



Minutes

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

20-21 February 2024

MINUTES: Ordinary Council Meeting – February 2024

[Confirmed @ March 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting]

PRESENT:

Councillors

Mayor

Division 3 – Saibai
Division 4 – Mabuiag
Division 5 – Badu
Division 6 – Arkai
Division 8 – Kirirri
Division 9 - Iama
Division 12 – Masig
Division 13 - Ugar
Division 15 – Mer

Cr Phillemon Mosby
Cr Conwell Tabuai
Cr Keith Fell
Cr Ranetta Wosomo
Cr Lama Trinkoon
Cr Seriako Dorante
Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM (**Deputy Mayor**)
Cr Hilda Mosby
Cr Rocky Stephen
not represented

Officers:

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Director Building Services
Executive Director Community Services
Executive Director Corporate Services
Executive Director Engineering Services
Executive Director Financial Services

DOGIT Transfer, Land Tenure & Native Title Advisor
Executive Support Coordinator
Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Secretariat

Mr James William
Mr Wayne Green
Mr Dawson Sailor
Ms Susanne Andres
Mr David Baldwin
Ms Hollie Faithfull – *joined the meeting at 12.05pm*
Ms Joanne Bryant
Ms Sharon Russell
Ms Trudy Lui
Darryl Brooks

APOLOGIES:

Division 1 - Boigu
Division 2 - Dauan
Division 10 – Warraber
Division 11 – Poruma
Division 14 – Erub

Cr Dimas Toby – *immediate family member needing assistance*
Cr Torenzo Elisala – *prior GBK commitments*
Cr Kabay Tamu – *prior GBK commitments*
Cr Francis Pearson – *prior training commitments in Cairns*
Cr Jimmy Gela – *prior GBK and Malu Lamar Meeting commitments*

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1. Welcome & Quorum Confirmation

The Mayor formally opened the February 2024 at 11.05am, noting that a quorum of members were present.

2. Apologies

The following apologies were noted:

Division 1 - Boigu

Division 2 - Dauan

Division 10 – Warraber

Division 11 – Poruma

Division 14 – Erub

Cr Dimas Toby – *immediate family member needing assistance*

Cr Torenzo Elisala – *prior GBK commitments (also as advised at the February 2024 Trustee meeting)*

Cr Kabay Tamu – *prior GBK commitments*

Cr Francis Pearson – *prior training commitments in Cairns*

Cr Jimmy Gela – *prior GBK and Malu Lamar Meeting commitments*

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr John Levi

Council accepts the apology of Cr Dimas Toby for the February 2024 Council Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Second: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Council accepts the apology of Cr Torenzo Elisala for the February 2024 Council Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Council accepts the apology of Cr Kabay Tamu for the February 2024 Council Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Council accepts the apology of Cr Francis Pearson for the February 2024 Council Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Council accepts the apology of Cr Jimmy Gela for the February 2024 Council Meeting and approves the payment of the Councillor's Monthly Meeting Allowance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Conflict of Interest (COI) - Declarable/Prescribed

The Mayor invited Councillors to make any relevant conflict of interest declarations and to also advise if they were currently involved in any legal proceedings which pertain to Ordinary Council business to be considered at the meeting.

No declarations were made.

4. Confirmation of Council Ordinary Meeting Minutes – January 2024

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Council agrees that the Minutes for the Council Ordinary Meeting held on 23-24 January 2024 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Confirmation of Special Council Meeting Minutes – 25 January 2024

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Council agrees that the Minutes for the Special Council Meeting held on 25 January 2024 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Action Items from Previous Ordinary Council Meetings

The Chief Executive Officer provided the Council with a verbal update on the status of Action Items arising from the previous meeting, as well as outstanding action items from previous meetings.

➤ *Council adjourned for a lunch break from 12.10pm to 1.25pm*

7. Mayor Report – February 2024

The Mayor spoke to his February 2024 report to Council. The report was noted by Council.

Action:

Agenda for the March 2024 Ordinary Council meeting to include a deputation from the Chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA).

8. Chief Executive Officer Report – February 2024

The Chief Executive Officer spoke to his February 2024 report to Council. The report was noted by Council.

9. CORPORATE SERVICES: Community Grants Program Allocation – February 2024

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

Council resolves to:

- (a) allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicants in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:
 - Densham Elisala for the eligible amount of \$2,500, exclusive of GST;
- (b) allocate \$882 from the current available balance for Badu Community for the application of the Dhahdin Geai Warriors and \$9, 118 support from the Community Gifts (CEO) available funds or consider funds from other Division funds;
- (c) note the report of grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in February 2024 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.

Council noted the report of grant applications processed out-of-cycle and funeral donations provided in February 2024 in accordance with the Community Grants policy.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Conwell Tabuai

Second: Cr Keith Fell

Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:

- Densham Elisala for the eligible amount of \$2,500, exclusive of GST.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rocky Stephen

Second: Cr Ranetta Wosomo

Council resolves to allocate Community Grants Program funding to the following applicant in accordance with the Community Grants Policy:

- allocate \$882 from the current available balance for Badu Community for the application of the Dhahdin Geai Warriors; and
- \$9, 118 support from the Mayor's Fund.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CORPORATE SERVICES: Funding Acquisition Report (January 2024)

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council resolves to note this report and its content.

Ms Susanne Andres (Executive Director Corporate Services) spoke to this report. The report was noted by Council.

11. MOVE INTO CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Lama Trinkoon

Second: Cr Keith Fell

Council resolves to close the meeting to the public pursuant to *Section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012* to allow the Council to discuss items listed on the agenda under Closed Business and for the reasons outlined under those items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Keith Fell

Second: Cr Hilda Mosby

That Council resolve to re-open the meeting to the public pursuant to *Section 254I of the Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED BUSINESS

12. CORPORATE SERVICES: Fuel & Fleet Update

The Executive Director Corporate Services (Ms Susanne Andres) spoke to this report. The report was noted by Council.

13. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Capital Works Projects Update

The Executive Director Engineering Services (Mr David Baldwin) spoke to this report. The report was noted by Council.

16. FINANCIAL SERVICES: Financial Dashboard Report - December 2023

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the Officer's Report for the 2023-2024 year to date, for the period ended 31 December 2023, as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hilda Mosby

Second: Cr Rocky Stephen

That the Council receive and endorse the monthly financial statements attached to the Officer's Report for the 2023-2024 year to date, for the period ended 31 January 2024, as required under *Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. BUSINESS ARISING (from Information Reports)

Nil.

18. STRATEGIC MATTERS

- (a) Cr Conwell Tabuai raised concerns about official work assets being utilized by staff of funded organisations for private/personal use, rather than making those assets available as required to service the needs of community.

Action:

Chief Executive Officer to arrange follow-up on this matter with Cr Tabuai.

- (b) Cr Keith Fell advised that there are currently problems with external agencies being unable to access the Council's Visitor Information Portal when requesting to visit Divisions. The Executive Director Community Services advised Council that there is a glitch in the system and Council's Information Technology team are currently working on the issue.

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- (c) **Cr Getano Lui (Jnr) AM** asked Councillors to be mindful that there is an increasing level of drug trafficking throughout the Pacific, with Papua New Guinea being the main transit site into Australia (through the Torres Strait). Methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine trafficking is on the rise, along with marijuana.

The dire economic circumstances and the limited job prospects in some of the Papua New Guinea communities make vulnerable individuals within those communities more susceptible to the lure of the cash incentives being offered by the drug cartels for people to traffic drugs.

Cr Lui urged Councillors to be mindful of the growing drug trafficking issue and to be vigilant in ensuring that applications submitted to them to approve traditional visits are genuine applications for that purpose.

- *The Mayor was unable to participate further in the Council Meeting due to technology and phone issues and requested the Deputy Mayor to Chair the meeting in his absence.*
- *The Deputy Mayor assumed the Chair at 3.10pm.*

The Deputy Mayor further added that another potential border issue may be asylum seekers/people smugglers using the Torres Strait to gain entry into Australia, as he was concerned about recent influx of asylum seekers arriving in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Cr Seriako Dorante affirmed that Hammond Island has already had the experience of two Chinese nationals being 'dropped off' on the Island, either coming up from Weipa or down from Saibai or Boigu. **The Chief Executive Officer** advised that Council has followed up the matter with relevant authorities, but has not received any formal response in relation to the incident. The Chief Executive Officer added that community safety and policing is no longer a Council responsibility, despite Councillors having a responsibility for oversight of good governance within the community.

Cr Keith Fell urged Council to consider pressing these matters further with relevant agencies, both at the State and Commonwealth Government levels. **Cr Dorante** added that his community is still questioning the outcomes from the two Chinese nationals on Hammond Island.

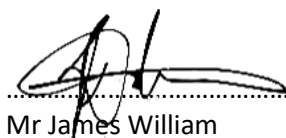
19. Next Council Meeting Date: 5-6 March 2024 (Iama)

Noted by Council.

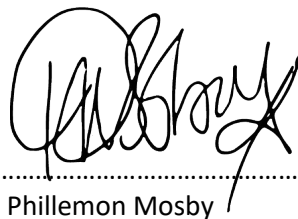
20. Official Close & Prayer

The Deputy Mayor thanked Councillors, Executives and Staff for their contributions for this meeting and he looked forward to welcoming Council to Iama. The Deputy Mayor also urged Councillors to look out for a monument at the Iama airstrip worth viewing for the history recorded on it.

The Deputy Mayor formally closed the meeting at 3.30pm. Cr Keith Fell delivered the closing prayer.



Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 5 March 2024



Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 5 March 2024