



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 2009

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on 18th March 2009 at 9.00am – 5.00pm at the *Jerry Stephen Snr Stadium, Ugar Island.*

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**Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC)
Ordinary Meeting
Held at the Jerry Stephen Snr Stadium, Ugar Island
Wednesday 18th February 2009**

Present: Cr. Fred Gela, Mayor
Cr. Kenny Bedford, Deputy Mayor, Division 14 - Erub
Cr. Donald Banu, Division 1 - Boigu
Cr. Raymond Soki, Division 2 - Dauan
Cr. Ron Enosa, Division 3 - Saibai Island
Cr. Keith Fell, Division 4 - Mabuiag
Cr. Wayne Guivarra, Division 5 - Badu Island
Cr. David Bosun, Division 6 - Kubin
Cr. Nancy Pearson, Division 8- Hammond
Cr. Walter Mackie, Division 9 - Iama
Cr. Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber
Cr. Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 - Poruma
Cr. John Mosby, Division 12 - Yorke
Cr. Florianna Bero, Division 13 - Ugar
Cr. Ron Day - Division 15 - Mer Island
Mr. John Scarce, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Malcolm Flavel, Executive Manager Housing & Ports
Mr. Anthony Bird, Executive Manager Finance
Mr. Patrick McGuire, Executive Manager Engineering
Mr. Noel Peters, Manager Human Resources
Ms Dania Ahwang, Manager Internal Audit
Mrs Tania Sailor, Executive Secretary.

Observers: Members of the Community

9.00am: Meeting opened in prayer by Cr. Phillemon Mosby

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

There was a minute silence to pay respect for families who have lost their loved ones recently.

Apologies: Cr. Toshie Kris, Division 7 - St. Pauls
Mr. Lloyd Sunderland, Executive Manager Community Services

Deputations: Nil

WELCOME

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners

- Mayor Fred Gela
- Mr. Jerry Stephen (Snr)
- Cr. Bero

MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

- Thanked Cr. Bero and her Community for their hospitality in arranging meals and accommodation for the Council meeting again at Ugar, after the 1st attempt was foiled by bad weather.
- Expressed deepest sympathy to Cr. Bosun on the passing of his father, the late Mr. Oza Bosun, former Councillor of Kubin Community, a great pioneer.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution

Moved Cr. Mackie, Seconded Cr. Pearson the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 22nd October 2009 be adopted as true and accurate apart from some alterations.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- *Mobile Can Crusher Funds Allocation* – Council received confirmation that the \$25,000 previously allocated to the purchasing of Mobile Can Crusher can now be allocated to another project to be identified.
- *West Wing Airlines* - no new update.
- *Poruma Island Freezer*
 - It was noted that request has been sent to TSRA regarding upgrading of the freezer at Poruma including attachment of Council's endorsement.
 - \$60,000 upgrade works to Freezer.
- *Housing Regional Council*
 - information requested on existing houses that are vacant in Communities have not been received by Council
 - CEO to follow it up with Island Managers on the information requested.
- *Malu Sara* – comments/updates from members.
- *Island Managers & Councillors Training*
 - Members advised they expected the Executive Managers to attend the training as well and sought clarification as to why they were not included in the training.
 - CEO advised that:
 - he intentionally left the Executive Managers out of the training because there were issues that needed to be addressed between the Island Managers and Councillors.
 - it was a team building exercise and if something good came out of the 3-day workshop then it was well worth it.
 - this is a starting point and can build on something else.
 - he was happy with the outcome as to date since the workshop nothing has been reported back to him.

ep

- Cr. Soki supported the team building capacity for Island Managers and Councillors. He also added that new employees to TSIRC comes with the cultural protocol awareness.
- ***Training which will include the Executive Managers have been referred to General Business for Endorsement.***
- ***Community Forums***
 - As per discussion at Standing Committee for Community & Engineering – Cr. Pearson reiterated that if a Councillor asks specifically for information on an issue that it be a consistency in providing other Councillors as well with the same information.

EMPLOYEE PERSONAL PRESENTATION AND UNIFORM GUIDELINE

Resolution

Moved Cr. Mosby, Seconded Cr. Soki that the Council adopt the Employee Personal Presentation and uniform guideline as proposed.

Motion carried.

COUNCILLOR UNIFORM ALLOWANCE AND GUIDELINE

Resolution

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Soki that the Council adopt the Councillor uniform allowance and guideline as proposed.

Motion carried.

- *Look at Employee Staff uniforms first or arrange to have them purchased at the same time for both Employees and Councillors.*
- *Uniform Committee to consist of Island Managers plus 1 Councillor.*
- *Uniforms will include Logo of TSIRC and the unique emblem of their particular Island.*
- *CDEP Uniforms are included in the scope of uniform Allowance & Guidelines and the budget for this will come out of the CDEP Bucket.*
- *Timeframe – to have all staff and Councillors in uniform within 3 – 6months.*

RP

Workplace Health & Safety

- It was noted that a Workplace Health & Safety document has not been drafted or distributed to employees as yet.
- HR Manager is the only Workplace Health & Safety Officer.
- There are compliance issues that TSIRC are not meeting at the moment.
- As soon as Island Managers are trained on Workplace Health & Safety, then the Council can go on to the next step.
- HR Manager will provide information regarding WPH & S through consultation with employees and through induction as well. A Workplace Health & Safety Officer will be accompanying the HR Manager during the consultation process.
- It was noted that Island Managers will be trained on Workplace Health & Safety issues but will not be appointed as a W H & S Officer – the knowledge is all they need.

ESTABLISHING RANGER PROGRAM

Recommendation

Moved Cr. Lui, Seconded Cr. Pearson that TSIRC Councillors:

1. **Approve** the order and timing of communities to start the Ranger Program:
 - Badu in March 2009
 - Kaiwalagal in March 2009 (planning and negotiation initially until the delivery arrangement is agreed to)
 - Boigu, lama, and Erub in July-August 2009 (or Boigu earlier if Kaiwalagal approach not agreed to by the end of April 2009)
 - Mer and Moa in February-March 2010.
2. **Note** the advice from PBC Chairs, and TSIRC Councillors regarding the order of communities to start the ranger program;
3. **Note** the TSRA Executive has received a briefing.
4. **Note** that TSRA LSMU have not negotiated a delivery arrangement for the Ranger Group in the Kaiwalagal region as yet.

Motion carried.

- *Plan to have the Dugong and Turtle Management rolled into those communities who don't have that Program.*
- *Cr. Pearson raised her concerns that 3 positions are not enough for Kaiwalagal Region.*
- *Mayor advised as this issue is still in discussion process – it needs to go back to TSRA for further discussions.*
- *It was noted that the \$11M for the Ranger Program covers point 1 of the endorsement above.*

PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

For Information.

- Members were advised that the Pest Management Plan presented is a working document and is subject to change.
- Council to review but needs to be adopted later down the track.
- Councillors are encouraged to liaise directly with Executive Manager Community Services for further clarification/information.
- *It was noted that Members requested that the CEO do more research off the internet clarifying further information about the Pest Management Plan.*

LATE REPORT

CORPORATE PLAN PROCESS

- Executive Manager Finance presented members with an updated Draft Corporate Plan as discussed with Members on Tuesday 17th March.
- Lengthy discussions between Members on the process of the draft Corporate Plan.
- It was suggested to go back into Communities to do first lot process of consultation on the Corporate Plan.
- It was noted that TSIRC need to identify which communities have problems first before asking for assistance.
- Cr. Pearson advised she wants to take lead in the delivery of this process to community but would first like to meet with the CEO and Mayor on the Corporate Plan before delivering it to her community
- Mayor needs to consider this as an option subject to each Councillor's initial assistance to it - individually case by case.
- Cr. Bedford agreed that it is a good process which will benefit Councillors as well.
- Members agreed time permitting to look at
 1. Engaging workshops to include Councillors & Island Managers in looking at Corporate Plan and how it marries with the Community Plans.
 2. Delivery of this process.

DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN PROCESS

Resolution

Moved Cr. Bedford, Seconded Cr. Fell that Council:

1. Endorse the words of the Corporate Plan 2009 – 2014 for public consultation; and
2. Authorise the CEO to engage a desktop publishing firm to produce a professional looking document for the public consultation phase
3. Council commence the Community Consultation phase in accordance with Section 507. The consultation period to end on the 12th June 2009, for final consideration by Council at the June 09 Ordinary Meeting.

Motion Carried

HOUSING OF STAFF

For Information.

POSITIONS VACANT

For Information.

It was resolved that Council breaks for Morning Tea at 11.15am.

CLOSED BUSINESS

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Soki that in accordance with Section 463 of the Local government Act 1993 it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss section 463 (1) (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees, 463 (1) (f) starting or defending legal proceedings involving it, 463 (1) (h) other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local Government further the public in attendance are asked to leave.

Motion carried.

END OF CLOSED BUSINESS

ISSUES RATIFIED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

1. Asset Revaluation

Resolution

Moved Cr. Banu, Seconded Cr. J. Mosby that Council engage Rushton Asset Val Pty Ltd for a stated amount of \$137,500 as identified in their bid excluding travel and accommodation to undertake the works identified in the Conditions of Tender TSIRC2009-01, Identification and Revaluation of Council Assets 2009.

Motion carried.

**2. MIP4 Project
Regional Infrastructure Asset Replacement
Project Management**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Pearson, Seconded Cr. Mackie that his committee Recommends to Council that:

1. The Programme Manager's tender evaluation not be accepted.
2. that negotiations be entered into with the MIP Programme funders to revise the evaluation criteria, and
3. that tenders be subsequently re-evaluated.

Motion carried.

3. Badu ILUA

Lay on Table

4. Divestment of Enterprise

Recommendation

Moved Cr. Bedford, Seconded Cr. Fell that Council endorse the report by Ian Jessup on assessment of submitted tenders for consultations, as presented.

5. **Sea Mills Pty Ltd**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Fell, Seconded Cr. Bosun that Council not support the Sea Mills Venture due to financial and operational risk associated with the transaction.

Motion carried.

Against: Cr. Guivarra

6. **CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DESCENT**

Resolution

Moved Cr. Bedford, Seconded Cr. P. Mosby that Council confirms Pau Nuphen Stephen of Egriu Village, Darnley Island is of Torres Strait Islander descent, identifies as Torres Strait islander person and is accepted as such by the Community in which he lives.

Motion carried.

It was resolved that Council breaks for Lunch at 1.45pm.

7. **SPORTS & REC**

Members agreed to take lead on this issue. CEO to draft a proposal and circulate to Councillors prior to forwarding to the Department of Sports and Recreation.

8. **Corporate Structure**

Resolution

Moved Cr. J. Mosby, Seconded Cr. Soki that Council adopts the Corporate Structure as presented to take effect from the 1st July 2009.

Motion carried.

At this time the CEO, Executive Management & Staff was asked to leave the Meeting for in-session with Councillors only.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- ***Executive Manager Housing & Ports brief report::***
 - 3 Submissions – Kubin, Badu, - fencing 100% funding from another bucket.
 - Pontoon at Dauan – Getting Fixed. *Cr. Soki requested that Executive Manager Housing & Ports ensure that the people fixing the pontoon complete it properly and do not leave the work uncompleted.*
 - Slasher at Warraber.
- ***CEO:***
 - TSRA Board Meeting Dates now scheduled for the 6th, 7th, 8th April 2009.
 - Council Ordinary Meeting at Saibai now scheduled for the 29th April 2009.
 - Council Budget Meeting scheduled for the 11th -15th May 2009 in Cairns.
 - Any issues that Councillors raise with Executive Managers and receive no response from them to please email the CEO, and he will liaise directly with the Executive Manager involved.
- ***Foley Shield Contribution:***
 - CEO advised that Councillors may wish to use their Hospitality Expense to contribute financially towards supporting the Torres Strait Rugby League Representative team participating in the Foley Shield.
- ***Cr. Mackie:***
 - Community Forum Training – will look at after State Election.
 - Training – Community Police. Mayor will raise issue with QPS.

MEETING CLOSED

With no further discussions, the Mayor thanked Cr. Bero and the Community of Ugar Island for their hospitality in organising a successfully Council Meeting at Ugar Island. Mayor also thanked members and Executive Management and staff for their attendance at the meeting.

6. 00pm Meeting closed with a prayer by Cr. Day


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Cr Fred Gela
Mayor


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Mr John Scarce
Chief Executive Officer