



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

HOUSING AND SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday – 22nd June 2021

Time: 10:00am to 12:00noon

Venue: VMR #6 – 0292 970 558

PRESENT

Cr Keith Fell – Chair
Cr Francis Pearson – Committee Member
Mr Dawson Sailor – Acting Chief Operating Officer
Ms Julia Maurus – Manager Legal Services
Kathy Cochran – Secretariat Officer

Apology

Cr John Levi – Committee Member
Mr Ilario Sabatino – Chief Operating Officer – on leave

Agenda

1. Welcome (Chair) and

Cr Fell welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their time.

2. Opening Prayer

Cr Fell invited Cr Pearson to open the meeting in Prayer.

3. Apologies

- Cr John Levi – Committee Member – other community commitments
- Ilario Sabatino – Chief Operating Officer – On annual leave

4. Conflict of Interest (COI)/ Material Personal Interest (MPI) Declaration

No declaration made.

5. Confirmation of previous minutes – 9 February 2021

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Pearson; *Second:* Cr Fell

That the minutes of meeting held on the 9th February 2021 is a true and accurate account.

ALL IN FAVOUR

6. Action Items List

Committee updated the action list.

- COO to have Divisional Manager to regularly check HF radios in each Division at the same time when checking Satellite phones.
- COO to have discussion with Matt Brodbeck to do an audit on the HF radios.
- COO to have discussion with Matt Brodbeck to include Cr Fell as the Chair of the Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities be a member of the TSLDMG.

7. LEGAL - Local Law Enforcement Policy

Manager Legal Services, Ms Julia Maurus spoke to the report.

Fines

ACTION: Manager Environment and Health to provide Councillors with the stats on fines and SPERS.

Illegal Dumping

For full Council discussion and decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Cr Fell; *Second:* Cr Pearson

That the Committee supports the paper and recommends the report go to the full Council at the July 2021 Ordinary Meeting for consideration and or endorsement.

ALL IN FAVOUR

11:12am – Manager Legal Services left the meeting.

8. \$14.2M Housing Funding

Update provided - options were put forward at the last SARG meeting, the report is going to the full Council for discussion, consideration and or endorsement.

9. Well-being of staff

Cr Fell raised concerns around Housing officer's well-being. Some of the housing officers have been placed under considerable amount of stress and the EAP number provided to them to seek help is not considered a culturally appropriate way of dealing with the issue. This matter has been reported to the Acting CEO and the COO. Cr Fell also raised the issue of pays going into staff accounts after 5pm on pay day as IBIS generally closed at 5.30pm.

10. Lighting in Communities

Cr Fell mentioned some communities within the Region still encounter lighting issues.

ACTION: Requested and audit be done on the lighting in each community and follow up with Communities that don't have adequate safe lighting.

11. Unsafe Roads and Infrastructure

Cr Elisala raised an issue in his community where emergency services and their vehicles couldn't reach a patient due to unusable and unsafe road in his community.

Engineering to make safe and usable (grade and fill holes) the roads on Dauan and other communities.

Audit to be carried out on unsafe airport sheds, motel buildings not in use and buildings that's been divested in the community

12. Sea Rescue / QPS

Inventory requested prior to Ordinary meeting.

ACTION: Follow up with QPS if this information can be made available to Council.

13. White Cards for visitors (Covid19)

Visitor to community should have a card due to the current COVID-19 climate including essential workers.

ACTION: COO to update the online visitor's application form to include vaccination confirmation (1st and 2nd dose)

14. DV and Child Safety

Cr Fell advised the Committee he is the Council's champion to sit on the DV and Child Safety committees.

15. Asbestos

Cr Pearson raised a comment made by Cr Nona at the Council Ordinary meeting regarding asbestos properties in the communities across the whole region and why nothing has been done to address this issue.

ACTION: COO to carry out an audit and inventory on all asbestos properties within our Region in a report to the full Council and include a regional plan to address the issue, what has already been done and a plan going forward.

16. Workplace Health and Safety

Committee asked about hazards in council offices and buildings. What's happening in this space. Any WHS issues identified and addressed. Waiting sheds and old community halls that are dilapidated.

ACTION: COO to provide an information report to Council on the last audit carried out on Council buildings and offices. Highlight areas to put forward to the full Council.

17. Katter Leases

Cr Fell informed Committee this matter was in relation to Cr Levi raising the issue of Katter lease properties and whether they were part of the fencing program. The response from BSU was that those properties weren't part of the program and there is no available funds to fence these properties at the moment.

18. General/ Other Business (on notice)

Cr Fell asked about the Council Caravans. Cr Pearson mentioned two caravans at Poruma had the electricity disconnected recently (see Engineering department)

ACTION: Head of Community Services to provide the committee with an information report on the status of the Council caravans, where they are currently located and the plan going forward.

ACTION: Secretariat to place on Agenda at OM under general business for discussion.

19. Next meeting date

Date agreed to and confirm by committee.

- Tuesday 24th August 2021 (10am – 12 noon)

20. Closing Prayer

Cr Fell closed the meeting in prayer.

MEETING CLOSED: - 12:02pm