



**MINUTES**

OF THE

**ORDINARY MEETING  
OF COUNCIL**

HELD

**WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2011**

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 WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2011 AT 6.00 PM**

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**1. OPENING PRAYER**

**2. PRESENT**

Mayor Anne Shepherd  
Deputy Mayor Lis Clark  
Alderman Chrissy Harris  
Alderman Toni Coutts  
Alderman Trevor Ford  
Alderman Steven Rose  
Alderman Jodie Locke

IN ATTENDANCE    Mr Geoff Brooks – Chief Executive Officer  
                         Mrs Sophie Henderson – Administration Manager  
                         9 x Members of the Katherine Community  
                         1 x Media Representative from the Katherine Times

**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 / Coutts

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 22 March 2011 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

That the Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 22 February 2011 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

- Thanked Deputy Mayor Lis Clark for fulfilling her duties on Anzac Day and for looking after the Katherine community whilst away on annual leave.
- Will be attending the Australian Local Government Association Conference in Canberra in mid June 2011.
- Farm & Garden Day on the 16 April 2011 was down on attendance but a great day was still had by those who attended.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED**

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

Northern Territory Electoral Commission Annual Report 2009-2010

**9. QUESTIONS**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

**9.1 With Notice**

Nil

**9.2 Without Notice**

Nil

## 10. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

10.1 Katherine Dry Zone

**MOVED:** Locke / Harris

That Katherine Town Council advises the NT Licensing Commission that the Katherine Dry Zone is ineffective and should be revoked.

**MOTION LOST:** 2 / 5

**Alderman Locke** – believes that the dry zone has not changed anti-social behaviour and the affects of the legislation on those who don't contribute to the anti-social behaviour is restrictive.

**Alderman Coutts** – evidence shows that some of the police powers need to stay under the current dry zone legislation and at this point in time these police powers won't stay if the dry zone is revoked.

**Alderman Harris** – highlighted the increasing black market selling of alcohol and that this issue is causing a flow on affect to people at risk and is not curbing the current anti-social behaviour issues facing the Katherine community.

**Mayor Shepherd** – dry zone legislation is not the only thing that requires fixing to stop the anti-social behaviour. However, if the current legislation is removed what then will help to fix the complex problems associated with alcohol abuse. Noted that if the motion passes there will need to be community consultation prior to seeking official removal of the dry zone.

**Deputy Mayor Clark** – people in our community are currently suffering and those most affected by anti-social behaviour are the children. There are many problems associated with anti-social behaviour and the current dry zone.

**Alderman Ford** – that the current dry zone was thrust upon Katherine community. The Northern Territory Government has done little in the last 3 years since the dry zone came into effect. Council should wait until the outcomes from the current Katherine Region Action Group recommendations are completed.

**Alderman Rose** – The dry zone should stay in affect in order to strengthen police powers and until the diversion programs are running successfully.

Alderman Locke and Alderman Harris requested that their vote in favour of the motion be recorded.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

### **11.1 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2011**

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

MOVED: Ford / Coutts

That the report of the Chief Executive Officer for the month of March 2011 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

Alderman Ford requested additional information pertaining to meetings listed in the Elected Members Matters. The Mayor advised that the meeting with Minister Gerry McCarthy was a general discussion regarding the Cultural Precinct and proposed new Alcohol legislation. The meeting with Hospital Staff was a discussion regarding the proposed site of the new Renal Unit. The meeting with Jack Crosby was a courtesy visit.

### **11.2 MONTHLY REPORT OF THE WORKS MANAGER FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2011**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works Manager Reports

MOVED: Ford / Harris

That the report of the Works Manager for the month of March 2011 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

Alderman Locke sought clarification regarding the number of YMCA staff currently trained in the use of the chlorinator and pumps at the Aquatic Centre. Deputy Mayor Clark advised that the YMCA requested training be provided to all Aquatic Centre staff on the above and that this training had been completed.

Alderman Harris noted that it was pleasing to see that no vandalism costs had been recorded for the month of March.

### **11.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – MARCH 2011**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Clark / Coutts

That the Finance Report to the month of March 2011 prepared by the Finance Manager as at 31 March 2011 be received and adopted.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

Deputy Mayor Clark sought further information pertaining to a payment made to Compass Cleaning. The CEO to confirm the details and provide information.

Alderman Locke sought further information pertaining to a payment made to Jason Rapley. The CEO to confirm the details and provide information.

#### **11.4 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES**

File: Community Relations / Committees / Council Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Coutts - Rose

That Council appoint Representatives on Committees as per the attached listing.

CARRIED 7 / 0

#### **11.5 DRAFT MUNICIPAL PLAN – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2016**

File: Local Governance / Compliance / Municipal Plan

MOVED: Ford / Harris

That Council approve the draft Municipal Plan 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016 for public exhibition.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

Alderman Coutts stressed the need for members of Katherine to read the draft document. Alderman Coutts also highlighted in the draft plan the suggested building of a Botanical Garden along Railway Terrace.

Alderman Rose discussed the wage subsidy at the Museum and suggested that perhaps this money would be better spent on advertising and promoting the Museum. This would boost the image of the Museum and increase numbers. Alderman Rose also discussed the construction of the automated toilets at Ryan Park and the Visitor Information Centre and underlined the increasing and ongoing costs of operating these assets.

Alderman Ford discussed the need for Council to ensure the sustainability of Council's current assets and noted that the only way to increase revenue in the future will be to raise rates above the CPI. Council funding should be spent on our current assets not the creation of new assets that put further pressure on Council's operating expenditure.

Mayor Shepherd highlighted that Council had been very successful in the past obtaining grants. However, this may not be the case in the future.

#### **11.6 KATHERINE REGIONAL CULTURAL PRECINCT**

File: Finance / Grant Funding / Katherine Cultural Precinct

MOVED: Ford / Locke

That Elected Members approve the payment of the NT Build Levy estimated at \$30,000 (excluding GST) and the Department of Construction Management Fee estimated at \$60,000 (excluding GST) from funds held by Council for the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct project.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

## **11.7 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER – LOT 73 – TOWN OF KATHERINE**

File: Property / 63 / Lot 73 / 28 Second Street

MOVED: Ford / Locke

That Council authorizes the Mayor and CEO to negotiate a ten year lease with Telstra Corporation Pty Ltd of part of Lot 73 Town of Katherine for the purpose of a telecommunications tower, at an annual minimum rental of \$10,000 (excluding GST and subject to CPI adjustments) and to affix the common seal to the lease documentation.

CARRIED: 6 / 1

Alderman Rose commented on the benefits on this tower but also indicated that further representation to Telstra and Federal Member for Linguari should be made in the strongest terms in support for Council's proposal to have a mobile phone tower constructed at Mt Billy Todd, to the north of Katherine. This tower would service rural residents as well as the Mt Todd gold mine when it re-opens and proposed correctional centre at the Rural College.

Alderman Coutts requested her vote against be recorded due to the proposed location.

## **11.8 MUNICIPAL PLAN – QUARTERLY REVIEW**

File: Governance / Compliance / Municipal Plan

MOVED: Ford / Clark

That Council notes the status of the quarterly review of the Municipal Plan for 2010/2011 as at 31 March 2011.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

## **11.9 KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION 26 FEBRUARY 2011**

File: Governance / Elections / By-Elections

MOVED: Locke / Harris

That Council requests that the NT Electoral Commission take follow up action in accordance with Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act for non voters at the By-Election on 26 February 2011.

CARRIED: 6 / 1

Alderman Coutts sought clarification that Council's current budget allocation of \$30,000 would be sufficient to cover expected costs. The CEO advised that this is correct.

Alderman Rose queried the Local Government Act and the wording relating to this section. The CEO advised that the word 'may' in the wording allows individual Council's to decide if follow up action is required and that a report to Council is required prior to proceeding.

Alderman Locke requested her vote against be recorded.

**11.10 MINUTES OF THE KATHERINE SPORT PRECINCT NETWORK ADVISORY GROUP MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2011**

File: Community Relations / Committees / Katherine Sport Precinct Network Advisory Group Meeting / 2011

MOVED: Ford / Locke

That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 April 2011 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 7 /0

**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:

**Deputy Mayor Clark**

YMCA Garden Working Bee x 4  
YMCA Meetings x 3  
Farm & Garden Day  
Meeting with Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Judging of Easter Hats at Frontier Services  
Art & Cultural Meeting  
Anzac Day Service

**Alderman Harris**

YMCA Meeting  
Katherine Regional Arts Meeting  
St Joseph's College Board Meeting  
Katherine Regional Arts Annual General Meeting  
Farm & Garden Day  
Anzac Day Dawn Service

**Alderman Ford**

Farm & Garden Day  
Anzac Day Service  
Development Consent Authority Meeting

**Alderman Rose**

Chamber of Commerce Meeting  
Museum Meeting  
Farm & Garden Day  
Anzac Day Dawn Service

**Alderman Coutts**

Farm & Garden Day  
Museum Meeting  
Lambert Family Trust Committee Meeting



**Alderman Locke**

Clyde Fenton Primary School Board Meeting  
Katherine High School Board Meeting  
Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Meeting

**13. LATE AGENDA**

Nil

**14. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Alderman Locke

- The new Waste Management Facility Dump Shop seems to be going extremely well and has only heard good reviews regarding the items available for sale.
- Sought clarification regarding a completion date for the road works at the Museum. The CEO advised that the work was delayed due to problems pertaining to the contractor sourcing materials.
- Thanked the Deputy Mayor for the work she has been doing in re-creating the YMCA gardens.

**15. PETITIONS**

Nil

**16. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nil

**17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**17.1 OUTSTANDING RATES – REGISTRATION OF OVERRIDING STATUTORY CHARGES**

MOVED: Ford / Harris

That the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be authorized to affix the common seal on the Registration of Overriding Statutory Charges on the recorded properties and in accordance with the process laid down by Cridlandsmb.

CARRIED: 7 / 0

**This item is designated as confidential under Section 8 (b) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations – “Information about the personal circumstances of a resident or rate payer.”**

**18. MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting was closed at 6.48pm.

Anne Shepherd  
**MAYOR OF KATHERINE**