



# **Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday 28 March 2017  
Ordinary Meeting 6:00PM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,  
Stuart Highway, Katherine

To be Confirmed

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 28 MARCH 2017

### MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2017

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**1. Welcome to Country**

**2. Opening Prayer**

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

**3. Present**

Mayor Fay Miller  
Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey  
Alderman Lis Clark  
Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts  
Alderman Steven Rose

**In attendance**

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer  
Ms Claire Johansson – Director of Corporate & Community Services  
Mr Andrew Wilson – A/Operations Manager  
Mrs Sophie Henderson – Community Services Executive Manager (Minute Taker)  
Ms Naomi Hunter (Communications Officer)  
Mrs Colleen Kerr (Library Manager)

8 x members of the Katherine Community  
2 x members of the Media

**4. Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Alderman Henry Higgins  
Acting Director of Works & Services Mr David Moore

**5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

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

MOVED: Clark / Gazey

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 28 February 2017 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 5 / 0

**6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Nil

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### 7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

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

Nil

### 8. Mayoral Business to be Considered

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

#### Mayor's Calendar of Events for February 2017

### 9. Correspondence and Documents to be Tabled

ABC Grassroots interview  
Funeral x 4  
Travelling Film Festival welcome  
Tindal Expo at GYRACC  
Waitangi Day celebrations – Sportsgrounds  
AWALGA NT Executive teleconference  
Victoria Cross Exhibition opening  
ABC Radio Interview  
Meeting with community member x 5  
Katherine Emergency Committee Meeting  
Meeting with Lendlease (Chris Bitts) and Coffey (Michael George)  
Nitmiluk Tours Board Meeting  
Meeting with Sandra Nelson – Parliament House Darwin  
Meeting with Sandra Nelson - Katherine  
LGANT Executive meeting – Strategic Planning for 2017 – Parap  
Katherine Times interview  
Meeting with Justice Pepper – Hydraulic Fracturing Enquiry  
KAAG (Katherine Accommodation Action Group)  
DLPE meeting – Phil Harris & Claire Brown  
Katherine LTAC meeting  
Katherine Community Safety Committee meeting  
Meeting with Ken Beresford  
ABC Radio interview (POSI's, TBL's)  
Katherine Museum photo shoot with Bombing of Katherine committee  
Meeting with Stephen Blackadder re CEO Performance Review  
AWALGA annual Networking Breakfast – City of Darwin  
Qantas Australian Tourism Awards – Convention Centre  
Meeting with Maria Helou – KVIC Manager  
Territory Economic Summit – Phase 2 – Katherine Civic Centre  
Welcome afternoon tea for Maria Helou at KVIC  
February Open Forum – Katherine Town Council  
February Council meeting

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During February I attended 4 funerals – all for long term residents of Katherine. I wish to acknowledge the passing of Michael Wyatt of Katherine Funeral Service whose sudden death has shocked our community. Michael and his wife Dianne have provided a valuable service to the wider region for many years through Katherine Funeral Service and I extend my deepest sympathy to Dianne, their son Todd and his family for their loss.

Katherine also said “Goodbye” to well respected pioneer Ingrid Pauline Phillips who peacefully passed away on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – aged 86 years. Ingrid’s eldest son Robert Phillips has been a long serving elected member of Katherine Town Council and we pass on our sincere deepest sympathy to Rob and all of the Phillips family. I have sought permission to include Ingrid’s eulogy in this month’s Agenda. This eulogy was read at Ingrid’s funeral by longtime friend of the family and former Mayor of Katherine Jim Forscutt.

Ingrid was born in Melbourne on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1931, second child for her parents David and Ingrid Drysdale and sister to her older brother Owen. Her parents were working on Sunday Island with the United Aborigines Mission at this time for a period of 4 years. When Ingrid was 2 years old the Drysdale family, which now included a third brother Frank, started out with 2 families from the Bardi people in a little pearling lugger – The Petra – to wrest an independent living from beachcombing around the beautiful but treacherous reefs and shores of the Buccaneer Archipelago. This is a group of islands about 90 miles offshore from Derby WA. One of these islands, Cockatoo Island and later Coppermine Island on the mainland were home to Ingrid and her family until almost the beginning of World War II. When her father David enlisted to serve in the Middle East her mother took the children which now included a new baby brother Leith, back to their grandparent’s home on Wickham Farm in Katanning WA. Ingrid’s fondest memories of her time there were of eating the apples her grandfather grew. Despite an abundance of fruit, no one was allowed to eat a second piece of fruit until the first was completely finished. Ingrid’s mother took a job cooking in a hotel and tried to keep the family together, but found it too difficult to manage. Ingrid, Owen and Frank had to be placed in an orphanage while the baby Leith remained with his mother. It was a long time between visits from their mother and Ingrid was always reluctant to talk about the time she spent there. Ingrid became a very good hockey player during this time which she excelled in when they returned to Katanning after the war ended.

David Drysdale was captured by the Germans on the Island of Crete and spent the last four and a half years as a prisoner of war in Germany. When her father returned from the war he had trouble settling back into life in Katanning, so in 1947 the family returned to the Kimberley’s WA where her parents both worked on the Kimberley Research Station. Later when her father left the Research Station Ingrid worked as a waitress at the Six Mile Hotel in Wyndham – also helping her father and brother run an old soft drink factory at the Three Mile which they had had bought. Her mother Ingrid wrote in her book “End of Dreaming” published 1974, quote “Ingrid had meanwhile formed a special attachment to one of the young technical officers of the CSIRO named Lindsay Phillips – but generally known as “Philip” – who had been doing specialised agricultural and pastoral work on the Research Station. (Philip wrote in his autobiography “my first impression of Ingrid was that she was an undisciplined young girl who answered her father back terribly.” A few pages later he wrote “I started to notice that this freckle faced sixteen year old kid was extremely good looking. She had this beautiful long, golden wavy hair and we started spending time together”

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Her mother continued writing "When he (Philip) was recalled to the Territory two Connellan Airline pilots stood in for cupid, carrying messages and letters back and forth. Eventually Captain Pederson of the Salvation Army flew from Darwin and thereafter there was no need of any go-between, as he married them in Wyndham in 1949. Ingrid was 18 years old. The wedding ceremony was held up by the arrival of the annual police patrol on horseback, trackers and captured criminals and everyone went out into the street to watch before the ceremony got underway.

Their first home was in Katherine where Philip worked at the CSIRO Research Station. It was an army officer's mess building which stood where Riverview Caravan Park is nowadays. They had neighbours – the Forscutt's, Dummigan's and Crosby's. For entertainment Ingrid and Philip played tennis at the Katherine Town courts and the Manbulloo clay courts.

The town's population at this time was about 500 with very few women, no churches, libraries or other facilities. With no activities for young people Ingrid started a games night on Sunday nights with badminton, darts, quoits, table tennis and a good supper. Her sponge cakes were renown in those early days. With no churches in town Ingrid started the first Sunday School for everybody with the help of Salvation Army Padre Vic Pederson.

As our family grew to include 7 children – Robert, Barry, Lynette, Kyra, Gregory, Lindsay and Leith, Ingrid became active in Brownies and Guides and at one time was District Guide Commissioner. She was Vice-President and one of the main fund raisers of the group that helped to establish the first Katherine Pre School in Shepherd Street. She was also very active in sports and sports administration and a very vocal supporter of teams her children played in. During this time Ingrid was a strong supporter of her husband's working activities at CSIRO Research Station Katherine, often accommodating and showing hospitality to many southern visitors and socially entertaining them.

As her family grew and left home for boarding school, work etc Ingrid became a preschool assistant at Shepherd Street Pre School where she worked until retiring – upon which Robyn Morris stepped into her shoes.

She was a committed Christian who loved the Lord Jesus and was always involved in church work. Also a volunteer for the Red Cross Hospital Kiosk and was an original and regular Meals on Wheels attendant. She did banking and other services for those in the Red Cross Aged Care Hostel, making time to visit the Hospital and Nursing Home to cheer up those less fortunate than herself. One morning per week for many years she gave Religious Instruction to primary school children in Katherine.

Ingrid was also a very great help to her husband and eldest son Robert on their property "Ironwood" on Emungalan Road. This ranged from long hours stick picking preparing new paddocks, hand weeding existing paddocks and Rob says she was his best assistant in fencing/tying off and fire control. She thoroughly enjoyed preparing their Brahman cattle show team for the Katherine & Districts Shows each year which required an intensive 3 month program culminating in leading them before the judges and in the show ring.

Following the 1998 flood and the sale of "Ironwood" Philip and Ingrid moved to their final home on Zimin Drive.

She was a wonderful loving mother to her 7 children praying faithfully all her life for them and her husband through all their life experiences, loving grandmother to her 15 grandchildren and loving great grandmother to her 24 great grandchildren.

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### 10. Petitions

Nil

### 11. Questions

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

#### 11.1 WITH NOTICE

Nil

#### 11.2 WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

### 12. Notice of Motion

Nil

### 13. Report of Officers

#### 13.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017

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

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of February 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

Deputy Mayor Gazey – page 6 – correction needed to change to February.

Mayor requested further details on the 10 year infrastructure plan. The CEO advised that the 10 year infrastructure plan plans to identify the major projects needed for the future of Katherine and the plan contains three levels of focus including economic, infrastructure, 10 year infrastructure plan. The Mayor is hopeful that there will be sufficient money available to implement the plan

Deputy Mayor Gazey – requested further information on the expo planned. The CEO will take this question on notice and advise further and Council will investigate if there is any opportunity for people to apply for stands after the closing date.

The Mayor will be putting out regular Facebook posts regarding Elections.

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### 13.2 MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Corporate and Community Services Reports

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Corporate and Community Services Division for the months February 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

Deputy Mayor Gazey – page 11 – improvements noted in VIC section – sought clarification. The DCCS advised that she will take this on notice and advise.

Alderman Tapp-Coutts – congratulated the Library Manager on the increased attendance and use of the Library over the last few years. Alderman Tapp-Coutts would also like to thank our Communications Officer on the Facebook reach that is happening. The Mayor also noted the Wriggle & Rhyme attendance increase at the Library.

Alderman Rose – thanked the new VIC Manager on the work that she has done to date.

### 13.3 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017

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

MOVED: Gazey / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Works & Services Division for the month of February 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

Deputy Mayor Gazey commented on the Binjari electrical work improvements with a specific note regarding the basketball court improvements.

Alderman Clark commented on the Cemetery and that Council needs a policy and guidelines. Need further work due to current look (should be a lawn cemetery). The Adventure Playground needs further work on the shade as the new shade sail has already been damaged. The CEO advised that the work for the Cemetery is currently being looked at. Council is also currently investigating to have a hard cover shelter installed at the Adventure Playground.

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Alderman Clark also noted that the Caltrop around the community is still an issue and spraying needs to occur in a variety of locations. The Mayor advised that this matter will be forwarded to the Works and Services Department.

### 13.4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2017

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Gazey / Tapp-Coutts

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of February 2017.

CARRIED: 5/0

Alderman Clark noted her concern on the amount of money being spent on chemicals for spraying (page 30) – over \$4,000 spent for the month of February. Perhaps Council would see the benefit of having a spray manual to ensure the correct use. The Acting Operations Manager advised that the reason we use spray guide is because it assists in ensuring that we are not reapplying and assisting in identifying where the chemicals have been used. The majority of these costs are associated with the Waste Management Facility and costs also include aerial spraying. Noted that Council also had to spray approximately 15 acres at the Waste Management Facility for bellyache bush.

Deputy Mayor Gazey (page 31) – purchase of a new forklift – reasons for the purchase. The CEO advised that we will take this question on notice and will advise.

### 13.5 CAPITAL FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR HOT SPRINGS REVITALISATION PROJECT

File: Finance / Grant Funding / Department of Transport / Hot Springs Revitalisation Fund

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts / Clark

#### **That it be recommended to Council:**

That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to affix the Common Seal on the Capital Funding Agreement between the Department of Transport and Katherine Town Council.

CARRIED: 5/0

The Mayor noted how fantastic it is that Council has been successful in receiving this funding. All credit to the CEO who submitted the grant application and now Council has sufficient funds to complete the entire project.

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### 13.6 2017/2018 BUDGET TIMETABLE

File: Finance / Budgeting / Budget 2017-18

MOVED: Clark / Gazey

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That the amended 2017/2018 Budget timetable be received and noted.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

### 14. **Reports from Representatives on Committees**

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

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

**Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey**

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Victoria Cross Exhibition  
Development Consent Authority Meeting  
YMCA Board Meeting  
Territory Economic Summit

**Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts**

Ordinary Council Meeting

**Alderman Steven Rose**

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Operation Pilgrimage  
Chamber of Commerce  
Katherine Water Advisory Committee Meeting  
CEO Review  
Territory Economic Summit

**Alderman Lis Clark**

Ordinary Council Meeting  
Victoria Cross Exhibition  
Tindal Expo  
Audit Committee Meeting  
Territory Economic Summit

### 15. **Late Agenda**

Nil

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### 16. General Business

#### 16.1 ALDERMAN TAPP-COUTTS

Yvonne Taylor passed away recently – Yvonne was nurse at the Katherine Hospital for a very long time and also worked at Katherine Stores. Great volunteer for the community.

Acknowledged the Bombing of Katherine 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event – Simone Croft and Mike Reid, Council, RAAF and RSL Sub-branch – great event – over 200 people attended. Thank you to organiser's it was a great event. Alderman Rose seconded the thanks to organisers.

Mayor Miller recognised the launch of Alderman Tapp-Coutts new book. The launch is in Darwin on 30 March 2017.

### 17. Confidential Items

Mayor Miller moved a motion for the meeting to be closed to the public.

Members, Council has resolved to use Section 65 (2) of the *Local Government Act* to discuss and resolve confidential issues which come before it. Section 65 (2) states that Council is able to close a meeting, which means that all members of the public and press will be asked to leave the Council Chambers, to discuss specific issues in relation to matters referred to in regulations 8 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations.

Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey Your Worship, I wish to second that the meeting be closed to the public to discuss issues relating to matters as stipulated in regulations 13 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm.

#### 17.1 SALE OF PROPERTY – FOR UNPAID RATES

MOVED: Clark / Gazey

**That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to arrange the disposal of the property.
2. To determine the reserve price on the basis on an independent valuation.
3. That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to cease the sale of the property and remove the Overriding Statutory Charge at such time as the arrears for the property are paid in full.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

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### 17.2 OUTSTANDING RATES – REGISTRATION OF OVERRIDING STATUTORY CHARGE

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

**That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That the Council approve the registration of an Overriding Statutory Charge on the noted properties.
2. That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to affix the Common Seal on the Registration of Overriding Statutory Charge on the noted properties.
3. That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to remove the Overriding Statutory Charge at such time as the arrears for a specific property are paid in full.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

### 17.3 LEASE – MT BINS – WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY – RECYCLING SHOP

MOVED: Clark / Tapp-Coutts

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorised to execute a Deed of Variation for the space at the Waste Management Facility for the recycle shop to expire on the 31 January 2018 – NT Portion 5043 – 40 Novis Quarry Road to MT Bins and affix the Common Seal as required.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

### 17.4 KATHERINE CIVIC AIRPORT LAND RENTAL

MOVED: Clark / Rose

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That the rental for land segregated for exclusive use (e.g. land used for construction of a facility including a hanger) be set at the fair market value cost of \$15.00 per square metre with an annual CPI increase.

CARRIED: 5 / 0

Mayor Miller called for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey Your Worship, I move the motion that the meeting be open to the public.

Meeting opened at 6.55pm.

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### 18. Next Ordinary Council Meeting

The fourth Ordinary Council Meeting for 2017 will be held on Wednesday the 26 April 2017.

### 19. Meeting Closed

The meeting was closed at 6.55pm.

Fay Miller  
**MAYOR OF KATHERINE**

To be confirmed