



MINUTES

OF THE

ORDINARY MEETING

OF COUNCIL

HELD

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 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 28 OCTOBER 2014 AT 6.15 PM**

1. OPENING PRAYER

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

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs Neroli Dickens – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Claire Johansson – Director Corporate and Community
Services

9 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

MOVED: Clark/Higgins

That the apologies of Alderman Phillips from 27 October to 1 December 2014 are
accepted and leave be granted.

CARRIED: 6/0

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

MOVED: Clark/Tapp-Coutts

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 23 September 2014 be
confirmed as a true and accurate record.

That the Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 23
September 2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 6/0

5. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

- Deputy Mayor Clark – Community Grants – Item 11.5 – page 32 – she has a conflict re the Museum.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts is vice-president of the Museum.

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 Worship the Mayor attended the following meetings for the month of September 2014:

- Community Radio Interview x 2
- Meeting with President of Katherine Historical Society
- Tourism Top End Katherine Meeting
- Liquor Accord Meeting
- Development Consent Authority Meeting
- Australia Post Community Forum – Darwin
- Research Workshop – Darwin
- ALGWANT Meeting - Darwin
- Austin Asche Oration - Darwin
- NT Local Government Research Symposium – Darwin
- Meeting re Cenotaph
- Meeting with Blackadder Associates
- Elected Members Workshop x 2
- Katherine Emergency Committee Meeting
- Elected Members Catch-Up
- ABC Grassroots Interview
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Tom Curtain's Outback Experience
- Meeting with Rotary Club Member
- Funeral
- Meeting with Local Member for Katherine
- Women of the World Conference x 3 days
- LGANT Executive Tele-conference
- Katherine Suicide Prevention Network x 2
- Meeting with Community Member x 2
- KRAG Meeting
- Commemorative Tree Planting – Cemetery
- Launch of the Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy
- Young Territorian Author Awards
- NT Field Day
- Meeting with Pangea Resources
- BRFL Grand Final
- Meeting with Department of Lands and Planning
- St John Ambulance Cadets Divisional Annual Inspection
- Open Forum
- Council Meeting
- ABC Radio Interview
- National Police Remembrance Day
- Demonstration of Automated Irrigation System
- Resource Sector Briefing x 2
- Katherine Times Mayor's Message x 4

- Mayor Miller advised that Katherine Town Council last night facilitated a public meeting at the Cinema Complex to provide a platform of opportunity to the residents of the Katherine region in order to gain a further understanding of hydraulic fracturing.

In the interest of providing a fair and level platform for the community, representatives from industry, government and an independent presenter addressed the forum.

Over 90 members of the public attended the event which ran from 5.30 – 8.30mp. We would like to thank Tony Clementson for moderating the evening on behalf of the community.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS TO BE TABLED

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

Chief Executive Officer requests response letter to Minister be noted.

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 SEPTEMBER 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 September 2014 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6/0

- Alderman Gazey asked about the Successful Applications on page 9 – Sportsgrounds, Don Dale and Skate Park. Is this additional works? The Chief Executive Officer confirmed this was an independent grant – Roads to Recovery Scheme. A variation was sought to the localities to include the Showgrounds.
- Deputy Mayor Clark commented upon the higher amount of dogs at large captured which is an indication of increased Ranger patrols.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts commented on how well the Visitor Information Centre is going. The value of bookings for tours and accommodation has increased since last year. The Visitor Information Staff are working hard at on-selling.
- Alderman Gazey commented that there are less call outs after hours since the Rangers were rostered on.

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

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

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Gazey

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

CARRIED: 6/0

- Alderman Rose asked about page 15 – vacant lots. The Chief Executive Officer advised notices to comply with vacant lots are in relation to overgrown land. Council notifies owners their block requires maintenance, if they fail to action, they receive another notice advising that if it is not actioned, Council will.

11.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2014

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Finance Manager Reports

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Clark

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

The Chief Executive Officer advised there are 4 items of clarification to alleviate some questions within article:

- Page 17 reflects the YTD Actual figure for Income as being \$22,316 – this is inaccurate due to a formulation issue and shall be rectified in the October reporting period.
- Page 21 Infringements data has not populated, as noted at an Elected Member workshop. The Chief Executive Officer can relay that the total figures are accurate; however Council have experienced some data collation issues with running the various reports due to a recent system upgrade. We are also actively working towards improved processes to reduce the total debt quantity.
- Page 22 reflects inaccurate detail and is also a duplication of page 20 – this page should be removed in its entirety from the agenda.

- Page 24 line item from Katherine Mitre 10 of 'Hose Clamps' with a total costing of \$1,320.18 as noted at an Elected Member workshop, reflects a total of 14 individually procured items. Our system only picks up the first line entry (of goods) and displays this as the descriptor. As a matter of interest, the 'Hose Clamps' tallied \$21.38 of the total purchased amount.

CARRIED: 6/0

11.4 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2014

File: Finance / Audit / Audit Committee

MOVED: Clark/Gazey

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 8 October 2014.

CARRIED: 6/0

11.5 COMMUNITY GRANTS – ACCEPTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

File: Finance / Grant Funding / KTC Community Grants 2014

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Rose

1. That Council receive and note the attached minutes from the Community Grants Assessment Committee Minutes of Tuesday the 21 October 2014.
2. That Council approve the awarding of the following grant as per the recommendations of the Community Grants Assessment Committee Minutes of Tuesday the 21 October 2014.

Community Group (Up to \$2,000)

Organization	Project	Amount
Katherine Museum	Fridge/Freezer	\$2,000.00
	TOTAL	\$2,000.00

CARRIED: 6/0

11.6 **KATHERINE CIVIL AIRPORT – BUSINESS MODELLING**

File: Legal Documents / Lease / Airport – Subleases / Katherine Civil Airport Lease

MOVED: Rose/ Tapp-Coutts

The Chief Executive Officer advised that this item is noted as a debate item. Minutes are altered slightly – debate items are listed before the carried motion. Discussion items are listed after the carried motion.

That Council:

1. Agree to an extension of time being granted to the Department of Transport for the completion of the Katherine Airport Business Modelling report;
2. Continues to proactively participate in negotiations with the Department of Defence in relation to the Lease document and Operating Deed for the facility;
3. Receive and note the draft Financial Analysis report compiled by the Northern Territory Government; and
4. Agrees to postpone its final determination on the future of the Katherine Civil Airport until the aforementioned recommendations have been appropriately deliberated upon.
 - Deputy Mayor Clark asked if Council should again put a time limit on this? The Chief Executive Officer advised that within the report it states that Council anticipates to have the report within the next 2 months. As there are inter-agency consultations, this has delayed the report.
 - Alderman Rose commented that the report does not mention anything about the upgrades and the apron to be resealed. It relies on the airport being relocated which disregards depreciation. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the draft financial report is an analysis of our current operating capacity, and takes into consideration previous and current spend. Included in the modelling report will be analysis of projected prices and contingencies moving forward.

CARRIED: 6/0

11.7 PETITION TO RELOCATE THE KATHERINE WAR MEMORIAL

File: Property Management / Maintenance / O'Shea Park

MOVED: Rose/Higgins

That it be recommended to Council:

That it be recommended to Council:

That Council agrees to endorse one (1) of the two (2) proposed actions; Option A or Option B.

Option A, that Council:

1. Agrees to the entirety of the Katherine RSL Sub-Branch's requests to grant an allocation of land for the purpose of relocating the cenotaph; and
2. Commences negotiations and project proposals for the associated works.

Or

Option B, that Council:

1. Continues with the remediation works which commenced in March 2014, in consultation with the Katherine RSL Sub-Branch with the vision to retain the existing site at O'Shea Park; and
 2. Resolve to not grant an additional allocation of land for the purpose of relocating the cenotaph.
- Alderman Higgins has heard some conjecture as to whether the directive which was passed at the Council meeting on 25 March 2015 has been met with regard to the design brief and costing for remediation works with the RSL Sub-Branch. He has the impression this was not fulfilled. If this is the case Council needs to stop this process and comply with what was initially said in the March meeting. He is still a strong believer the Cenotaph remains where it is. There has been emotion poured on to the fire tonight to try to slay the subject. He is in favour of rotating the Cenotaph but would like to see the process delayed until Council is convinced the March directive has been complied with.
 - Alderman Tapp-Coutts supports Alderman Higgins. Consultation with the RSL Sub-Branch needs to happen before a decision is taken.
 - Alderman Rose also agrees with Alderman Higgins, negotiations should be restarted.
 - Mayor Miller quoted from page 64 – last paragraph – “it is recognised that while the remediation works to enhance the aesthetics of the cenotaph site are yet to be fully completed, the works undertaken prior to 25 April 2014 did provide suitably mitigated strategies to the concerns presented for attention. Council continues to liaise with NT Police in gaining additional assistance during days where such events necessitate restricted vehicular movements past the Cenotaph site. By limiting or restricting traffic, by means of appropriate traffic management, the remaining concern of vehicle noise is all but alleviated. The issue of adequate sound equipment to amplify the commemorative services is, as Council understands, an item which is also being investigated by other parties and does not necessarily factor into the adequacy or otherwise of the current Cenotaph site.”

- The Chief Executive Officer commented on the decision of Council on 25 March 2014 – there was conjecture in relation to the original motion which was amended. The motion was in two (2) parts which cannot be separated from an endorsed motion of Council. The first part says not to support immediate plans to relocate Katherine Cenotaph - page 75 of document. Alderman Higgins commented that this was carried 0/0. The Chief Executive Officer apologised and withdrew her comment.
- Alderman Gazey is in line with the other Alderman, if this consultation has happened there would be documentation available. Until this is sighted he wishes to defer the motion.
- Deputy Mayor Clark agrees with the other Alderman. Council requires to consult with the RSL Sub-Branch.
- The Chief Executive Officer commented on the consultation that is referred to within the Minutes of 25 March 2014 “that Council 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.” This direct reference is contained within the detail in Option B. If Option B be modified to remove part 2, but retain part 1, this will have the same effect?
- Alderman Higgins asked where the RSL Sub-Branch will find money to build a Cenotaph of decent structure and safety under today’s standards. Wishes consultation to see that they can cost and fund this. Council’s committed contribution was \$10,000. The Mayor advised this funding may have in part been used for refurbishments.
- The Mayor questioned if Council was prepared to consider giving land.
- Alderman Higgins does not want to vote on either option as he feels he has not been given adequate information.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised Council will be voting on both motions in order to carry one motion or the other.
- Alderman Gazey asked if previous consultation has taken place. If Council does not have clarification, we need to stop now.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised that the word ‘in consultation’ can have varying levels of interpretation. It is stated within the report that Council is yet to receive a design brief or estimate from the RSL Sub-Branch. Council have done their own internal costings. If it is believed that further active consultation is required we need to refute both options and make an amended recommendation.

MOVED: Tapp-Coutts/Clark

To remove Option A and B and amended motion to state:

Council directs the Chief Executive Officer to arrange a meeting with the RSL Sub-Branch Executive and Elected Members of Katherine Town Council within 2 months to discuss the concerns raised in relation to the Katherine Cenotaph (War Memorial).

CARRIED: 6/0

11.8 2013/2014 ANNUAL REPORT INCORPORATING THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2014

File: Local Governance / Compliance / Annual Report

MOVED: Clark /Tapp-Coutts

That it be recommended to Council:

1. That the 2013/2014 Annual Report and Audited Financial statements having been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2008 and Local Government (Accounting) Regulations be received and noted.
2. That pursuant to Section 199 of the Local Government Act 2008, the 2013/2014 Annual Report be forwarded to the Minister and published on Council's website.

CARRIED: 6/0

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:

Alderman Peter Gazey

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshops
Community Grants Meeting
Demonstration of Automated Irrigation System, Video of Stormwater Drains
Presented at WOW Conference
Blackadder Consultation
Presentation by Santos

Alderman Steven Rose

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Development Consent Authority Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Meeting
NT Field Day
National Police Remembrance Day
Demonstration of Automated Irrigation System, Video of Stormwater Drains
Resource Sector Industry Briefing
Blackadder Consultation

Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
WOW Conference
National Bendigo Bank Conference – spoke for Katherine Cancer Group
Katherine Museum Meeting
Blackadder Consultation

Alderman Donald Higgins

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Blackadder Consultation

Deputy Mayor Lis Clark

Ordinary Council Meeting
Elected Members Workshop
Blackadder Consultation
Community Grants Meeting
Open Forum
Demonstration of Automated Irrigation System, Video of Stormwater Drains
Presentation by Santos
WOW Festival
Industry presentation – Pangea, Origin and Santos

- Mayor Miller asked that for future meetings Elected Members email their meetings/activities to the Executive Support Officer and bring them in to the workshop the night before the Council Meeting.

13. LATE AGENDA

Nil

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Alderman Tapp-Coutts spoke about the Katherine Liquor Supply Review. Thinks a submission should have been done by Council – is due this Friday. Has done a submission for herself. Alderman Tapp-Coutts read from the review guidelines about the amount of alcohol sold in Katherine. Alderman Gazey confirmed report covered all alcohol, not just beer. Alderman Tapp-Coutts will table her submission and will also give a copy to the Katherine Times.
- Deputy Mayor Clark thanked the Works & Services Department of Katherine Town Council for putting in a lovely culvert in the community garden at the Museum so that persons in wheelchairs are able to go down the path. A wonderful job was done.
- Alderman Gazey thanked the Chief Executive Officer for organising a trip to the Aquatic Centre to see the assets where Council money was spent. Requested a trip to the Airport and Waste Management Transfer Facility. The Chief Executive Officer advised she would be pleased to provide the services of the Environment & Compliance Manager for this trip, as he had recently given a very successful tour to a group of school children.
- Alderman Rose:
 - Commended Council on the organisation of Q&A session on Hydraulic Fracturing which was well received by the community.
 - Congratulated Cicada Lodge on winning a Gold Plate Award.
 - Asked about forming a committee from community members and Council to formulate a type and theme of trees to be planted in order that there is some direction in the way gardens are developed and trees that are appropriate for purpose. The Chief Executive Officer added that currently we do have development guidelines which are clear stipulations on all design, including street scaping, landscaping etc. There is no committee at present. We do not have a focus on our parklands and open areas and would consider a stakeholder group from this aspect. It was agreed to take this to a workshop.

- Deputy Mayor Clark commented that a South Australia company were contracted to advise about the trees on the Main Street trees and this company advised to plant mahoganies. It was decided instead to plant Northern Territory native trees, which were more suited to the habitat.
- Alderman Tapp-Coutts asked for an update on the Chief Executive Officer recruitment process. Mayor Miller advised that that Blackadder Consultants have been employed to oversee the recruitment process. Blackadder met with the Elected Members for their views prior to advertising. They have received over 90 expressions of interest. Seven (7) have been shortlisted to be interviewed on Monday week. Alderman Gazey, Deputy Mayor Clark, Mayor Miller and Tony Tapsell (LGANT) will be on the panel. A Special Council Meeting will be called the following evening to endorse the recommendation.
- Alderman Gazey asked about the Constitutional Electoral Review. The Director Corporate & Community Services advised she has received information last Friday which was forwarded to Chief Executive Officer with an outline of the plan, and this will be circulated to Elected Members.
- Mayor Miller commented that although it was nice to hear so many comments from the Elected Members, in order to keep the meeting ordered, they need to make sure they make notes, to ensure they only speak once in General Business, and the points will be listed as dot points.
- Mayor Miller thanked the Chief Executive Officer for organising the visit to the Aquatic Centre. It is important for Elected Members to see what Council is spending rate payers money on. The Pool is looking very good.
- Mayor Miller offered Katherine Town Council's congratulations to Cicada Lodge for winning Best Restaurant and overall Gold Plate Award.

15. PETITIONS

Nil

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

17. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting was closed at 7.29 pm.

Fay Miller
MAYOR OF KATHERINE