club have had exclusive use of this facility through a formal lease with Council, set around \$5000 per year. This was negotiated down and the formal lease expired. Through time the proposal was to be renewed. At that stage the tennis club felt they did not have sufficient funds. A process was started to negotiate a facility hire agreement which covered the same context of a lease. The tennis club advised they did not have sufficient funds to meet the hire fee. Their proposal was \$300 per year. This was considered by Council. The problem was if Council levied this fee to an exclusive group it would be inequitable for other sporting groups who have to share facilities. The matter was before Council recently and not resolved in terms of a fee structure. The tennis club has made a proposal to pay \$1000 per year for the next 2 years. The council recommendation is it stays at \$2000 per year. To draw a comparison, Step Out lease is set at \$5000 per year plus GST.
- Alderman Phillips commented that the Step Out example is not the same as the tennis club as it is a sporting club. The condition of the club is poor and they are struggling, and there may not be a tennis club in the future, if fees are increased. There are other specialist sports such as BMX, model aeroplane club, who do not pay this much. He mentioned the club house, which is a good structure, which Council provided, not at the request of the Tennis Club. He does not think Council should be making it hard for people to play sports.
- Alderman Clark commented that this group is struggling and we should not make it too hard for them, as Council is there for the community, not just rates and rubbish, and she feels the Club should pay something but perhaps a lesser amount, for the next 12 months, and then revisit this.
- Alderman Gazey asked what exclusive hire relates to and if it was not exclusive what would the tennis courts be used for. The CEO advised that this is a private club, so you have to be a member to utilise the facility. If it were not an exclusive hire arrangement it would operate in the same way as most other courts – open and accessible to members of the public to hire. Exclusive use means no one else uses it so they do not have to book to hire. Other grounds are hired out to multiple users.
- Alderman Coutts commented that the Step Out lease cannot be used as a comparison as they are funded. She thought that for one year we charge \$1000 to give the club a helping hand.
- Alderman Rose commented that subsidies breed dependence, and he would be reluctant to agree to \$1000 for the next 2 years. He agrees with Alderman Phillips comments. There was a lot of interest in tennis and Come and Try Sports Day which hopefully will lead to a lot of new members. Would like to agree to \$1000 for the first year.
- Alderman Higgins agrees with the recommendation as it is. Sporting clubs come and go, for example baseball. Council is currently trying to work out the budget but will still have to pay for maintenance of this facility. All organisations struggle at one time or another. He also queried why the club was affluent several years ago but not now – where was their business plan?

- Alderman Phillips commented that this is not an exclusive club. Anyone can play with prior arrangement.
- The CEO highlighted the financial help would be for the 2013/2014 financial year. Come 1 July 2013 this fee would be revoked.
- Alderman Coutts is concerned at setting a precedence.
- The CEO advised that negotiations for a new facility hire will need to be started within the next couple of months. This should be a policy decision, not one that has to come back to Council.

MOVED: Phillips/Clark

That the Katherine Tennis Club Inc pay \$1,000 plus GST for one year's exclusive hire agreement to be reviewed at the end of 2013/2014 financial year.

CARRIED: 6/1

Alderman Higgins wished his vote against noted.

11.6 CALLISTEMON DRIVE SPEED LIMIT – SCHOOL ZONE

File: Roads Civil and Traffic Works / Planning / School Zones – All Areas

MOVED: Higgins/Phillips

That Council:

1. Endorse the continuation and expansion of the existing 40kph School Zone along Callistemon Drive, linking both Maluka and Grevillea Roads, and
2. Consider the implementation of a universal urban speed limit of 50kph throughout the broader Katherine area, and commence public consultative measures to progress the ideal.

CARRIED: 7/0

- Alderman Gazey commented that what has come out of last month's recommendation is different to what was asked. The map supplied applies to a third of Callistemon Drive. He supplied some google maps to the Aldermen. Map 1 shows existing 40kph the houses to be accessed without worrying about crossing a zone of more than 40kph. Map 2 shows a chequered area on north of Callistemon with houses which would be affected. Map 3 shows if Callistemon Drive was all 40kph all areas marked would be accessible. The difference would be a 36 second delay if the zone was extended.
- Alderman Phillips asked about Callistemon House – the answer was that they do not have to cross the road.
- The Director of Works and Services advised that there are stringent requirements around a school zone. It must be within a school area and immediate vicinity of entry points. The proposed loop fits within those guidelines. Extending the zone from one end of Callistemon to the other is not a lawful zone to implement.
- Alderman Gazey asked for clarification the distance from St Joseph's school to Grevillea Road to MacFarlane.
- The Director of Works and Services advised that the loop road from southern point to continue to St Josephs is a school zone. The existing school zones from an enforcement perspective, vehicles are going in and out of 40kph to 60 kph and to broaden the loop creates a safer environment. The distance is not a factor, it is the entry points, this is where the definition comes from.

- Alderman Higgins commented that no one has considered point 2 of a universal urban speed limit. Once out of the school zone it would mean coming out of a 40 to a 50 kph which would alleviate some problems and this is a positive and proactive reaction to the safety of children. He commented that in 1996 Council declined putting in the 50kph zone. Demographics have changed dramatically since then and there is a high population of younger people in this area.
- Alderman Gazey commented that the Director of Works and Services answer that it is not lawful is a good and reasonable explanation to give to the public. He asked in future could things like this be included.
- The CEO commented that the second recommendation, in the last paragraph of the report, a universal speed limit has not been ignored. This is a complex issue and has previously been considered by Council. This recommendation is asking for direction from Council in relation to a 50kph zone. This would not be a blanket implementation of every street. Exclusions would be a main arterial. This would have to be taken to a broader public consultation. There is a need to make sure the public have the ability to see what is being proposed, by having the correct information to hand.

12. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

File: Community Relations / Committees / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

The following meetings/activities were attended by the Elected Members:

Alderman Steven Rose

Elected Members Workshop

Council Meeting

Chamber of Commerce

Transport Consultation Forum

Meeting with the Director of Corporate Services and Parks and Wildlife re establishing a Telstra Tower at Edith Farms

Alderman Rob Phillips

Elected Members Workshop

Council Meeting

Katherine Museum Meeting

Showgrounds Advisory Committee Meeting

Alderman Donald Higgins

Elected Members Workshop

Council Meeting

Sports Precinct Meeting

Toastmasters Meet the Candidates Night

Alderman Lis Clark

Elected Members Workshop

Council Meeting

Travelling Film Festival

Toastmasters Meet the Candidates Night

YMCA Meeting

- The Mayor advised that at the next workshop all of the committees would be put on the table to discuss who would like to represent which committee. This would be voted upon.

13. LATE AGENDA

Nil

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Alderman Clark advised that her granddaughter is washing cars at the guide hall on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon. The Administrator of the NT, who will be in Katherine, is the Girl Guides patron. Her granddaughter is raising money for multiple sclerosis.
- Alderman Coutts advised that it is wonderful LGANT is holding their conference in Katherine and what a wonderful venue GYRACC is, beginning to hold may conferences and meetings. The Sports Awards will also be held there this Saturday.

15. PETITIONS

Nil

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 7.44pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE

TO BE CONFIRMED